

# KUYPER

College News

A Publication for Alumni & Friends



Jeff Terpstra, CEO of Scott Allen Creative, a national marketing firm.

## MY STORY

# JEFFERY TERPSTRA

### THE MASTER'S TAPESTRY

One of seven children in a God-honoring family. An awakening to a world of shapes and colors. A furthering of his training in art. A heart for missions and the disenfranchised. A \$10 bill that changed the course of his life. The storms of life. The presence and goodness of God. This is the story of Jeff Terpstra—national marketing and advertising leader.

>> See **JEFFERY TERPSTRA**, Page 4

### Alumni Profile

CLASS  
**1986**  
HOME  
**Wyoming, Michigan**  
CAREER  
**President,  
Scott Allen Creative**  
FAMILY  
**Wife Katherine  
and 11 children**

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# This is an Unprecedented Time

How often have we heard that sentence in the past months? These are words, along with “COVID-19, coronavirus, and pandemic,” that I never thought I would be saying, until now—in this unprecedented or unheard-of time.

During these past months, many of us could not take the vacations or the time away we had planned. I found refreshment in some ordinary things—like viewing the beautiful sunrises from our east-facing windows, reading Scripture, and songs.

Words from one hymn that always come to mind as I watch the sunrise is “When morning gilds the sky, my heart awakening cries: May Jesus Christ be praised!”

These words have challenged me. This summer, in this long, hard season of the coronavirus pandemic, I was inclined, and perhaps you were as well, to wake up uttering other cries.

Then, I pause to ask myself: Am I giving praise to Jesus Christ morning, noon, and night? Or am I unaccustomed to giving praise; is my praise unprecedented?

Psalm 145 commends the precedence of praise: “I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.” And Psalm 103 declares that we praise God from the inside out: “Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.”

Giving praise to God—morning, noon, and night—is a high calling and one that we can only do with God’s grace and strength. And giving praise to God doesn’t mean that everything is right in our lives. We know that all too well at this time.

That’s why I take comfort in the middle verses in both of these Psalms as they declare, “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.” God desires praise—always—but he also extends His care, for we are feeble creatures.

Recently, one business owner told me that living in unprecedented times means that it’s not business as usual. At Kuyper, it’s not fall semester as usual. We are navigating health and safety protocols, IT needs in the classrooms, schedule changes, and much, much



more. But by God’s grace and the incredible commitment, creativity, and cooperation of our College community, we are faring well as we begin this semester. It’s truly wonderful to be back together. We’re committed to caring for one another and ourselves as we endeavor to be a vital community in this changing and challenging time. Yet, I’m sure all of us will face our feebleness at some point, even as we desire to give praise to God and love our neighbor.

So, with that in mind, I come back to a line in verse one of the hymn, which echoes Kuyper’s motto: “Alike at work and prayer (ora et labora) we ask his loving care: May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Grateful to serve,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dr. Patricia R. Harris**  
President

## Kuyper Community Notes

### Births

**Jacob Morse** (2016) and **Dani (Castle) Morse** (2017) welcomed twins, Levi and Judah, on August 17, 2019.

**Robert De Graff** (2013) and Rachel (Dykstra) De Graff welcomed home, baby girl Georgianna Grace, on April 3, 2020.

**Jacob Jensema** (2015) and **Amy (Walvoort) Jensema** (2013) welcomed home, baby girl Amelia, on May 31, 2020.

**Noah Matthyse** (2018) and **Julie (Farnsworth) Matthyse** (2020) welcomed home, baby girl Althea, on August 1, 2020.

Chandler Williamson and **Angie (Alanowski) Williamson** (2006), together with big sisters Abigail and Anna, welcomed home, baby girl, Chloe on August 26, 2020.

As alumni, we invite you to get involved and stay in touch by calling the Alumni Office at 877.229.0941 or sending us an email to [alumni@kuyper.edu](mailto:alumni@kuyper.edu) with your contact information or the most recent news about you.

# Student Success Coaches

The students' journey at Kuyper College consists of more than showing up for classes and studies. Many students are working either at school or elsewhere as they balance a full- or part-time load. They have friendships, family and churches they are connected to and non-academic interests they want to pursue. Their dreams, goals, doubts and even fears are a constant flood into their stream of consciousness. With all of this going on, how do they get the help they need to successfully navigate the exciting environment of college life?

Introducing the student success coach program, developed by Kuyper's student development department. The program, headed by Jana Postma, assistant director of student development, provides opportunities for upperclassmen to mentor lowerclassmen, passing on their experiences and insights to them and thereby fostering experiential learning, growth and advancement.

