

KUYPER

College News

A Publication for Alumni & Friends

For over 11 years, Emily Vanden Heuvel worked at Wedgwood Christian Services as chaplain to young residents, most of whom are wards of the state. She is pictured here with husband, Ryan, and her children, Elijah and Maraleisa.

MY STORY

EMILY VANDEN HEUVEL

From the time she was a very young girl, Emily (Vander Wall) Vanden Heuvel understood who God was and sensed a call to ministry. After graduating from Kuyper in 1999, she enrolled at Calvin Theological Seminary, received her Master of Divinity degree and became a chaplain at Wedgwood Christian Services. Today she serves as senior producer of pastoral care and prayer coordinator for Back to God Ministries International. This is her story.

Alumni Profile

CLASS
1999

HOME
Grand Rapids, Michigan

CAREER
Senior producer of pastoral care and prayer coordinator for Back to God Ministries International

FAMILY
Husband, Ryan, and two children—Elijah and Maraleisa

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Annual Report

A highlight of this year's accomplishments at Kuyper.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION


KUYPER.EDU

Living Faithfully for Jesus Christ

(An excerpt from Dr. Harris' address to new students at their Dedication Service on August 28)

I'm sure you will agree that the no. 1 question asked of college students is—so what do you plan to do when you graduate?

At Kuyper, we aim to help you answer this question as you develop the skills, experiences, and character that will prepare you to be social workers, youth leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, pastors, counselors or, you fill-in-the-blank.

Our statement of learning—what we call our philosophy of education (see p. 3) says that we don't want your primary desire to be for good grades, achievement, or mere accumulation of knowledge. That's not enough. We state that the end goal of education for Kuyper students is to live faithfully for Jesus Christ in God's good world.

Tonight, we are dedicating you towards this goal. And, we've been doing this for 80 years. For this goal fits our mission "to equip students with a biblical, Reformed worldview to serve effectively Christ's church and his world."

One image we use to show our mission is light, as shown through a lamp, as you see in our logo, or by a candle, like this one on

the stand. Light is an image used throughout the Bible. At Kuyper, we certainly want God's Word to light up your knowledge and understanding as the Holy Spirit shapes your life. That's why we value our robust foundation of Bible and theology and our intentional integration of a biblical worldview.

But we also use the image of light as an outcome of who we hope you become. As students living faithfully for Jesus Christ in God's good world, you are called to walk in the light as Christ is in the light.

When you graduate, you will receive a candle, and all of you will surround the audience, with candles lit, and I will give you this charge—to go into the world and shine the light and love of Jesus Christ. As you think about that charge, consider our alumni who received a similar charge and are living faithfully for Jesus Christ in God's good world.

Emily Vanden Heuvel and Monique Carter are shining the light of Christ into the lives of hurting children, youth, and their families. Katy Chupp is shining the light of Christ through her faithful work in the Advancement Office at Kuyper College.



And, Joyce Borger, Dylan Pahman, and Nathan Kroeze are shining the light of Christ through their creative and diligent work in publishing materials for the Christian community.

These alumni are examples to show you that we at Kuyper College are committed to coming alongside you, to encourage you, to guide you, to advise you, and to challenge you, so you can shine brightly into every square inch of God's good world.

Students, faculty, and staff, as we begin a new academic year, let's shine brightly for God's glory.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Patti".

Dr. Patricia R. Harris
President

Kuyper Community Notes

Births

Eric (2008) and **Rosalie (Williams) Buist** (2008) welcomed their sixth daughter to their family, Ahsoka Nebula, on August 3, 2019.

Tyler (2009) and **Joni (Dykema) Cook** (2008), along with big sister Jovie, welcomed Oakley James to their family on June 29, 2019.

Zach and **Katherine (Sytsma) Westenbroek** (2011) welcomed home Arlo John on May 31, 2019.

Marriages

Richard and **Kelsey (Gorter) Klootwyk** (2011) were united in marriage on June 29, 2019.

Campus Events

October 18
Kuyper Experience Day

October 22
Scholarship Dinner

December 3
Global Awareness Day

Kuyper's Philosophy of Education

The Kuyper College faculty recently revised the official statement that expresses the College's perspective on the various ways and places where learning happens and how it seeks to engage in that learning. In coordination with Student Development staff and in anticipation of the launching of KuyperWorks, there was a desire to describe more clearly Kuyper's Philosophy of Education that encompasses the breadth of academics, worship, work, and vocation. The faculty's intention is that this statement takes root in the lives of students, faculty, and staff so that together, we will live faithful lives for Jesus Christ in God's good world.

Learning is rooted in love.

