

# Former Hope students reflect on the health center 'Count your lucky stars'

**Autumn Smith**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Here at Hope College, we consider ourselves blessed to have our state-of-the-art health facility, the Health Center for Students and the Community. However, students did not always have access to seasoned doctors, specialists and experts in the field of medical research. In fact, just ten years ago the Health Center used to be located in the old Dow Center building, which was recently replaced with the new Dow 2.0.

For a moment, picture our current facility: the pristine lobby with all of the comfy arm chairs, the waiting rooms with reclining examination tables that form perfectly to your back, the laboratory and research wing where pre-health students can get in clinical hours with the rotating, in-house experts. Now imagine one small room with chairs seen in our history museum—the ones students used to sit in while studying at the library. There are low tables and a few magazines to keep anxious students company. Then, when a student needs to get looked at, they are led to one room with a hard examination table. Most of the time the student only sees a nurse for their appointment.

This is how business used to be conducted, back in the day. In fact, the Health Center was so outdated, when Hope went through a website overhaul around the year 2016, the program didn't update with everyone else. Students were forced to stare at a web page reminiscent of the 90's and resource pages less helpful than the brochures they used to hand out. Here at The Anchor, we caught up with some alumni, who shared their experiences with the old Health Center. If you ever get frustrated with waiting times of more than five minutes at the Health Center for Students and the Community, then remember that not that long ago, students had a much more difficult time with the resource.

When the staff reached out for alumni stories, Renata VanDijk ('18) was eager to talk about her experience.

"One of my first experiences with the Health Center was when I was just a sophomore. I was feeling really awful, and everyone was telling me that I probably had mono. I made an appointment and told them my symptoms and my suspicions. Instead of giving me a mono test, they had someone look at me. I was then tested for a variety of other things, like strep. However, when they finally gave me a diagnosis, I was told that I probably had a brain tumor. Of course, I was freaking out because this would change everything for me. I panicked and visited urgent care to see if they could test me for mono. Turns out, I had mono. Count your lucky stars that you have such a wonderful, improved facility now!"

The general consensus was that for the most part, students were sent to urgent care. However, if they did try treating the patients, they were given the wrong diagnosis or something to "help" that did not relate. Another alumni, Jazzine Anderson ('17), told us that she was given strong narcotics for cancer patients when she went in with a mere headache. "I was scared, so I didn't take them. I couldn't believe they would just hand over drugs like that!" Anderson said. Rest assured, Hope, your dollars are going towards great health coverage and resources to help with every scrape, flu test and dental visit!



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**A FAMILIAR SIGHT** — Who can forget our beautiful Health Center for Students and the Community lobby, modeled after the beloved Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.



# Hope COLLEGE

**HEALTH CENTER  
FOR STUDENTS AND THE  
COMMUNITY**



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**FIGHTING FOR SPACE** — The old health center used to be located in the Dow. See pg. 11 for the full story on the Dow 2.0.

Join the pre-health club  
the third Thursday of  
each month at 4 p.m.  
for tea with the doctor  
on rotation.