

# KUYPER

College News

*A Publication for Alumni & Friends*

## *Kuyper's New* ATHLETIC PROGRAM

**K**uyper College announced its membership in the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association and plans to launch a new intercollegiate athletic program in the Fall of 2023.

“Developing an athletic program fits our mission and values as we provide holistic development for our students,” said Dr. Patricia Harris, president of Kuyper College. “Athletics is one way we can equip students for purposeful lives of learning, work, and service to God and others. And, an athletic program provides an opportunity to deepen our engagement as a College community as we celebrate God’s gift of play and sport.”

The decision to reinstate an athletic program at Kuyper began over a year ago. According to Harris, “It’s been an ongoing conversation. First, we looked at ways to provide additional opportunities to our students. Then, when athletics became part of that dialogue, the College’s leadership team began to explore Kuyper’s past program and how it could be improved.”

In addition, the College looked at the broader marketplace of Work Colleges and other schools like Kuyper, all involved with athletics. “Evaluating all the factors and the potential of athletics for our College, the leadership team decided that redeveloping our athletic program would be a good move, and the Board of Trustees approved this initiative in June,” Harris said.

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# Living Sacrifices

The Apostle Paul could have ended his letter to the Romans with the exuberant doxology in the last verses of chapter 11, but instead of ending his letter here, Paul adds one of his favorite connector words—"therefore"—which some say is the most important "therefore" in Scripture. Then, in chapter 12, he moves from theory to practice by turning our attention from explaining God's plan of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to calling us to live out this salvation in view of God's mercy as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Following this grand "therefore" in Romans 12:1, Paul paints a picture of a living-sacrifice lifestyle of worship, transformation, and service to God and others. He is calling the believers in Rome—and all of us—to reorient our hearts, minds, and wills, from self-serving to community-serving, by God's grace and power.

This academic year we will be focusing on Romans 12 and considering how our lives need to be shaped as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. At our faculty retreat, Al Moss, Director of Student Development and Faith Formation, reflected on this chapter as he shared his story of coming to faith and God's transformative power in his life. In his opening convocation address, Dr. Tim Howerzyl, assistant professor of theological Studies, called all of us in our learning,

work, and service to offer ourselves as living sacrifices and reminded us that this is only possible through God's grace and mercy. And, I've encouraged us—and you as well—to memorize Romans 12 so that these words dwell in us richly as we more deeply know God and together live out His will for us.

There is so much to unpack in Romans 12. As we've welcomed new and returning students, staff, and faculty this fall, I've thought about Paul's words in verses 3-8, and I'm grateful for the variety of gifts, perspectives, life experiences, and goals we share in humble service to God and others. In this issue, you'll meet Gary Bailey, our athletic director, who is dedicated to building a vibrant Christian culture in athletics, and Dr. Tim Howerzyl, who brings a pastor's heart and experience in teaching



theology. These new members of the Kuyper community join all of us in dedicating ourselves to a living-sacrifice lifestyle.

This new academic year, please pray these words with us and for us—words we sang at our Welcome Chapel—"Clean my hands, purify my heart. I wanna burn for you, only for You. Take my life as a sacrifice." ("Refiner" by Maverick City Music)

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." (Romans 12:11)

Grateful to serve,

**Dr. Patricia R. Harris**  
President

"Following this grand 'therefore' in Romans 12:1, Paul paints a picture of a living-sacrifice lifestyle of worship, transformation, and service to God and others."

## Kuyper News and Events

### Births

Sam and **Liz (Cain) Campbell** (2011), along with siblings Caleb and Chloe, welcomed home Colin Garrett, on March 3, 2022.

**Eric** (2008) and **Rosalie (Williams) Buist** (2008) welcomed home their seventh child, Phobos Elohim, on May 13, 2022.

**Jeremy** (2015) and **Amy (Walvoort) Jensema** (2013) welcomed home their fourth child, Dominic Robert, on June 7, 2022.

**Hans** (2015) and **Erin (Rietveld) Van Veen** (2012) welcomed Gabriel Martin to their family via adoption, on July 14, 2022.

**Michael** (2009) and **Megan (Boer) Van Maanen** (2010) welcomed home their second child, Theophilus Evan, on July 31, 2022.



# Coming Home: Luke Carrig's Life After Kuyper

Luke Carrig followed a unique path to Kuyper College. He was born and raised in the town of Greystones in County Wicklow, Ireland. At the age of 18, he began a career in music. "I was in a band called the Raglans. My friends from my town and I started writing songs together, and we ended up working with a guy called Glenn Tilbrook, who's the lead singer of the band Squeeze," he said.