We believe that the root of learning is love of God and neighbor, not simply the desire for good grades, achievement, or mere accumulation of knowledge. As we come to understand God's love for us, expressed most fully in Christ Jesus, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love and serve him in return and to love others with the same love that Jesus showed us. As people who have encountered the living God, we offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God and neighbor in clear, practical actions. To love our neighbor well means acquiring knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will allow us to communicate God's love in a variety of ways, both in words and in deeds. Thus, as students go through the programs, courses, and other learning opportunities at Kuyper College, they will be equipped with the skills needed in their chosen field of service so that they may show God's love in the spheres in which they live, work, and minister.

Learning is holistic.

Many people separate academic "learning" from everyday life. Kuyper College believes that all of life involves learning. What we do in the classroom serves and strengthens students' ability to serve beyond the classroom. Similarly, we encourage students to bring their real-life experience into the class in order to enhance the learning that takes place in that environment. This holistic approach to learning affects our view of how and where learning happens. Learning happens in a variety of co-curricular activities and events. Learning happens in chapel—in times of worship, preaching, prayer, and praise. Learning happens in formal and informal conversations among students, staff, and faculty. Learning happens as students volunteer, work, travel, go on field

trips, and engage in practicums and/or internships. And learning happens in the classroom and while completing assignments—readings, exams, papers, and projects all working together to enable students to learn. This big-picture approach to learning cultivates students who are lifelong learners and therefore always open to how they can grow in their effective service to Christ's church and world.

Learning happens in community.

Learning is not an individual endeavor but a communal one. The call to love God, to pursue truth, and to do justice cannot be sustained apart from a community that sees the beauty of God, delights in the truth of God, and tastes the goodness of God. Professors do not merely dispense knowledge, but have a love for their students and approach their subject matter and learning with joy. This love and joy plays a key role in helping students desire to learn and grow themselves. Further, the Kuyper community functions as an academic, social, and spiritual community, encouraging each other in the process of learning. This community oriented around worship and love of God is necessary to sustain the kind of work it takes to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to serve Christ's church and world. The end goal of education is living faithfully for Jesus Christ in God's good world. A Kuyper College education requires students to examine and critically reflect on the world around them, so that they are ready to engage with its diverse ideas, individuals, groups, and cultures. Rooted in Scripture and a biblical, Reformed worldview, our character and life is shaped so that we can fulfill the specific callings God has given us to serve Christ's church and world.

Professional Development

John Burden (2006) became the pastor at Pompton Reformed Church in Pompton Lakes, NJ.

Kelly (VanderPloeg) Crabb (2009) established her counseling practice, KJ Counseling LLC, in May in Grand Rapids, MI.

Shelley Eckenwiler (2016) became ministry support/youth director at Redeemer City/Arbor Church merger in Tampa, FL.

Catie (Jasperse) Hower (2010) became a kindergarten teacher at New Branches Charter Academy in Grand Rapids, MI.

Christy (Hochhalter) Johnson (2010) became executive director of advancement and digital products for Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

Ken Kruithoff (2007) became the pastor at First Allendale Christian Reformed Church in Allendale, MI.

Meet People Where They Are

“Kuyper challenged me to grow, and for that I am eternally grateful,” says Monique Carter, class of 2010, who is now a program manager in the youth services department at Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The many lessons she learned during her years at the College prepared her for both her position at Bethany and other areas of her life.



Monique Carter (pictured top-right) leads a program meeting at Bethany Christian Services

With her three siblings, Carter grew up in Grand Rapids. Although at times her family struggled to make ends meet, friends and mentors from local churches helped them through some difficult moments. They had a happy childhood filled with kickball, Double Dutch and football in the street. In high school, drama club had a significant impact on Carter, helping her to find her voice. She graduated in the top ten of her class from Grand Rapids Central High School.

Carter grew up knowing Christ; she attended Camp Tall Turf and was baptized at age 18 at Sherman Street CRC. However, she fully surrendered to Christ at age 20. According to her, “Accepting Jesus as my foundation came after feeling completely defeated. Life had gotten heavy, and I was no longer willing to pretend that I could do it all on my own.” That decision changed everything. “Since then, I’ve been able to support friends and family through both tough times and times of celebration because the God we serve is worthy of all praise,” she said.

The admissions team was very influential in Carter’s decision to attend Kuyper. “And the staff and faculty helped me through the challenges of college,” she said. “God showed up in so many ways, and no matter how hard I fought against it, the Kuyper team ensured that graduation was my reality.” While she was anxious about passing her classes, she soon learned that, as Kuyper’s former president, Dr. Nick Kroeze, assured her, she “would be just fine.” Carter’s experience at Kuyper helped her develop a new worldview.

She explained: “My heart changed, and my mind was renewed. I left Kuyper viewing the world through a whole new lens.”