The goal of the student success coach is to challenge and serve the Kuyper student community, helping students where they have need. "This is a brand-new program where we are partnering with students to give them peer mentoring and accountability partners," said Postma. "Although the school also offers one-on-one professional counseling and career mentorship from faculty, it is not the same as having a peer working alongside another." The student success coaches will work directly with students one-on-one in the academic, emotional, social and spiritual

areas of students' lives and will both listen and advise students as they navigate personal and group dynamics.



**"The college experience is a wide and complex continuum that we want to support students in navigating."**

Postma added that the program is not only beneficial for the lowerclassmen, but for the coaches as well as they reflect on their years of experience, what they have learned, and how they want to invest into new students. "While it enhances the richness of their experience as they help other students navigate through life, our hope is that what is learned by both sides would not be confined within our campus," said Postma. "We would like to see student coaches and lowerclassmen equipped to also help family and friends as they navigate life's complexities, and to be an encouragement to them along the way.

Mike McCarthy, student development coordinator of vocation, calling and

community life, shared his thoughts on the new program. "There are numerous factors affecting students at college. I believe any definition and conversation about student success has to consider the whole of a student's experience," said McCarthy. "A student's academic success is of obvious importance, yet there are a number of other factors that impact their learning. The opportunities they have to socialize with peers, the connections they have with faculty, how they understand their calling to serve in God's world, all of these are important to the development of our students." According to him, many students resonate with this, knowing that social dynamics play a central role in one's involvement on campus and their success at school. "Although a few people can 'lone wolf' their college experience and excel, most people learn better when invested into a community and involved with social activities. The college experience is a wide and complex continuum that we want to support students in navigating," he said.

For this school year there are five upperclassmen stepping into coaching roles. As new students are mentored and grow, they will be evaluated and encouraged to step into coaching roles and go on to mentor others.

"Although there are many planned outcomes for this program, we will be evaluating the short- and long-term results as the year progresses," said Postma. "Our ultimate desire is for students to mature holistically and learn to be a part of something greater than themselves."

## Marriages

**Kongcheng (Yang) Kimyang** (2020) and **Haju (Kim) Kimyang** (2020) were married on May 31, 2020.

**Kenton Loux** (2020) and **Lean (Jueckstock) Loux** (2020) were married on August 9, 2020.

Luke Jorritsma and **Katy (Chupp) Jorritsma** (2018) were married on September 5, 2020.

## Professional Development

**Robert De Graff** (2013) joined Churchill Mortgage as Mortgage Officer.

**Joel Kiekintveld** (1995) received his Ph.D. in Practical Theology from the University of Pretoria on April 6, 2020.

**Taylor (Downs) Miller** (2004) was promoted to Director of IT Applications at Grace Health, a

Federally Qualified Health Center in Battle Creek, Michigan.

**Hannah (Boer) Pruim** (2017) was promoted to Remote Interpreting Project Manager at Voices for Health.

**Abby Winter** (2017) was appointed financial aid counselor at Trinity International University in Deerfield, IL.

Corrie ten Boom compared our lives to a woven fabric. When we look on the underside, the threads seem to be in chaos with seemingly no purpose. But when we flip the fabric over, we discover a beautiful image. A design the weaver had in mind from the beginning. So are our lives—in the moment, we often cannot see the purpose of events. Decisions are difficult. Consequences unknown. At times we are blessed, and at other times crisis throws our lives into disarray. Yet in both the peace and the storm—God is always with us doing His work.

### Peeled potatoes and shined shoes

The dining table is covered with pieces of newspaper. On top are neat rows of nine pairs of shoes. Each pair belongs to a member of our family. My father deftly rubs on shoe polish until the shoe takes on a bright new luster. My mother stands on the opposite end of the table. Her left hand finds a potato. She strokes it with a potato peeler. Every Saturday evening each shoe was shined to perfection, and potatoes and vegetables were placed on the stove to be cooked the next day. All preparations were made. For my parents, Sunday was a day of rest and worship.

At 9:15 a.m. Sunday morning, our family would step outside our driveway and take a left turn at our sidewalk. We would walk past our neighbor, an elementary school, and into our church. From the time I was born until the sixth grade, this was my world. All in one block—my home, church and school.

Because we were the youngest of seven, my brother Doug and I had the privilege of sitting next to our dad in church. I was always on his left and my brother on his right. During the one-hour service we heard the 10 Commandments, sang hymns, and tried to stay awake during a 10-minute prayer and half-hour sermon. Each of us would rest our head on my father's broad, strong shoulders.