The Raglans were invited to join Tilbrook's record label and later toured Ireland and the UK with him, to great success. Carrig loved being a musician, but he eventually felt led to leave the world of professional music. "I left that band and the music scene because I met my lovely wife-to-be and wanted to grow my relationship with her. I also wanted to grow in my faith and felt more of a calling to vocational ministry," Carrig recalled.

He knew he wanted music and worship to be part of his education, but finding the right school proved difficult. "To do theology training in Ireland, it helps to be a priest, or an Anglican minister, or a deacon or something like that," he said. His then fiancé, who he met while she studied abroad in his hometown, grew up in West Michigan. She told him about the many Christian colleges in the area, so he decided to look for a school here.

Carrig had never been exposed to the Reformed tradition, but he was intrigued when he heard about Kuyper College. After learning more, he knew it would be a perfect fit and decided to attend. He started by majoring in music and worship and later added a major in pre-seminary studies, but



**"I loved my time at Kuyper. It was incredibly formative, incredibly enriching. I made friends and connections and was renewed in mind and heart in transformative ways."**

the most valuable parts of his time at Kuyper took place outside the classroom. He said, "I loved my time at Kuyper. It was incredibly formative, incredibly enriching. I made friends and connections and was renewed in mind and heart in transformative ways." After graduating in 2016, he earned his Master of Divinity from Calvin Theological Seminary and began working in ministry full time.

Carrig first served as a chaplain at Oasis of Hope Center in Grand Rapids, which provides free health care to those in need, regardless

of their circumstances. He then pastored congregations at Hope Christian Reformed Church in Grandville and Harderwyk Ministries in Holland before God led him elsewhere.

"I felt a call to return to my people in Ireland," Carrig said. Through a unique partnership between the CRCNA and the Church of the Nazarene, the denomination in which he was raised, he pastored the congregation he grew up in. There are few Protestant groups in Ireland, which allows them to look beyond small differences and work together for the kingdom of God. "It's a rich, interdenominational relationship," he said. "My credentials are still with the CRCNA, and I'm a CRCNA pastor, and yet the Nazarene Church is willing to host me and allow me to serve in that capacity, so it's a very kingdom-focused arrangement."

Carrig has also found his way back to the world of professional music. After returning to Ireland, a friend who works in creative consultancy reached out with an idea: Carrig would create the music, and he would handle public relations. This project has already gone further than either anticipated and continues to expand. Carrig recently released a song, "Darkness into Light," benefiting Pieta, an Irish organization aiming to prevent suicide and support families who have lost someone to suicide.

Carrig views this part of his life as another form of ministry. "It's very Kuyperian in its nature. And so, I see the music I do and my presence in the arts community as a way of engaging the culture unto the glory of God," he said.

## Professional Development

**Erin (Rietveld) Van Veen** (2012) is now a therapist at Joe Martino Counseling in West Michigan.

**Kelly Boer** (2014) is a new business partner in the human resources department at Virginia Tile, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Eddie Mercado** (2016) is a new Ask Ligonier agent at Ligonier Ministries.

**Shelley Eckenwiler** (2016) is the new children's pastor at Crossroads Church in Rockford, Michigan.

**Christianna Ransom** (2019) is the new venue manager / day of coordinator at Port 393 & Ivy House, in Holland and Saugatuck, Michigan.



To refer a student, scan the QR Code.

## Refer a Student

We are launching a new referral program that will allow you to impact Kuyper's future community directly.

For example, are you part of a church youth group with students who would thrive here? Will you be working at camp? Do you have younger siblings or other family members who would be a great fit here? If so, we would like to start a conversation with them!





>>ATHLETIC PROGRAM from Page 1

The Athletic Department will function under the leadership of Dr. Tim Detwiler, academic dean, highlighting the College's commitment to learning inside and outside the classroom. In the press release announcing the program creation, Harris said, "This reporting structure provides a powerful organizational message of the prominence of academics at Kuyper and how academics, together with athletics, will provide a holistic educational experience."

While a lot of organizational work, including active student-athlete recruitment and bringing coaches onboard is underway, several sports will be launched beginning in the fall of 2023. "We will be starting with junior varsity and varsity men's basketball as well as varsity women's basketball," said Detwiler. "We are aiming to add other sports, such as soccer for men and volleyball for

**"Engaging in athletics, whether as a participant or spectator, brings people together and creates an atmosphere of camaraderie."**

women, as well as track and cross country. We want to do this well and do it right. We aim to build the program with care."