After graduating with a degree in youth ministry, Carter spent seven years working in a residential treatment program for youth in foster care who had experienced some form of abuse or neglect. Now, she continues to use the skills she learned there and at Kuyper as a program manager with the youth services department at Bethany Christian Services. “While this job is a change of pace from working face-to-face with youth on a daily basis,” said Carter, “I enjoy providing the opportunity for youth to grow and develop.” She loves working with her team at Bethany to help their youth programs become the best that they can be.

The lessons Carter learned at Kuyper equipped her to serve in her current position and changed the way she views other areas of life. According to her, “Kuyper taught me to dwell among those you serve, meet people where they are, and do not expect them to meet unrealistic expectations. Earn the right to be heard—people want to know that you care before they care what you know. Be patient—you are not the expert on someone else’s life. Listen. Then offer support. Trust is earned.”

STEWARDSHIP

A Matter of the Heart

Do you have kids or grandkids that like to keep secrets? The dictionary defines secret as something hidden from view. That’s a good description of the hearts of “good and faithful servants” that Jesus described in Matthew 25. Here are six “secrets” of good and faithful servants that we trust will be an encouragement to you as you grow in your walk with the Lord.

Let me ask you a question: What comes to mind when you think of stewardship?

Most people immediately think of money when they hear the word “stewardship.” But stewardship is so much bigger than finances—it’s really a matter of the heart. Stewardship is a longing to offer everything we are and have to Him. Consider the following truths from the Word of God as you prayerfully ask the Lord to make your heart more in tune with His:

- **Thankfulness:** “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ

Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). A steward’s heart is a thankful heart. But how can we be thankful in everything? It begins with an attitude of gratitude—thanking God for the big and small blessings in our life and resting on His promises during the difficult times.

- **Thoughts:** “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have...” (Hebrews 13:5). Most people think if they had just a little more money,

>> See **STEWARDSHIP**, Page 11

Theological Education

The following stories by three alumni speak to their Bible and theology educational experience at Kuyper College, reflecting on where their paths have led them and how Kuyper has played a role in shaping their careers and lives today.



Joyce Borger CLASS 1992

God placed in me a desire to work for His church, and Kuyper College seemed the best place to prepare myself to do just that. I came to Kuyper with a love for music, but I left with the tools and foundation needed to do further musical studies. I continued my formal education after Kuyper and in 1995 received a Bachelor of Education in

music. Later, I graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Calvin Theological Seminary in 2003.

I never would have expected to be working for the Christian Reformed Church's denominational office, but God led me here step-by-step, giving me the needed experiences, tools and education. All of these have informed my work, first as the worship editor at Faith Alive Christian Resources (publishing company of the Christian Reformed Church) and now as the director of worship ministries for the CRC.

In both positions, I have been responsible for *Reformed Worship*, a quarterly journal for worship leaders, pastors, musicians and other worship artists, with an ecumenical and global audience. I began in this position as an associate editor in 2003, and three years later became the senior editor.

My role with the journal allows me to highlight the faithful work of churches. We also address issues of justice and diversity, encourage worship leaders to think about the pastoral needs of children, youth, older adults, those who are grieving, persons living with disabilities or mental illnesses, and much more. If I were to trace each one of these threads back through the weaving of my life, they would lead me to my years at Kuyper.



Dylan Pahman CLASS 2009

I was raised in an undenominational Christian home. During my college years at Kuyper, I found my spiritual home in the Greek Orthodox Church.

I first learned about Kuyper after a friend's dad suggested I go to a Bible college. In the time leading up to that, I had a calling to study God's Word and serve Him. At Kuyper,

I found a wonderful Christian community of fellow students, staff and professors who felt the same way I did. To this day, I still remember my courses, classmates and professors fondly.

Fast forward to after graduating from Kuyper College. I was finishing my second year at Calvin Seminary when a friend of a friend emailed

me about a research position as assistant editor of Acton's academic journal, the *Journal of Markets & Morality*. I took the job and have been working there since 2011 as both an editor and researcher.

Now, I am the managing editor of the *Journal of Markets & Morality* and a research fellow for Acton. This involves managing subscriptions, guiding submissions through the review and publication process, and editing. As well as researching and writing my own work, both academic papers and op-eds, many of which have been published. I also wrote a book, published by Acton in 2017: *Foundations of a Free & Virtuous Society*.

The Lord led me to Acton, and I like what I do. Although I'd love to write more books someday, including fiction, I don't think God wants me to get caught up on all that now when I have so much to be thankful for right in front of me. Right now, I am focused on being the best husband, father, worker and friend I can be.



Nathan Kroeze CLASS 2013

As a pastor's kid, I grew up in the church. After going on a trip to Russia with my dad and a group of Kuyper students, I witnessed what a deep, personal commitment to Christ looked like. This trip was a major influence in committing my life to Christ and working to restore His new creation.

