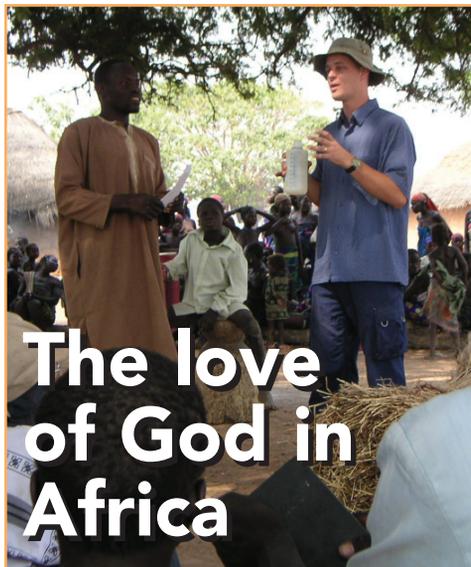


The Kuyper College News

A publication for alumni and friends.

Vol. 4, Issue 3, Fall, 2009



The love of God in Africa

Josh Shaarda conducts church services in Mahula, Nigeria

“Maryamu had given birth to 13 children, but six of them had died before we arrived in Mahula, a very remote village of the Ava’di—an unreached people group in Nigeria’s Muslim dominated north, ruled by Sharia law,” said Josh. “Shortly after our arrival, Maryamu experienced the death of a seventh child. She was angry and bitter, and to ease her pain, she joined a women’s demonic cult known as Ibori. Each woman in the cult has a spirit who possesses them.” This was the spiritual state of the Ava’di when Josh and Mandy Shaarda arrived in Mahula in 2001. They had met at the College in 1997, married, graduated and headed for Africa, following the Lord as He led them into the mission field.

“Mahula is a very hot and barren land—about 200 miles south of the Sahara Desert—where temperatures in the shade are over 100 degrees for months,” said Mandy. “We felt all alone when we arrived there,” she continued. “The Ava’di didn’t speak English, and we did not know their language—Tsuva’di. We didn’t have running water, phones or Internet. We were living among huts, guinea corn, women who didn’t wear tops and who were full of self-inflicted scarring (tattoos). Yet, we were the ones who were different.” According to the Shaardas, the people in the village came into their house all day long to see the “white

Africa
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Learning while working

One of the foundational elements of TheKee—The Kuyper Educational Experience—is a very robust internship program. In partnership with nationally recognized ministries and organizations, these programs allow Kuyper College students to apply the knowledge and skills they’ve acquired in the classroom to everyday professional situations. These

comprehensive programs, which are part of Kuyper’s standard curriculum, help students begin the transition from the theoretical to the practical before graduating into the world of ministry and service.



Social Work major, Ana Kooi with Dégagé patrons

However, not all “learning by doing” at Kuyper flows from the internship programs. The social work curriculum is a case in point. From January to April of 2009, ten Kuyper juniors—all social work majors—conducted a major research program in the Heartside district of Grand Rapids, Michigan, for an organization that provides services to the homeless.

According to Professor Judi Meerman, the research was designed to assist Dégagé Ministries, a nonprofit organization, to identify gaps in the

Dégagé
continued on page 7

The Jack Van Laar Endowed Chair of Music and Worship

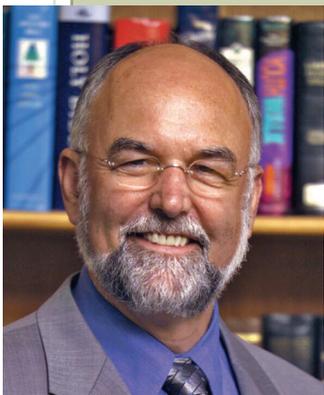
Professor Kai Ton Chau has been appointed to lead Kuyper College’s music program. Professor Chau was born in China, moved to Hong Kong with his family, and for the past 25 years has lived in Canada.



As a musician and worship planner and leader, Professor Chau has actively participated in church ministry for more than 20 years. Professor Chau holds a Master of Music (M.M.) from the University of Missouri; a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario; and is

Kai Ton Chau
continued on page 7

Kuyper College equips students with a biblical, Reformed worldview to serve effectively Christ’s church and His world.