These memories may seem so mundane and insignificant. It was not like my parents were conquering the world—they were shining shoes and peeling potatoes. Yet, they hold a tremendous amount of significance. They are a tiny sliver of the hundreds of decisions my parents made to honor God. To put Him first. They showed me that all my life belongs to God.

### Opening up the world of art

Early, on a Saturday morning, my dad invited me to join him on a car ride downtown. For a 10-year-old boy who had rarely been in the heart of Grand Rapids, this was an adventure. We crossed a bridge over the Grand River, and several city blocks later, we arrived at my father's destination—a small store. He held my hand as he led me through the door.

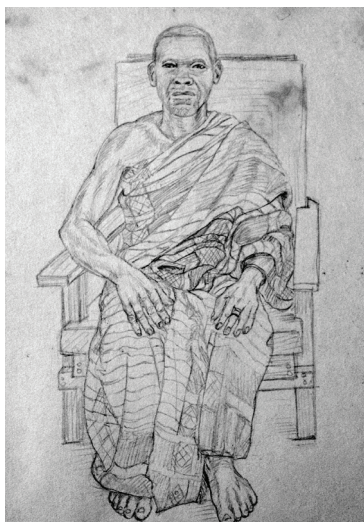
My heart leapt at the sight before me—a colorful world of art supplies. I stared in awe. Watercolor, acrylic and oil paints, brushes



A portrait of Abraham Lincoln, a young 18-year-old Terpstra's Christmas gift to his parents in 1978.

of all sizes. Pastels, charcoal, drawing and colored pencils, easels, drawing paper and canvases. He turned to me, smiled and said, "Buy whatever you want." I looked up at him in wonder and thought why he would make such a generous offer. With a wife disabled by blindness and seven children to care for, my dad never had an extra dollar to spend.

As we walked out of the store, my arms were filled with pastels and watercolor paints, brushes, canvases, and how-to-draw books. I didn't realize then the full implications of what my father had done. He had opened up the world of art to me, and from that day it was mine!



A drawing of an African village chief by Terpstra.

After high school God wove many intricate colors into my life. I worked as a landscaper, carpenter, illustrator and freelance designer. I taught Sunday school, shared Jesus in local migrant camps, was discipled by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship to lead Bible studies on campus while I attended Kendall College of Art and Design, and after graduating volunteered as an artist with Wycliffe Bible translators in Ivory Coast, West Africa. But the best was yet to come.

### What will \$10 get you?

While in Ivory Coast I learned that Wycliffe preferred all their team members take at least one year of Bible school. Growing up in Wyoming Park Christian Reformed Church, Kuyper College was my most natural choice.

I felt a bit out of place. I was older. I didn't fit into the mold of an aspiring missionary. Miss Nelle Vander Ark began every class with a hymn. Her singing probably wouldn't win an "America's Got Talent" award, but I'm quite sure that it caught the attention of angels in heaven. Dr. Bremer was a Jedi master at teaching Greek. My fellow students hailed from other countries—Vietnam, Nigeria and Peru to name a few. Some barely knew English, yet somehow Dr. Bremer

made an ancient language understandable. Knowing Greek made the Bible seem to come to life.

At Kuyper I also learned that the threads of our lives are sometimes woven by one simple act of kindness. In Dr. Schell's class I overheard a student share with her discipleship partner how she couldn't renew her subscription to a daily devotional book because she didn't have \$10.

Katherine Hogeveen was the daughter of Dutch immigrants who settled in Ottawa, Canada. This past August, Katherine and I celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary. The threads of our lives began to be woven together the day I gave her an envelope with \$10 inside.

Katherine and I have both enjoyed an infinite number of precious moments and memories with our 11 children. Our seven boys and four girls range from 16 to 31 years old. Witnessing the miraculous wonder of each birth, cheering on their first steps, pushing them on swings, rubbing their backs before they went to bed at night, memorizing Bible verses, 16 years of homeschooling, rushing someone to the emergency room when they cut their lip, screaming like wild people when they won a basketball game, praying every day that God protects them, earnestly pleading with teenagers to choose God, weeping the day one moves out of the home, proudly walking them down the aisle for their wedding, and nestling close to the face of a grandchild.

### The dark threads of suffering

I was creative director for our church. My wife and I were caring for and homeschooling our older children and expecting our seventh. We were in this together, so I decided to quit my job and do freelance work out of our home.