As this growth and expansion take place, it will generate fresh excitement among the Kuyper community. "We know athletics will bring enthusiasm and energy to our campus," Detwiler noted. "Anyone who has been around the world of sports knows the feeling of anticipating a game, hoping for their favorite team's success, or reveling in healthy competition. Engaging in athletics,

whether as a participant or spectator, brings people together and creates an atmosphere of camaraderie," he added.

An essential step in developing the new program was finding the right athletic director to lead it. Kuyper soon met that objective with Gary Bailey. A seasoned and successful National Christian College Athletic Association Hall of Fame coach passionate about mentoring student-athletes, he comes to Kuyper from Grace Christian University. As athletic director and men's head basketball coach, his teams won six national titles while participating in 15 NCCAA Division II Basketball Championships.

Though he has only been at Kuyper for a short time, it is already beginning to feel like home to Bailey. "I'm excited to be here and energized by my new role and the welcome I've received from the Kuyper community. I can't wait to start each day," he said. To



Bailey, this is confirmation that he is in the place God wants him to be. “Everybody has been wonderful to me and is enthusiastic about getting athletics going. I felt led to be here, and I pray God blesses our efforts.”

What makes Bailey such a good fit for the position of Kuyper athletic director are the values and worldview he and Kuyper share. In the press release announcing his appointment, Harris said, “Gary Bailey is widely known as someone dedicated to building and maintaining a vibrant Christian culture in athletics. He views athletics as an instructive educational tool for teaching and learning. He will provide strong leadership for Kuyper to fulfill our mission while making athletics an important component of our exciting campus culture.”

Bailey is eager to bring his expertise to cultivating athletics at Kuyper. He compared the experience of building such a program to caring for his yard, something else he relishes. “I haul the dirt, smooth it out, and plant grass seed. I then water it, contour it the way I want, and watch the grass come up. I love it,” he said. He enjoys the challenging but rewarding work of planning, laying foundations and nurturing growth and believes doing so can serve a higher purpose. “By helping Kuyper build the athletic program, I hope to find ways to advance God’s kingdom,” he said.

One of the many benefits of intercollegiate athletics is the potential to attract new students, many of whom might not otherwise think about attending Kuyper. “There are a lot of athletes out there who want to continue on into collegiate athletic participation,” said Detwiler. “Being able to keep playing the sport they love is an important factor for many when selecting which college to attend.” Athletics will also make Kuyper attractive to non-athlete students. “There are a lot of students that will come not to play but because athletics will add to an already vibrant campus culture,” said Bailey.

Though the athletic program will bring many new and exciting opportunities to the College, it will also fit perfectly into who we are—a Work College—only one of 10 in the country and the only one in Michigan. As a Work College, Kuyper is



committed to helping students learn, work, and serve. Therefore, students participate in a comprehensive program where they bring what they learn in the classroom to their workplace, which is used as a platform not only for additional learning but also to serve others. “With the creation of the athletic program will come many new opportunities,” said Detwiler. “A large percentage of Kuyper students are involved in the KuyperWorks program, and we know that athletics will create additional job venues.”

Kuyper’s learning model is one of the many things that sets it apart from other schools. Kuyper integrates a biblical worldview into every academic program and every part of life on campus. Athletics will be no different. “The way the athletic program is conducted will communicate to both participants and observers that serving God is Kuyper’s ultimate objective,” Bailey remarked. “We’re going to set a culture right out of the gate. We’ll use athletics to give more students a Christian education.”

Bailey believes an essential way of doing this is to set high standards for his players. He expects them to lead honorable lives and work hard in school and on the job. “If students don’t come to class or do their homework, they’re not going to play,” he said. “Properly ordered priorities are more important than winning and losing. If our players do not strive to do their best in their lives off the court, we will provide them with a strong motivation to do so. They’re not going to put on the uniform again until they do,” he added.

Positively impacting the lives of athletes is perhaps the most crucial benefit of having an athletic program at Kuyper. It is yet another way of fulfilling our mission. As he continues to develop athletics at Kuyper, this will be at the forefront of Bailey’s mind. “We’re going to get the right coaches in here. They will be mentors to their athletes and pour into their lives,” he said. As a former athlete, Bailey knows the beneficial influence a coach can have in the lives of their players. This drives him in his profession and will continue to motivate him as he builds Kuyper’s program. “I have always loved educating and mentoring young people,” he said. “For me, that is the primary value of athletics.”



## Kuyper Welcomes Dr. Tim Howerzyl

Dr. Tim Howerzyl is the newest member of Kuyper's faculty as assistant professor of biblical studies and program director of Kuyper's Master of Ministry program. During the last academic year, Dr. Howerzyl served as an adjunct professor at Kuyper.