Kuyper has had a huge impact on my life by providing me the tools needed to develop and discern God's calling to ministry. I not only received an excellent understanding of God's Word, but also a framework to apply that to the context and culture around me.

In my final year at Kuyper I began an internship with a local publishing agency called Somersault Group. After graduating from Kuyper and working for Somersault for two years, I began my position at Zondervan in the marketing department for the academic and church/ministry publishing team. I have been at Zondervan for almost six years now.

One of the biggest joys I have in my work is partnering with different authors and organizations who are passionate about equipping readers with the biblical content that glorifies Jesus Christ. Although the content, theological positions, and core audiences for each book are different, they all have one thing in common, which is to glorify Jesus and grow His kingdom.

I want to continue to follow God's call to ministry through Christian publishing. I am graduating from Ferris State University in December with a Master of Business Administration and hope to use that education to apply more strategic business and leadership principles into my work.

I grew up in a Christian home in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where we attended church and were very involved in ministry. There is not a moment when I have not known Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Spiritual formation was a significant theme in my childhood home; my parents strongly encouraged me to grow in my faith, and as a young girl I felt called to ministry.

My parents owned their own business, and when I was in high school, they decided to go back to college to get their degrees in ministry. They started taking classes at Kuyper with open minds about where God may be calling them. I was very proud of my parents for going back to college.

Kuyper was a significant part of my childhood and early adult development. My parents spent many years studying part time while they finished their college degrees. I remember many Sundays and holidays where our house would be full of students from Kuyper who may have had nowhere to go.

When I was a senior in high school, I had my mind made up that, because my parents attended, I would not go to Kuyper. I spent one semester at a different college, and I was miserable. I knew in my heart that God was calling me to Kuyper, but I was terrified of the commitment to ministry. I was also a bit concerned about attending classes with my parents. However, Kuyper had one of the best pre-seminary programs in the Midwest, and I knew that God was calling me to seminary.



Vanden Heuvel praying for Christian recording artist Lecrae after his Wedgwood appearance



Wedgwood's Grand Rapids campus

I was not exactly sure what degree I would receive or what I would do with it, but I knew Kuyper would give me the best education to prepare me for seminary. I decided to transfer, and the first month on campus was very affirming. I made some great friends and felt at peace in my heart. In fact, there is a photo from 1998 that features my mom, my dad and my sister in the College's newsletter. We were all students together for one semester. We joked that the College needed to name a wing after the Vander Wall family because of the tuition coming from one household.

I was so thankful to be able to have such a focus of study on Bible and theology. I was grateful for the small class size and the strong relationships built with the professors. I appreciated the like-minded students and the emphasis on spiritual formation, biblical interpretation, pastoral identity, and practical application to ministry. I lived off campus but was intentional about building relationships. I had many opportunities to serve and to lead; I even served for a couple of years on student council.

I was the only woman in my graduating class going to seminary, which provided a few challenges, but I found a group of people who cared for me and wanted the best for me. School was never easy. I struggled to get average grades. The professors, however, were incredibly supportive. I knew that they wanted me to be successful and that they were invested not just in my education but in my calling as a pastor. There were many occasions where I not only received academic support, but also emotional support from the professors and the staff.

Kuyper was formative for me as an emerging adult. It was also the place to begin formulating my pastoral identity and strong theological and biblical background. I left Kuyper thoroughly prepared for my seminary education.

After I graduated in 1999 with my bachelor's degree in religious education, I reconnected with Ryan, an old childhood friend. Ryan and I figured out rather quickly that we made a great team. We have now been married for 18 years, and he has been an incredible support to me and my ministry. We have two children—Elijah is starting high school in the fall and Maraleisa is in middle school.

I began seminary studies at Calvin Theological Seminary after graduation, pursuing a Master of Divinity. I knew that I would focus on pastoral care and chaplaincy. I slowly plugged away at my master's with part-time status so that I could focus my energy on learning and stay involved and invested in ministry. I had opportunities to offer pastoral care and ministry leadership to a variety of churches and parachurch organizations.

While I was nearing the end of my seminary studies, I was hired by Wedgwood Christian Services as a chaplain for the residential program. It was an amazing job. I offered pastoral care and spiritual support to hundreds of residents—most of whom were permanent wards of the state—as well as to the staff who cared for the children. Most of the children at Wedgwood have no family and have experienced extreme abuse and neglect.

My position at Wedgwood was a delightful combination of chaplain, missionary and parish pastor. I was able to present the gospel often, lead worship, and give children an opportunity to participate in the kingdom of God. Wedgwood taught me much about understanding God in the face of suffering, crisis and trauma. I learned to love the Psalms of lament and would wrestle with them on behalf of the children in the face of unanswerable questions regarding divine goodness in view of the existence of evil.