This design work eventually grew to four employees. We decided it was time to lease an office. Three months after we moved, we were hit with something unexpected. One after another my clients dropped their contracts, and one by one, throughout the next year and a half, I went through the agony of telling each employee that I could no longer support their job.

At the same time, I was failing in the areas of my life I cared about most—as a husband and a father. I was becoming a person I didn't want to be. I felt I had disappointed all who were counting on me. These were the dark threads of my life—the sad and difficult years.



Terpstra directing video for one of Scott Allen's many non-profit clients.



A Terpstra family photo taken during Jeff's and Katherine's 30th wedding anniversary celebration.

### The dusty feet of Jesus

In my darkest hours it was my wife and children that helped. Coming home from another hard day, I entered my garage, and before me was my 18-year-old son. He grabbed me by the shoulders and looked at me and said, "Dad, I am going to love you no matter what. We are going to keep loving each other no matter what and make it to the other side." I wept in his arms. Since that day there is one image that keeps capturing my heart: the dusty feet of Jesus. Jesus shares our sufferings, with all their filthiness and mess. I see Jesus walking on dirty paths and roads with ordinary men announcing that He had come to heal the broken hearted and to set the captive free. It was in my brokenness that I discovered God's tenacious love.

### Weaving the threads together

If I had more space, I could tell you of all the colorful and beautiful threads that God has woven in my life since those dark days. One of them is Scott Allen Creative.

Since the recession of 2008-2011 we have been rebuilding our business. I celebrate the beautiful people I get to work with every day in both our Grand Rapids and Phoenix offices. They are intelligent and incredibly creative. We find great purpose in the work that God has placed before us. Beautiful design. Meaningful writing. Powerful storytelling. All bridge the heart of a worthy cause to the hearts of others. We are passionate about using our creative gifts for nonprofits. The nonprofits who heal the broken hearted, serve the homeless and those struggling with addiction, children needing a family to love, and refugees a place to call home, those released from prison to a new physical life, and those who the good news of Jesus Christ releases to a new spiritual life.

We all have different stories. Our own unique tapestry of colors. Working with nonprofits has been such an incredible blessing. I have seen over and over how God can use our sufferings to create in us a desire to alleviate the sufferings of others. As we surrender to Him, we can become a thread of His wonderful presence in another person's life.

## A Short Checklist for Keeping Wealth in Check

Left unchecked, our wealth can easily become about us. But God's Word and Spirit continually prompt us to answer this very basic question...Do my attitudes and actions related to my wealth point to me, or do they point to God?

In Deuteronomy, Moses addresses the Israelites, detailing the pitfalls and possibilities of moving to a land rich with natural resources. "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today" (Deuteronomy 8:18, NIV).

Yet, wealth can often be a problem. Both rich and poor can be mastered by wealth! Use this checklist based on Moses' teaching to assess your attitudes and actions related to your wealth:

### Check for what you already have.

Moses doesn't pretend Canaan's wealth isn't there. Instead, he affirms it by detailing its streams, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey. Keeping perspective on wealth means affirming and even celebrating it (no matter the amount) as a gift from God. When too much or too little is made of wealth, problems will almost certainly follow!

### Check for obedience.

Before the Israelites took Canaan, he tells them, "Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day" (Deuteronomy 8:11). Whenever attention is paid to Jesus-shaped living, there will be a concern for handling wealth in ways that honor God.

### Check to see if credit is going where it's due.

Moses pointed out to the Israelites that, beginning with Abraham, God had always been their provider. This would not change once they moved to Canaan: "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth..." If God isn't being named as your provider when it comes to wealth, then who is?

## In My Words

### A SPECIAL APPRECIATION

I enjoy working at Kuyper College because of the bright, young students, the dedicated faculty, and the friendly staff. I especially love Kuyper because this school has a notable history of emphasizing international missions and preparing students for lives of Christian service.

My interest in missions grows from personal experiences in West Africa.



**Peter DeBoer**

Senior Advancement  
Representative

You see, back in the early 1980s, I was a missionary in Liberia under Resonate Global Mission of the Christian Reformed Church. The job of our small team of American missionaries was to learn the language of a Muslim tribe called the Vai and work toward having a "people movement" where many Vai would give their lives to Christ. As time went along, I enjoyed learning a new language and cross-

cultural work, but I realized that my calling was to follow Christ in my home country, the USA. Therefore, after a couple of years, I came back to Grand Rapids, Michigan, but as time passed, I always remembered Liberia and the many friendships I had enjoyed there.