This issue of *The Kuyper News* resonates with the theme of making one's life and witness *practical* in showing the hope we have in Christ Jesus! Indeed, at Kuyper we describe ourselves as being a *praxis* institution: we look for practical applications over theoretical discussions in the context of our academic program. This is why we also resonate so strongly with our positioning statement—*Bringing God's grace into today's culture*. And, this all ties directly into the Latin motto on our official College seal: *Ora et Labora*—"Pray and Work."

I am thrilled with the consistency shown in the understanding and spirit of our unique emphasis in Christian higher education. From the founding of the College in 1939 and for as much as we can plan into the future, Kuyper is an institution that strives "to make the invisible Kingdom of Christ visible" into the lives and circumstances of people around the globe. Our alumni clearly are people who feel called of God to get involved in the lives of others even when that means long-term personal challenges for many of them. That they subsequently give testimony to the empowering work of the Holy Spirit and (humbly) to the effectiveness and meaningfulness of their Kuyper education is wonderfully affirming and inspirational. God is using them and the College to make His love visible and experiential. What a privilege!

You will note also that this spirit and work also extends to the lives of our faculty. They truly are lifelong learners as they see and respond to God bringing them into new levels of awareness and service through their positions. This gives me strong confidence toward the future as I *ora et labora* that Kuyper will continue to develop as a Bible-based, Reformed-worldview, ministry-directed college for Christian leadership. Your help and support to that end are deeply appreciated. As you read these pages, may you feel affirmed and encouraged that the work you began many years ago through your support continues to bring help and blessings to many people around the world.

Dr. Nicholas V. Kroeze
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Nick Kroeze". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Preparing for a vocation of hope

Kuyper College professor of youth ministry, Richelle White, spent four weeks during the summer working with the Youth Hope Builders Academy, sponsored by the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.



As a youth identity and vocation exploration group leader, Professor White led a daily class for 28 high school students that helped them explore issues of identity and vocation. In addition, White also served as a curriculum writer for the program, which included daily worship, lectures from community leaders, video conferencing and community service projects.

For the last week of the program, the Youth Hope Builders Academy embarked upon a special mission "Intensive." The purpose of the Intensive was to show the students how, by embracing responsibility, they would be able to continue their personal development and become hope-building leaders. The Intensive also helped to prepare the high school teens to be mentors, who, over the course of the coming year, will model Christian character to middle school students.

"As a Christian leader for the Youth Hope Builders Academy, I am called to move beyond myself and care for others," said Professor White. "It is leadership that nurtures, builds up, feeds, empowers, forgives, prays for, gives hope to others, and presents the mirror of God's Word. Leadership that helps others see themselves as God sees them and the gifts God has given them to help build a peaceful and loving world, is a calling to a vocation of hope."

Dominican Republic

Greg Scott
Professor of Social Work



What a fantastic journey I have had being a part of Kuyper College since 1991. After being a social worker for 20 years, it is such a privilege to now shape young minds and sharpen skills through education. The discipline of social work fits solidly with the Reformed worldview and with Christian students. Abraham Kuyper is a role model for all our students who learn to live out their redemption in Christ and put their faith into practice. I have learned so much from my students and fellow faculty, and my relationship with Christ has grown in strength and confidence during my time at the College.

One of the most enlightening and life-changing of my experiences at Kuyper has been taking students to the Dominican Republic to minister, learn social work, and grow spiritually through this cross-cultural opportunity. As a domestic social worker, I never had any interest in international affairs. I figured we had enough social problems right at our “front door.” But, God had other plans for me. Being at Kuyper, one cannot help but feel the missionary zeal that is present around the campus. God started to melt my heart, but I still tried to resist.

I knew for certain that I did not want to go anyplace where there was heat and humidity. Yet, through a series of events and some anxious prayers, I ended up going to the Dominican Republic—the last place in the world I ever thought of going. And what a blessing it was! The culture, the people, the history, the religion, the economy and the political context were all extremely interesting and enlightening. My students learned much, bonded well and showed themselves to be servants for Christ.

This coming May will be my fifth year taking students to the Dominican Republic. In past years my students and I have had the privilege of ministering in many areas including: the University of Santo Domingo, an American group home called New Horizons, the CURE International Hospital, a leper colony, mobile hospital clinics, orphanages, mental health hospitals, and shanty towns, as well as with Kuyper alumni Alex and Allison Brito, who serve with Youth for Christ. Learning international social work has been one of the highlights of my life. I am thankful to Kuyper College for this rich opportunity.