Jesus commands his people to have faith like a child, and I never fully grasped what that meant until I started working at Wedgwood. These children have had everything taken from them, and yet in the face of that extreme loss they still have the strength to hold on to their faith.

I am so thankful for the daily examples of God's grace at Wedgwood, which lives and breathes as kids learn, understand and claim the suffering, death and resurrection of their Lord and Savior. One story that kids resonate with is Psalm 23—how God is our shepherd. One young man said his “table in front of his enemies” (Psalm 23:5) was the fear of never finding a family. He explained, “God is my perfect Dad, and Wedgwood is my family. Pastor Emily, you and I are brother and sister!”



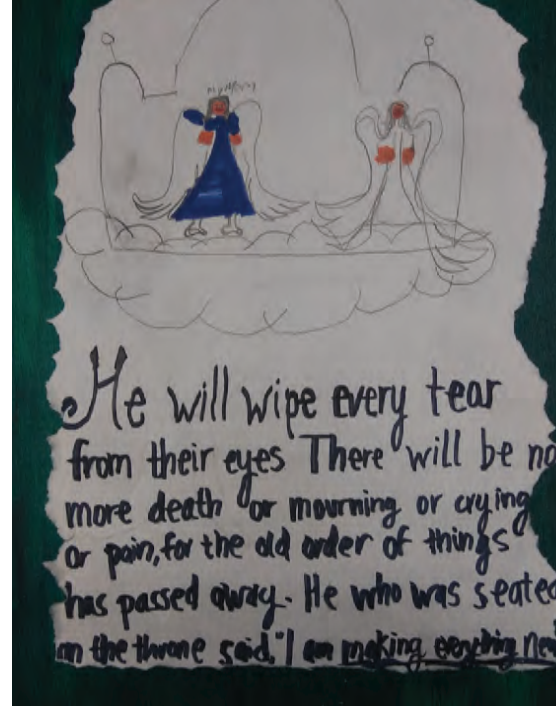
Vanden Heuvel before a baptism service at Wedgwood

The Word is powerful, and I never cease to be amazed at how God uses His Message to reach the seemingly unreachable. During my years at Wedgwood, many famous people who love Jesus and travel all over the globe spreading God's message spent time with the residents. Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae, NFL player Brian Bosworth, and MLB player Darryl Strawberry, to name a few, have unabashedly communicated the clear message of the gospel. The best part is that, at each visit, the kids offered to pray a blessing over them. Through the years I have heard over and over: “I visited Wedgwood to bless the kids, but I've been MORE blessed by them.”

While at Wedgwood, I spent time teaching that Jesus is not just Savior, but He is also Lord. I ask questions like, “How can you show others that you are a follower of Jesus?” and “How can you treat your body like His temple?” The congregation at Wedgwood is small and young, but their faith is strong and deep. Worship times give the kids the opportunity to show their faith and obedience in participating in His covenant.

I had been working for over 11 years as the chaplain at Wedgwood when I began feeling more and more that God was calling me to a different setting. I prayed and asked the Lord for direction. In the winter of 2018, the Lord opened a door for me at Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI). It was a significant leap of faith for me to leave the comfort of a ministry setting I had spent so many years in, and the staff and children whom I love deeply. Though I ended my full-time work as the chaplain for Wedgwood, I remain on call.

This January, I started working at BTGMI, working specifically with ReFrame, which is the English-language arm of Back to God. I am the senior producer of pastoral care and prayer coordinator. One of my main responsibilities is to coordinate the ReFrame Media Prayer Team. This team prays for the hundreds of individuals who contact us weekly through one of our programs to request prayer. I collect and collate prayer requests and send them out to roughly 6,000 volunteer prayer warriors. Another part of my role is to equip our



Art created by a young Wedgwood resident whose mother had died in prison.

prayer partners with resources that will help them grow in knowledge and gain confidence in their prayer lives. I have many opportunities each week to respond to the ReFrame international English-speaking audience who contact us asking for prayer.

The job change has allowed me to spend more time with my teenage children, to be more involved and invested at my church, and to offer leadership and service to my local church classis.

I have enjoyed being the middle school coordinator at La Grave CRC. I love middle schoolers and their energy and passion for learning. It has been an honor to walk alongside the kids as they grow in their faith and learn how to live their best for God. I want people to know how much they are loved by God. There are no issues or problems too great for God to address or sins too big for God to forgive. There is no pain so dark and crushing that God's light cannot penetrate. God promises that we will never be alone.

I am grateful to have many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus both in and out of the church setting. I look forward to how God will use me at LaGrave and at BTGMI, but I am particularly grateful for the time and energy to pour into what matters most, and that is my family.