In 2009, I started annual trips back to Liberia as a volunteer with Resonate to see if the mission to the Vai could be restarted. I found that a few of my old Liberian friends were still there, and going back to consult with them and practice the language was invigorating. But gaining traction and finding the right people to restart a mission was challenging.

Then, in 2012, Resonate sent Morris Sonie, a former Liberian refugee from Sierra Leone, back to Liberia to lead the renewed mission to the Vai. Morris and a new team of indigenous leaders have started a Christian school, launched a regional church multiplication effort, have more than 13 new churches and 40 new pastors in training, engaged in creative community development, carried out agricultural projects, and opened an orphanage for local children whose parents died in a recent Ebola epidemic. Led by the Holy Spirit, Morris and his team have developed a creative, multi-faceted ministry in a short period of time.

I'm very grateful to have been a part of the mission efforts to the Vai people over the past 38 years. And now, working for Kuyper with firsthand experience, I have a special appreciation for how important it is that Kuyper financially helps our international students to gain a degree and trains and educates them to be prepared for lifetimes of Christian ministry and service in their home countries.

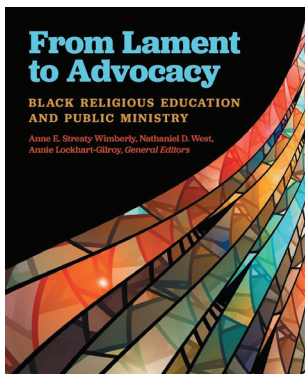
*"In My Words" is a feature of the Kuyper College News highlighting first-person stories by Kuyper College faculty and staff.*

# From Lament to Advocacy

## BLACK RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PUBLIC MINISTRY

This past summer the faculty of Kuyper College read and discussed a new book on ministry and education. Dr. Richelle White, a Kuyper professor of youth ministry and contributing author to the book, and Dr. Jeff Fisher, Kuyper's academic dean, explain the purpose of the book and the faculty's engagement with it.

The idea of "From Lament to Advocacy: Black Religious Education and Public Ministry" originated at the 2015 Religious Education Association meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. During the meeting, a group of Black religious educators, scholars and activists from around the United States gathered to lament over the racially instigated murders of Black men and women that had taken place during the past few years. Those needlessly murdered included Trayvon Martin (2012), Eric Garner (2014), Michael Brown (2014), Tamir Rice (2015) and the parishioners of Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (2015). "That afternoon, I participated with the group," said Dr. White. "As we struggled with our own grief, we asked questions originally penned in Psalm 13: 'How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever...How long will my enemy triumph over me?'"



We asked each other, "What should we do to address the continuously surmounting issues and challenges faced by Black communities?" In clear terms, we answered our own question."

"From Lament to Advocacy" emerged specifically out of the recognition that Black religious education is at a crossroads, and now is the decisive time for renewing the direction, experiences and resources needed to meet current challenges in Black life. "Moving forward requires taking seriously a public ministry emphasis in religious education focused on personal, sociocultural, political and spiritual crises," said Dr. White. The book is organized in eight chapters with nine contributors.

As a contributor, Dr. White's chapter, "Religious Education and the Public Role of the Sister's Keeper," began as a response to her being too comfortable doing ministry in the local church. "For more than 25 years I have been strategically engaged in discipling Black girls in the church and other ministry contexts," she explained. "Several years ago, I felt a strong calling to carry my discipleship program into a Grand Rapids Public School, because Black girls were being pushed out of the educational system." According to her, being pushed out signals being criminalized, degraded and marginalized. "School is not always a safe place for Black girls," she added.

"Writing the chapter for the book was a culmination of my work with My Sister's Keeper. It emphasizes the historical and pedagogical

influencers who inspire me and case studies of the participants in action," said Dr. White.

Following is a quote from the chapter that identifies the significance of this work for public advocacy.

*Black girls are gifted and resilient. However, they need a community of advocates to help them tell their stories as well as experience education and justice with the tenacity that Mary Helen Burroughs and Mary McLeod Bethune offered Black girls in the early twentieth century. Black girls must be included in what Burroughs and Bethune call the "American Democracy." Black girls are worthy of study, attention and support...This has led to my calling and personal, vocational and social responsibilities, including coming alongside Black girls as a "keeper" in the fight for education and justice (173-174).*

Upon the release of this book, Dr. Fisher knew that he wanted to read it and that other faculty members did too. Around the same time the killing of George Floyd and the international response to that incident took place. "As part of the important listening practice, I and others began reading many books on topics related to racism," said Dr. Fisher, "but we selected this book, 'From Lament to Advocacy,' because it revolved around racism, church, community and Christian education."