"I pastored for 17 years, but I've always been interested in teaching and equipping students for kingdom ministry. Kuyper is a perfect fit for that," he said. "My role is going to be teaching theological courses in the undergraduate program while also teaching some of the master's level courses and guiding that program."

Dr. Howerzyl graduated from Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary and also holds a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Fuller Seminary. He brings years of experience in various ministry and teaching contexts. "I've pastored congregations in Chicago, New Mexico and Allendale and taught as an adjunct professor at Kuyper and Calvin Theological Seminary. I also taught in a leadership development program in New Mexico, which helped to train members of the local Navajo church for ministry," he said. This wealth of real-world knowledge will significantly enhance the students' educational experience.

Dr. Howerzyl looks forward to diving deep into the Bible and theological studies in his teaching. "Giving students a foundation of solid biblical knowledge in their studies is a beautiful strength of Kuyper," he said. "I'm glad to be able to bring that to life for them." However, what is most exciting for Dr. Howerzyl about his new role is the influence he can have on the students' lives. "I'm looking forward to walking with students in a deeper, more deliberate way," he explained.

## In My Words

### FULL OF GRACE

One always desires to feel included and wanted—even academic deans. At various meetings during my first year at Kuyper College, people have shared how long they have served at the institution. Going around the room, a wide variety of responses was given as some said seven years, others 15 years, and I have responded on several occasions; in four more years, I will have been at Kuyper for five years. While very new to it, I thought it was a humorous way to show a desire to be part of the culture.



**Dr. Tim Detwiler**  
Academic Dean

Being wanted and included are common human feelings and needs. Yet, how do we develop the ability to connect with others whose views differ from ours? How do we civilly get along with people in a tension-filled world? In a broader sense, how do we stay relevant during the significant social issues and questions of our times while communicating with a biblical, Reformed worldview in the marketplace of public opinion?

We live in a post-truth, post-modern world where content has no absolute meaning and truth is open to multiple perspectives being as valid as any other point of view. In such an environment, I have found that most people respect two traits: authenticity and passion. They may disagree with you, but if you honestly and transparently share your life story with passion and are real, most people will at least give you a listen.

For example, my friend Pierre is unlike me in many ways—ethnicity, political ideology, and sexual orientation; yet, we are able to understand one another's viewpoints. We find common ground by allowing the other to be authentic and passionate in their beliefs. It doesn't lessen the distance between some of our thoughts and positions. But our openness enables us to share coffee, discuss politics, and consider the issues of life, including spirituality and faith.

It comes down to allowing one another to be authentic and passionate as we interact, as we trust one another with our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions. The point of relationships is the ability to share the hope within us with others. It works, and it will work for you. So give it a try and impact those with whom you interact by breathing life and hope into all relationships. It will allow you to live out the words of the Apostle Paul, *"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."* (Colossians 4:6)

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



# Restorative Justice Program ‘Fits Well with Kuyper’s Strengths’

Revelation 21 presents a vision of a new, fully restored heaven and earth. As Christians, we eagerly look forward to the day when that will be realized. This belief led to the creation of the Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI), a partnership between Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary. This unique program provides a Christian liberal arts education to inmates at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan, and Kuyper College is proud to participate in it.

Current and former Kuyper professors Andrew Zwart and Dr. Judi Meerman serve as educators in the program. “I’ve taught writing classes every year that the program has been in existence,” said Andrew Zwart. The five-year program yields a Bachelor of Arts degree from Calvin University in Faith and Community Leadership, but its ultimate goal is to change the hearts of its students. This focus matches the positioning statement of Kuyper College, *Bringing God’s Grace into Today’s Culture*. “It fits well with Kuyper’s strengths,” said Zwart.

CPI is driven by the belief that because every person is created in the image of God, all people deserve dignity and respect. This creates



Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility  
graduating class

an environment where students can step outside their identity as inmates and into an entirely new way of being. “For these guys, being a student brings a real sense of pride. They work to live into that, which means reading, studying and working hard,” said Zwart. “Experiencing hope, dignity and the opportunity for real accomplishment helps bring about transformation in participants’ lives. The work ethic of these guys and their hunger for education is amazing. They will push you, and you’ve got to be on your A-game.”

CPI recently celebrated its first graduation ceremony, and students are already putting

their degrees to good use. Zwart said, “Some of the guys are interested in getting involved with hospice care programs in prison. Part of what they want to do with this degree is to serve others. They really care about the idea of giving back.”

The CPI program is already changing prison culture and bringing about restorative justice. Each life transformed brings more of God’s kingdom to Earth.