It has been another good year at Kuyper.
The stories of our students and alumni show we are fulfilling our goal of education—to live faithfully for Jesus Christ in God’s good world. And, this infographic shows we are helping our students succeed through the good work of our faculty and staff, the generosity of our donors, and God’s faithful provision.

—Dr. Patricia R. Harris, President

Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019

Student Satisfaction

Kuyper is ranked #1 in student satisfaction nationally among Christian colleges; here are some reasons why:

95%

in-class academic experiences

97%

quality of teaching

95%

quality of classroom facilities

93%

quality of courses in their major program

93%

quality of courses in the Bible/Theology core

92%

opportunity to meet with faculty outside the classroom

KUYPERWORKS

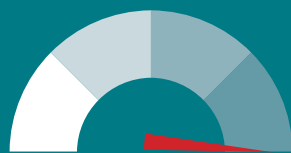
KuyperWorks takes what students learn inside the classroom and puts it into practice outside the classroom within on-campus jobs, while making their education more affordable.

Students make \$15 per hour, with \$1,800 of their earnings per year applied to reduce tuition.

Student to Faculty Ratio **11:1**



Lowest student debt at graduation of any college in Michigan



100% OF STUDENTS RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID



80% OF RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS HAD AN ON-CAMPUS JOB

Scholarships Awarded

\$1,027,965

2019 Best College Rankings

by College Consensus*



Kuyper ranks
15th best
among U.S. Christian
colleges nationally

Highest among Christian
colleges nationally in overall
student satisfaction

20th best
among all Regional Colleges
in the Midwest

Highest among all Regional
Colleges in the Midwest in overall
student satisfaction



6th best
among all
colleges in Michigan

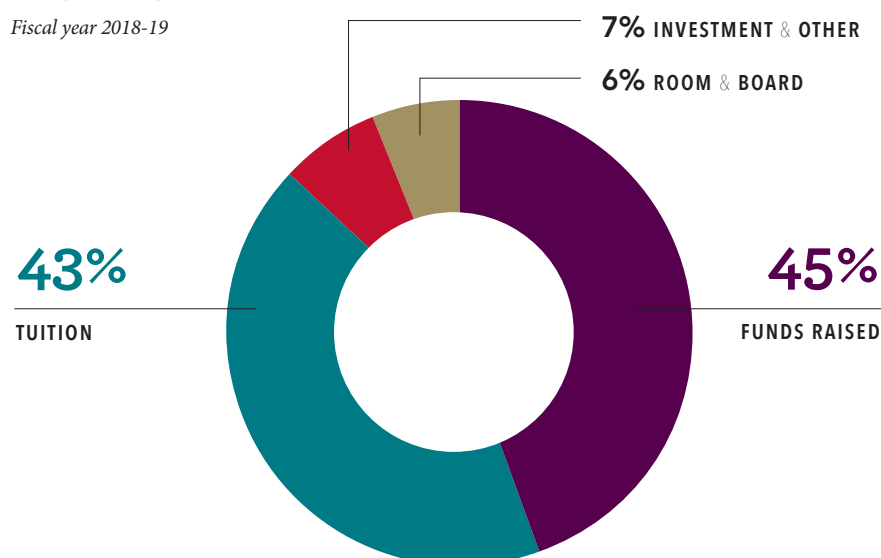
*The College Consensus methodology pulls together rankings from U.S. News & World Report, Forbes, Wallethub and other publications, averaging all of a given school's numbers to get the Publisher Rating. Then it averages student reviews from sites like Cappex, Niche, Student Review, and others, to get the full picture of how students see their colleges—the Student Review Rating. When combined, they show the College Consensus.

Financials

Revenue

\$7,219,579

Fiscal year 2018-19



Expense Allocations

29% Student Aid

25% Instruction

15% Student Services

7% Safety & Facilities

7% Fundraising

6% Room & Board

4% Academic Support

4% Marketing & General

3% Library

All figures are presented prior to Fiscal Year End Financial Audit



Donors

Compared to Previous Fiscal Year

13%
INCREASE OF AVERAGE GIFT



Surpassed
fundraising goals

7%

Increase of gift revenue

17%

INCREASE IN LAPSED DONOR
RENEWAL RATE

Remembering Gloria Chupp

Kuyper College is establishing the Gloria Chupp Memorial Scholarship in remembrance of longtime student Gloria Chupp who passed away this past April. Gloria was the wife of Tim Chupp, who has served the College for over 30 years as the supervisor of maintenance.

Gloria and Tim have been part of the Kuyper community for decades. Despite already having a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Covenant College, Gloria continued to attend



Gloria Chupp

classes on a variety of subjects at Kuyper. She was interested in Bible, theology, English, psychology, social work and more. In total, she took 47 classes in 13 different areas of study.