Given the timeliness of the book, and especially the contribution of Dr. White, Dr. Fisher asked the entire faculty to commit to read and engage with this book. The book was also made available to Kuyper's part-time instructors, several of whom chose to participate.

"We decided to engage this book together in a different way—we record the conversations we have on Zoom and turn them into episodes for the 'Kuyper Collective Podcast,' he said. "Each week a different set of three to five guests dialogue about one chapter of the book, based on the given topic. We've had 13 different people on the podcast over the weeks with several episodes also including those who simply listen live as we record."

Dr. Fisher said the participants have found each chapter of this book to be very relevant to the current culture, their calling as Christians, and their vocations in Christian higher education. "As we at Kuyper College wrestle with the complexities and difficulties related to broader, systemic, structural and institutional forms of racism, we need to listen to the voices of those in Black communities who have gone unheard for far too long," he said. "Our work this summer is just a beginning to addressing these matters effectively."

\*THE KUYPER COLLECTIVE PODCAST IS AVAILABLE AT [anchor.fm/kuypercollective](https://anchor.fm/kuypercollective)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## STUDENTS TO WATCH

### Bethanie Blackann

Growing up, my mom, dad, younger brother and older sister were an essential part of my life, for they always encouraged me. Beyond my immediate family, I am very close with lifelong friends that I also consider part of my family—a community that helped shape me into the person I am.

I was always a part of the church and knew Christ was in my life and part of who I was. However, I started taking God more seriously around high school age and was baptized. Since then, instead of just accompanying my parents to church, I have owned my faith and started working on my relationship with God. I began to spend a lot of time in prayer. During that time, Wednesdays and Thursdays were dedicated to practices and youth events. I loved being in our youth group activities. This became a huge part of the foundation of faith that I continue to build off now—really pressing into what God had planned for me. He wanted me to open my eyes to the fact that what I was doing had more purpose than I realized. It really hit the first Sunday away from home when I was searching for a new church to attend and setting my alarm clock to get there on time.

I attended a public school where I was a leader for the hair team for the drama club. I helped work on tiaras for princesses and wig changes for different characters in shows like “The Addams Family,” “The Wizard of Oz,” and “Into the Woods.” I was also part of the Links Crew—a mentoring program for freshmen, partnering with other students to help in a preschool program. That was where my interest in working in social services began.

When deciding where to go to college, Kuyper was not my first choice. Most schools I considered were out of state and somewhere where snow did not exist. Yet, after much prayer and thought, asking God where He wanted me to be and what my future would look like, I understood that my place was at Kuyper.

However, when God answers prayers, you better be prepared. He has called me to some things outside of my comfort zone—in all the best ways—starting with moving away from my family and

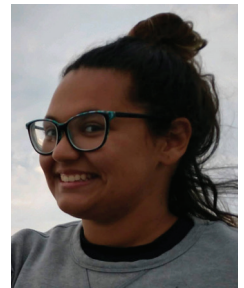
having a roommate I had never met before setting foot on campus. Plus working in a group to accomplish tasks, reaching out to students beyond those I am comfortable with, offering me jobs that I never thought I would be good at, and encouraging and equipping me to step into those positions.

Sometimes God allows us to be in uncomfortable situations to help us grow, but I am glad I have such an excellent place in which to do so. The Kuyper campus community has helped foster growth in my spiritual life while supporting me as I stand firm in what I believe. My professors are amazing. They always have an open door if I need advice or academic help or just want to vent. I have learned how to love more profoundly, to be more thankful and patient, and how to really listen.

At Kuyper, I have also been given many opportunities to learn while serving—as a resident assistant, student activities committee intern, and as a student worker for the Advancement Office and facilities department, as well as staffing the reservations desk. These positions have brought amazing people into my life and have taught me many life lessons for which I am thankful. And starting this fall, I am stepping into a new role as a Kuyper student success coach.

Through Kuyper, I also have been given a chance to complete a semester internship at SGA: Youth and Family Services in Chicago. I will be working under a Master of Social Work supervisor in two different high schools. I am excited and looking forward to continuing to grow through this experience. I still have much more learning to do, but this has been a part of my journey thus far.

After graduation, I hope to get a master's in social work and work in a trauma or mental health setting.



CLASS **2021**

HOME **Dearborn Heights, MI**

MAJOR **Social Work**