## Reflections from a Lifetime in Ministry

After a long, fruitful career in ministry, Wick Hubers is beginning a quieter season of life. He spent decades serving others within and outside the walls of a church building. Now it is time to follow God’s direction and work for His kingdom in fresh ways as he enters retirement. “I’m heading out on a new, different adventure,” Wick said. He looks forward to whatever the future may hold for him.

A 1977 graduate of Kuyper, Wick led a rich and varied life even before working in ministry full time. “I met my wife, Debbie, at Kuyper when we were both students in the ’70s,” he said. After graduation, Wick and Debbie farmed in Iowa for a few years before returning to West Michigan. “We were house parents at a safe house for domestic violence survivors—Hospitality House in Holland. It was run by the Christian Reformed Church at that time, although it’s no longer in operation,” he added.

In the early 1980s, the couple considered serving in overseas missions. “When our

oldest child was 2 years old, Debbie and I went to Mexico for a summer,” Wick said. They participated in Summer Training Session, a program offered by RBC at the time. This 10-week-long course prepared participants to serve as missionaries. During their time in Mexico, however, the Hubers sensed God was calling them elsewhere.

“I went to Calvin Theological Seminary in 1985,” Wick recalled, “and after receiving an M.Div. began serving as pastor at a church in Cedar, Iowa.” After that, he would serve in another church in Iowa before moving to Wisconsin to work as a chaplain for the Christian Home and Rehab Center in Waupun. After being there for 13 years, he returned to Iowa to minister in one more church. During all this time, Debbie joined and encouraged Wick’s ministry by serving the family as a stay-at-home mother to their seven children.

Wick and Debbie now enjoy living in Iowa, near some of their children, and are looking forward to spending more time with them.



Wick and Debbie Hubers

Wick is happy to be more present with his family. They also hope to travel, especially to visit their family that lives in different locations.

Throughout his career, Wick experienced much that was fulfilling. But, the most gratifying part always involved giving himself to others. “Coming alongside people, that’s been the most rewarding for me,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed walking with people through a lot of different situations. Through a lot of joys, but also a lot of hard times, I’ve been able to see how God is always faithful.”

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## STUDENTS TO WATCH

### Lucas Walters

There are six siblings in our family—five brothers and one sister. My family has always been focused on the church and how our family should, as Christians, live our lives.

Even though I grew up in a Christian home, it wasn't until Palm Sunday in 2010 that I gave my life to Christ. Since then, I've devoted my life to Christ, wanting others to know I'm a Christ follower and seeking to reflect Jesus' image.

Growing up, my parents raised us kids to have a strong work ethic. As a result, I love to work, and during my high school years, I put in many hours at my parents' greenhouses. My family owned a small greenhouse business. However, in 2015, we started growing perennials as a wholesale greenhouse business and selling them to local garden centers around West Michigan. Since then, the business has taken off. We started with just two greenhouses and now have 14. God has truly blessed my parents with their greenhouse business, which they named Legacy Gardens. During my elementary and junior high years, I attended Hudsonville Christian and went to high school at Unity Christian.

With all the Christian colleges in West Michigan, why did I choose Kuyper? Going to Christian schools growing up and having the opportunity to learn more about the Bible, I wanted to continue doing so in college—in a school where I could take my classes for my major but also add a lot of Bible classes. At Kuyper, I've been able to do both and have gained much more biblical knowledge. I will also graduate with a double major—one in business leadership and one in Bible and theology.

Another reason I came to Kuyper was the community. The professors are fantastic, and all of the students at Kuyper are too! Because Kuyper is a small college, we are a very close community. I love living on campus because I've gotten to know most students here very well.

I also found at Kuyper how professors model genuine Christian leadership before us students. The professors have extensive knowledge in the subject matter they teach—like Dr. Kroeze and the Bible or Professor Andreas and business.

Kuyper has made a very positive impact on my life. I have grown and matured in my faith and as part of the KuyperWorks program have gained much knowledge by working on grounds and maintenance. So, it's not only how my classes at Kuyper have benefited me but also how I take what I learn in class and apply it to the work I get to do. I'm constantly learning new things through my classes or by working on grounds and maintenance.

After I graduate from Kuyper, I hope to start my own retail greenhouse business using the business skills I learned at Kuyper. I will put my biblical values at the core of the business—whether by helping local churches with their landscaping needs or raising money for Christian nonprofit organizations. I want to start a business where I get to do my favorite things—grow flowers and help and serve my community.



CLASS **2024**

HOME **Hudsonville, Michigan**

MAJOR **Business Leadership**