In addition to her time in the classroom, Gloria often attended

events at the College with her husband. Her investment in the community at Kuyper, her quiet spirit, and her lifelong love of learning will be remembered by the students, staff and faculty at Kuyper for years to come.

Because of Gloria's love of learning, the board resolved to honor her legacy with a scholarship to help students with her same passion fulfill their dreams. "The board chose to establish the Gloria Chupp Memorial Scholarship to honor Gloria's longtime commitment to Kuyper College. Over the last 30 years, Gloria took more classes at Kuyper than most any graduate," said Kuyper College Board Chair Matt Nelson. "In addition, Gloria showed love, care and hospitality to Kuyper students, staff and faculty in keeping with the highest call of Scripture. We are grateful to God for Gloria!"

To honor all of Gloria's academic accomplishments at the College, President Patti Harris presented a posthumous Certificate of Lifelong Learning on behalf of Gloria to Tim at this year's Opening Convocation. Gloria will be deeply missed by the Kuyper community, and we pray that the legacy of her love of learning continues to influence succeeding generations of Kuyper students.

In My Words

DOING IT FOR HIM

I tend to get caught up in the details of life. At times, I feel paralyzed from overanalyzing. In high school, I shrugged off questions about my future and passions because that was big picture stuff that didn't seem to apply to me.



Katy Chupp

Administrative Assistant
for Advancement

I only saw the next step. However, I knew there was more to life than my little corner of details, so I wanted to go to a school that would strengthen my faith while expanding my understanding of the world. I handled my college search in an overly analytical manner and ended up at Kuyper College.

I didn't really know what to expect when I got to Kuyper; I thought I would mostly learn content—details I could memorize about the Bible, psychology, English and business. Unsurprisingly, I did learn a lot about that, but also, much more than I anticipated—

how to think deeply, to ask probing questions, to occasionally let go of the comfort of neat boxes and let in the light or the pain of the big picture. I also learned more of what it means to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Kuyper College, like its namesake, Abraham Kuyper, is intent on equipping students to not only believe, but to live out the fact that Jesus is Lord of everything, even the mundane parts of life. This worldview is taught and modeled in the classes, offices, and even the dorms—not perfectly, of course, but intentionally. As I learned to apply this worldview, I realized I am passionate about something after all: glorifying God through my work, and more specifically, by working with details.

Here's what this means: Christianity is about more than what happens after we die. It's about life, including right now and going on forever, even after physical death. We are not on this earth to simply wait for death, but to live and die in gratitude to our Lord—to be attentive in class for Him, patch drywall for Him, and manage data and paperwork with care and accuracy for Him and with His love for others.

Kuyper College nurtured and continues to cultivate in me the passion to love people and serve my Lord by working for His glory. I graduated from Kuyper in 2018 and have been working full time in the Advancement Office for over a year, filing, making lists, maintaining the consistency of our database, and formatting reports. To many people these tasks might not sound very exciting, but I believe I am doing exactly what God wants me to, and I get to do it while continuing to be a part of the Kuyper College community, where this passion is shared and passed down to every successive class of students.

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

Kuyper Professors Teach Prison Inmates

“They don’t take education for granted. There is no lecture or material they get where they are not thinking about ‘What can I do with this?’” Andrew Zwart, instructor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies and director of academic support at Kuyper College, commented about a group of his students—inmates at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan. These inmates are enrolled in the Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI), a program that gives incarcerated individuals the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Faith and Community Leadership from Calvin University at no cost to the student.

Zwart has been teaching at CPI every summer since it began four years ago, and last fall Judi Meerman, retired Kuyper professor of social work, taught her first class at the prison as well. They both

Learn More

TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT CPI, GO TO
[calvin.edu/
prison-initiative](http://calvin.edu/prison-initiative)

agree that it has been an incredibly rewarding experience, and it makes a lasting difference in the lives of the inmates.

CPI was inspired by the drastic effects that other educational programs were having in prisons around the country—one similar program in the maximum-security Louisiana State Penitentiary

has seen reduced violence in the prison by 80 percent. CPI began by offering a few unaccredited classes to inmates through Calvin Theological Seminary, but they quickly grew a fully accredited program through Calvin University, funded by generous donors. In the fall of 2015, the first cohort of twenty students from prisons across Michigan came to the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility to begin taking classes through the initiative.

Currently, there are five cohorts of twenty students each participating in the five-year, year-round program. The goal of this program is not only to equip inmates to be leaders when they



Student at Handlon Correctional Facility

finish serving their sentences, but also to help them lead in their prisons right now. All graduates, including those who are serving life sentences, will partner with two or three other graduates to serve as community leaders in their prisons.