Not bad for a guy who hates the heat!

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

S T E W A R D S H I P

In this issue of *The Kuyper News* we read about the ministry of the Shaardas and the Issongs in Nigeria and Uganda. We also read about the future ministry of Lloyd N’gambi in Zambia and of Melinda Richert’s desire to minister to women-at-risk after she graduates. Beyond the obvious, all of them have something in common—Kuyper College financial aid. Through the generosity of many who give to the College, the Issongs were able to receive full tuition scholarships through the International Scholarship Fund—as does Lloyd presently. Josh Shaarda benefited from other scholarship and financial aid programs, which currently are also helping to defray part of Melinda Richert’s education costs.

These stories are not the exception, but the rule at Kuyper. As a matter of fact, over 95 percent of Kuyper students receive some form of financial aid, with an average student financial aid package of \$12,000. In addition, the College works very hard at keeping tuition as affordable as possible—\$6,000 less on average than comparable Christian colleges. This allows our students a greater ability to freely pursue their calling. As pastors, teachers, social workers, health care providers, youth workers, and in countless other ministries and professions in diverse settings

all over the world, they are making a difference as they bring God’s grace into today’s culture.

As evidenced by these stories, the sacrificial investments made by friends of the College are presently yielding great spiritual dividends and a wonderful harvest for the kingdom of God. If you would like to make a gift—an investment in the education of our students that will make a difference for generations to come—please use the postage-paid reply envelope bound in the center pages of this publication. May God continue to richly bless you!

For more information on giving to the Kuyper College scholarship program or the general fund that allows Kuyper to continue to provide an affordable education to students from all over the world, please contact Ken Capisciolto by phone at: 616-988-3676, or by e-mail at: kcapisciolto@kuyper.edu.

Kuyper College is unable to provide tax advice regarding donations. We recommend you contact your tax consultant with any questions regarding your specific situation.

Africa

continued from cover

people,” and when they found the door closed, they stood for hours looking through the windows. Mandy remembers asking, “Where are we?” She spent many mornings crying before the Lord. “I ran to Him,” she said. “He was my only comfort. I thought I trusted God before, but for the first time in my life, I needed to fully trust Him. All the things I had depended on had been taken away—my home, family, language, church! In Mahula nothing was secure except God. He was with us,” she said.

God was also with Maryamu. Through the Shaardas’ love and sharing of God’s Word, she came to a saving knowledge of Christ. “She was baptized two years after our arrival, and threw her Ibori supplies into the river,” said Josh. “Then testing came,” he continued. “Shortly after she was baptized, Maryamu’s 3-year-old daughter became sick. Mandy and I spent the night pleading with God to spare the child’s life. Very early the next morning, Maryamu’s daughter died. We did not know what Maryamu’s reaction would be.” They wondered if she would turn her back on Jesus and return to Ibori. “Maryamu’s pain was intense, and she wept bitterly as the other village women watched,” said Mandy. “But the next day, she began to sing a song she had made up. It went something like this, *I know what it is like to lose a child without Jesus; there is no hope and no peace. Now I also know what it is like to lose a child with Jesus as my Savior. You wouldn’t believe the difference. I have hope and peace. I know I will see my child again*



Josh teaching at Bethel Bible College in Soroti, Uganda

someday because she is in Jesus’ hands now. Today, Maryamu is one of the leaders of the Mahula church.”

Josh Shaarda and Mandy Beute grew up in Michigan—Josh in McBain and Mandy about 100 miles to the south, in Hudsonville. Both came from what they describe as wonderful and godly Christian homes.

“I think the biggest impact my family made on my life is instilling a love for God and all people,” said Mandy. “They showed their faith by helping and loving others.” According to Mandy, her parents always had people of different cultures in their home. She remembers the two refugee families that the family sponsored, as well as hosting foreign college students during their Christmas break. Mandy, who is the youngest of four children, also has five adopted siblings. “Because of how my parents lived, I learned to love others,” she said. “My parents took in kids that were hurting and didn’t know Jesus and gave them a loving Christian home. It was not easy, but they were faithful to God’s calling. Now, a couple of my siblings have also adopted children. We are a small image of God’s family—adopted and loved.”

