

New and Improvements

Current Hope College students and alumni take a look at how much Hope has grown

The class shortage of 2014

Carol VanWerner
Graduate of 2017

When I heard that The Anchor was reaching out to alumni about their experience at Hope College, I was thrilled. Here's the thing, students: everyone used to have to fight to get into the classes they wanted. Hope College decided it was a good idea to rank everyone based off of credits. This was how you picked your room if you wanted to stay in a dorm for another year, and also how you were ordered to pick classes. This sounds like a great idea, right? Just a quick numbers game of plugging everyone's information into a program and spitting times out for people. WRONG! Why? Because departments used to not create enough classes. In fact, when I was an itty bitty freshman, the school screwed up so bad that people actually didn't have classes to register for.

It was spring semester 2014, and all the people who had a certain number of credits had to come and register in person, which is the absolute worst because you sit in front of a computer and watch all your backup schedules disintegrate before your eyes. It's like watching your March Madness bracket get exed out. Some people wouldn't even create potential schedules until a few hours before they could register because it would be cruel, getting their hopes up like that. But that year, instead of having all the really bad options left, there was nothing. Something like 10 or more students didn't have any classes, and there was a huge scramble to open up more sections that the kids could actually take classes and be students. Ridiculous, right? Absolutely. A couple of girls in my cluster didn't have schedules. One of my friends was only registered for eight credits. It was a mad-house. You would think the school could have calculated how many seats or classes they needed to accommodate the student body. So the next time you complain about the stats class you really don't want to take because the professor doesn't have a decent rating, please just stop yourself.

Limbs for tuition are no longer an issue

Jeff Johnson
Guest Writer

As a sophomore here at Hope College, the new free-tuition offer has been a life-saver. Literally. Lately, I have been racking my brain, trying to think of which limb I should pick next. My freshman roommate and I made a pact to do our left legs together at the end of last year and that went well at the Health Center, but I have a new roommate now. He's a little insistent that I pick an arm, but I've been conflicted on which to choose. Luckily, I don't have to worry any more.

For every four years, students used to pay with four limbs, you know? It covered tuition and it was covered through Hope's insurance policy, so win-win, right? That's what I was told once I joined Hope. I was warned in Health Dynamics that we should all put some really deep thought into which one we hand over at the end of the year. Everyone has to put some kind of thought behind which limbs must go first, that's just how it works. But truly, it's an art. I had a buddy who decided to start with his legs and then go for the arms—that way he would be able to finish his exams. Others (with connections, of course) were able to keep at *least* one of their limbs. Still, they exchanged some vital pieces anyway—Hope is understanding in that way.

As a person struggling with money and moving around without a limb, I appreciate all of those who made free tuition a possibility. Without you, I might not be here today, typing this with both hands. It's a wonder people didn't think of this before, seeing as it's quite inconvenient to sell limbs in order to go to college.

Kletz Market works with community (finally)

Susan York
Guest Writer

As an avid organic-eater and a person who tries to stick to a healthier lifestyle, I tend to dislike most foods that come from Hope. That being said, it took me completely by surprise one day when I stopped by Kletz Market for the first time.

I was passing through the building between classes and I had just enough time for a snack, so I made the life-changing decision to make a stop. You wouldn't believe what I saw! The Kletz Market has actually partnered with Holland's Farmer's Market! Now I can stop by and pick up my favorites conveniently between classes instead of waiting a whole week to make a trip to the Civic Center. Fresh fruits and vegetables have never been more accessible (and the blueberry donuts aren't too shabby with some coffee). I really love being able to contribute to the Holland community, even on my busiest days, and the Kletz Market has made this so much easier. I can't wait to stop in again!

Nykerk Memorial Climbing Wall is a hit

Carol VanWerner
Graduate of 2016

This year, the alumni of 2016 all gathered to fund something Hope had missed dearly: the inner Nykerk wall. Though the building itself is no longer standing, Hope alumni thought the experience of climbing this unstable wall with terribly convenient footholds was something that no more generations of students should have to miss. The alumni came together recently and have decided that the new wall around Hope will include an inner wall that can easily be climbed. Though this may seem a bit dangerous to the average alumni, all alumni from 2018 and before agree that Hope has been missing some of its character since Nykerk was torn down. We think this may be the best solution.

Fourth floor of Lubbers reopens

Laurel VanderNoo
Graduate of 2018

I can still remember Halloween night, 2016. It was much after all the parties ended and a little before it was too early to pass out at home. My boyfriend and I decided it would be fun to check out the fourth floor of Lubbers because most things are fun in the dark, right? So we walked up the flights of stained and un-dusted stairs, making our way to the forgotten line of classrooms. We dared to only go as far as the first door before turning around and running back the way we came. This was the last I thought I would see of fourth floor Lubbers. At least, it was until today.

I rode the newly remodeled elevator all the way to the top, just for fun, because my daughter told me that her favorite classroom was on the fourth floor. It was amazing that, not only did the elevator make it all the way to the top, but there were classes there! The whole floor, haunted or unhaunted, is now in use! I can't wait to take another stroll and see if it looks any different at night.

Hope bookstore makes this grad's day

Derrick Merrick
Graduate of 2020

As an alumni, it's such a blessing to be able to stroll around the college where I spent so much time (and money). Truly, there isn't a better place to stop on the way home than the Hope College Bookstore.

I have many memories here, from the first time my card was declined to the last time I had to return a book that I accidentally had already ordered online. Yes, good times... But what I really wanted to see was if the Hope College sweatshirts had gotten any better.

When I first came to Hope, there was little to no creativity in the Hope College design. Sure, there are occasional anchors splashed onto various hats and shirts from year to year. That's all fine and dandy, but what Hope really lacked was the originality that so many other schools are able to afford. I mean, seriously, our Greek organizations have better looking sweaters than our college alumni. In fact, I've been able to buy the same alumni sweater for the past nine years.

Well, as I walked through the familiar doors, I was amazed to see that the bookstore has finally gotten it together. I actually walked out with a nicely colored, not overdone design that I'm proud to own. What a blessing!

Renovations make waves

Summer Swinterton
Guest Writer

After spending my first two years at Hope in a dorm, I was afraid to branch out and apply to live in a cottage. I have heard so many horror stories--from the carpets that are worn to fuzz to the mysterious attics that creak--but I've always wanted to cook my own food, so I went for it. Luckily, Hope had spent the summer remodeling almost all of the cottages!

I walked into a room with brand new carpet that I could actually walk barefoot on! What's even better is that, after many summers and springs of overheating and long winters of freezing, all cottages have installed a central heating and cooling system. For once, I didn't have to sleep with the fan directly on me in order to get a good night's rest. It's amazing how the quality of life improves when the quality of living matches what you pay for, isn't it? I can't wait to see all the cottages improve the way mine has!

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