Programs like CPI are linked to reduced violence and recidivism in correctional facilities. Both Zwart and Meerman are thrilled to take part in this vision, and teaching their students at the prison has been a joy. Zwart teaches Written Rhetoric Two, and he is amazed by the participation he gets from his students. “In any conversation, they will go deep, deep, deep,” he said. Zwart went on to say that the students never run out of questions and are constantly looking for ways to apply the material they are learning in class to their lives. Meerman echoed Zwart’s statements, saying that next fall, she will no longer be giving out grades for participation because it is completely unnecessary—everyone participates as much as they can.

Meerman was also impressed by the respectful dialogue that takes place in a classroom full of people who hold to a variety of worldviews: “You have Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, all in the same classroom. Despite their opposing viewpoints, the students talk to one another with respect and value the biblical and theological material they are learning in all their classes.”

CPI exists to bring about restorative justice, acknowledging that all people are made in God’s image, and therefore are worthy of respect and dignity. Zwart and Meerman love being part of that mission.

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- they’d be happier. But contentment isn’t getting what you want—it’s a mindset of wanting what you have. Contentment comes when we tune out our culture’s relentless pursuit for more and fix our thoughts and eyes on God, who promised to supply all our needs.
- **Trust:** “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not . . . to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17). Our trust can easily move away from God and toward our bank accounts and abilities. But the only path to peace is to put our trust in God, yielding to His plan and timing for our lives.
 - **Talk:** “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Our children may fail to listen, but we know that they seldom fail to imitate us.

- **Talents:** “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10). Highly effective stewards see their time and talents as precious gifts from God and use those gifts to bless others, advancing the kingdom of God in their homes, communities, and around the world.
- **Treasure:** “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9). When we give, we are demonstrating the depth of our loyalty to Christ and understanding of His grace in our lives. We serve a giving God. When He lives in our hearts, our love for Him grows, overflowing in generous, sacrificial and joyful giving to the things He cares about.

To learn more about transferring appreciated assets to a Christian charity, please contact the Kuyper Advancement Office at 616.988.3662 or email kcapisciolto@kuyper.edu.

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STUDENTS TO WATCH

Bethany Adkins

I am from the south side of Holland, Michigan. I was born into an amazingly large and loving family—I am the sixth of eight children—four boys and four girls. Some of my fondest memories with my family are singing with my sisters and watching my brothers at various sporting events, oftentimes even baseball in our own backyard—we can always find a way to have a good time together and share our love through both words and actions.

I was homeschooled until my junior year of high school when I began attending Freedom Christian in Hudsonville. While my experiences the last two years of high school were good, nothing compares to what I received while homeschooled—it strengthened the bond I have with my family, and I would not trade that experience for anything.

The church that I grew up in—Harbor Reformed Baptist Church in Holland—has also been a blessing to me with so many lifelong friends who have practically become family. I could not be more thankful for the people there who helped guide me in my younger days, and even still, today.

As a teenager, I went through a lot of mental and emotional struggles, including spiritual battles. Those were the hardest years of my life. I often felt I was worthless to others, especially to God. I desperately wanted to feel God's comfort. Despite all those trials, God showed me His faithfulness and that He is enough. He is the One who keeps me going, and I am reminded of that every day.

My college journey has been long. I have been in school for almost six years, and I am entering my fourth year at Kuyper as a senior. After trying my hand at different colleges for two years prior to Kuyper, I had decided that college just wasn't for me. While at my

last college, I chose to drop out of school and work for the rest of that semester. I knew I wanted to go back to school eventually, but I had reached a breaking point in my life, and I needed a breather.

Not long afterward, I was encouraged to check out Kuyper by my mother, and we scheduled a campus tour with my sister, Hannah, who was also interested in Kuyper. Not five minutes into the tour I was positive that Kuyper was the school for me—I could feel my heart leaping—and we hadn't even toured the campus yet! By the end of the visit, I was so excited to attend Kuyper College in the fall. I realized what I needed was spiritual care, which is something I did not find during my two years of college elsewhere; however, I found that at Kuyper. Now, both my sister and I attend Kuyper—she is due to graduate this December, and I will follow in the spring.

While at Kuyper I have been blessed by being the event coordinator in the reservations department. This position has served, in part, as my internship class for my major. One of my favorite parts about being a student worker at Kuyper is the professional experience I'm accumulating and the guidance I'm receiving from people who care deeply about me.

As graduation approaches, I am beginning to think of where I will be in the future—not only this coming spring but in the years to come. I do not have any set plans yet, but I am excited because I see so many open doors. My life has always turned out better when I let God decide how to use me, and not my choosing.



CLASS **2020**

HOME **Holland, Michigan**

MAJOR **Business Leadership**