Josh speaks of “faith” as being the center of his family. “If ever there was an ‘over-churched’ kid, it was me,” said Josh. “We went to Sunday school and services twice every Sunday—except on Easter when we went to three services—and catechism class and youth group. Yet, I never felt any urge to rebel. I knew my parents’ faith was real, and they were doing their best to give me the most valuable gift they could—a life of service to Jesus.” Playing ball in the yard, basketball in the driveway, hunting in the fall and camping in the summer, Josh reminisces on the “simple life” his family enjoyed. He also recalls the times he spent with his two sisters and parents praying and reading the

Bible. “One of the most consistent memories I have of my family is sitting down every day to eat together,” said Josh. “Every meal began with prayer and ended by reading a section of the Bible and praying



Mandy Shaarda with Mahula Church members Cigora and Maryamu, and three beautiful babies

again. Over the years this had an impact on me in two ways. First, I learned a lot about God’s Word through this regular intake of Scripture at family meals. Second, I learned that nothing is more important than spending time with God.” According to Josh, his parents’ training must have been very effective because he’s continued to follow this pattern throughout his life. “All through high school, college, and even today, time with God has been a daily pattern in my life,” he said. “This time with the Savior has sustained me through many tough times. It has also likely helped me avoid other difficult experiences.”

Josh came to Kuyper intent on becoming a pastor. “As a senior in high school I knew I wanted to become a pastor,” he said. “I hoped to learn a lot about the Bible in order to prepare myself for seminary. I planned to study hard, expecting my greatest benefit would be increased knowledge.” Josh says that he did learn a lot, but it was not the most important thing he received. He explained: “The greatest benefits I received at the College were in terms of life calling, direction and values—and the abrupt change in my life that took place during

“I know what it is like to lose a child without Jesus. . . I also know what it is like to lose a child with Jesus as my Savior. You wouldn’t believe the difference.”

Maryamu—Mahula, Nigeria

Dr. Hertel’s Introduction to Missions class. He gave us statistics contrasting the amount of material and people resources spent by the church in North America and those spent in other parts of the world and the availability of the gospel in North America and the availability of the gospel in the rest of the world. Those statistics changed my life.” Within a few weeks of that class, Josh says he knew God was leading him to serve Him in reaching the unreached. “About that time I visited my parents, and my mom said, ‘If you ever plan to become a missionary, make sure to tell me right away so I have lots of time to get used to the idea.’ When I went home the following weekend, I told her to start preparing her mind for me becoming a missionary.”

Mandy’s path to the mission field was different. During her high school years she had gone on several mission trips. One summer she served in California at a camp for disabled people. The next summer found her in Philadelphia’s inner city. She remembers her first night there sleeping in the church basement and hearing gun shots outside the window and people running past. “I knew I was not in Hudsonville anymore,” she said. After that she ventured out of the States and went to Barbados with YWAM. “I grew so much from these experiences,” she said. “They shaped me. I loved going to new places and being used by God. Sharing my love for Christ with others excited me! There was no greater joy.” According to Mandy, after some wavering while in high school, God made it clear through His Word, people in her life, and by His peace that she was to be a missionary. She was to go and share His love with the world. So, she began looking into colleges and different mission agencies. She had never heard of Kuyper, but an admissions counselor visited her high school, and she decided to pay a return visit. “I knew the first time I visited

where I would be going to school,” she said. “I loved the beautiful campus, the size, and that it felt like a family. All of that plus the emphasis on missions, the personable staff and spiritual atmosphere—not to mention that it was very affordable—I knew this was where God wanted me to be. And it was everything I hoped it would be.”

From 2001 to 2005 the Shaardas served in Mahula. Over time they began to get to know the people in the village and learn the language. They worked beside them in their fields and shared food with them in the evening. “We would sit together on corn-stalk mats and listen to their stories,” said Josh. “We also shared with them the reason why we had come.” For a whole year they met for Sunday services under a tree in the Shaardas’ yard. “At first many people came, mostly out of curiosity, but the number soon declined to just one man—Ayuba, who came every week to worship God,” said Josh. “God also sent us a Nigerian family which had moved to Mahula to work with us. Without their partnership, our mission would have failed.” Josh and Mandy continued to visit people in their homes and gardens. They soon were meeting in the evening for literacy lessons with some of the young people who wanted to learn to read. Josh also built relationships with several teenage boys by playing Uno. And because the children were open to the Word, they regularly did a two-week-long vacation Bible school for the children of Mahula. “Slowly our church began to grow, and by 2003 we had a number of people who wanted to be baptized,” said Josh. “That year we saw 11 baptisms. By the time the Lord called us to Uganda, the church was strong and had 24 baptized believers.”

Josh and Mandy, together with their three children—Lydia, who just turned six, Grace, soon to be four, and Luka, born this

past January—now serve in Soroti, eastern Uganda, where a civil war has left 20,000 widows and 100,000 orphans within a 50-mile radius of their house. In addition, the Shaardas said that everyone in the region seems to have a first-hand story of how his or her family has been affected by AIDS. In Soroti the Shaardas are working with the Iteso people. Josh is training Christian leaders at Bethel Bible College and training pastors in rural areas by conducting the Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) designed specifically for African pastors with little education. The TLT is offered in four trading centers in the Teso region. According to Josh, students



The Shaardas in Uganda

who have attended the College and the TLT are doing “amazing things for God in Soroti and the surrounding rural villages.” He explained: “Two of them have returned to their rural village and begun a children’s ministry. They have trained seven others as well. Their ministry now reaches children from six different villages. That is just one example.” In addition, Josh is ministering to the blind by sharing the Word and teaching them to earn an income by knitting—a woman from Michigan went to Soroti for the summer and taught them how—and by harvesting oranges from trees he helped them plant.

“God continues to be faithful,” said Mandy. “He has been with us every step of the way, filling us and leading us to do His will. Until He calls us to leave, go home, or to the next place, we will continue to serve Him here. We will follow Him and share His love the rest of our lives. It is a blessed life.”

From Nigeria with gratitude!

Editor's note: Twenty-six years ago a young couple came from Nigeria to study at RBC. Their goal was to obtain a quality education, return to Nigeria and, using what they'd learned, begin to minister by sharing the gospel. We recently received a letter from them. In the letter they enclosed \$50. This is a princely sum in Nigeria, when considering that the average Nigerian earns \$400 per year. The \$50 was sent in support of International Scholarship recipient Lloyd N'gambi—youth ministry major, class of 2010—who is from Zambia. During the last three years, while Lloyd has been attending classes at Kuyper, his wife and children have been keeping the home fires burning in Zambia. Lloyd's passion is working with youth. He will return to Zambia after graduating next year to do just that.

Dearly Beloved,
Peace be multiplied unto you.

We write to acknowledge receipt of your letter with a special focus on the need to lend a helping hand to Lloyd N'gambi.

As you may be aware, we are 1986 graduates of RBC who are serving God in Nigeria under The Believers Assembly Evangelical Church—a viable church organization that is celebrating 40 years of

ministry. We appreciate, in a special way, the spirit of encouragement, concern, unity and diversity that envelopes our great College institution.

As concerned graduates, we enclose here the sum of \$50 as our contribution towards the welfare of Lloyd, believing that this token will help in whatever capacity towards the realization of the desired purpose. After all, we were sponsored (scholarship students) during our years at the College. And even though our support looks so meager, it comes from our hearts. As the Lord saw us through, He will continue to see our brother Lloyd through as well.

You may wish also to know that after our graduation and since our returning to Nigeria in August 1986, the Lord has done marvelous things. Since the start of a small house church, we now have established:

- One Bible college for the training of pastors, church leaders and gospel workers
- Six Christian schools
- Over 100 Bible studies and prayer groups
- 76 churches

All of these achievements have come

as a result of the quality education and exposure we received while at Reformed Bible College (now Kuyper). In addition, as scholarship students, my wife and I (and also our daughter) received the support of so many at the College, including faculty and students. We felt so well loved by all. The invitation to their homes, especially during long holidays and Christmas, was very meaningful since we were so far away from our home. Their special labor and love for us have not been in vain, and we remain always grateful.

Kuyper College, we must confess, is a training ground with high standards of academic and ministry-related excellence! We are proud to be alumni.

Should you desire it, our mission will be glad to have any interested persons (including staff or students) pay us a visit, especially during the summer holidays.

Very sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Isaiah and Enobo Issong
Class of 1986

C L A S S N O T E S

As an alumni, you are a vital part of the Kuyper College community. Please continue to share with us the stories about your life, work and ministry. You may contact the alumni coordinator's office by mail at the Kuyper College address, by e-mail at alumni@kuyper.edu, or by calling 1-877-229-0941.

Marriages:

David Bosscher (2009) and **Sara DeJong** (2009) were married on May 22, 2009.

Luke VanderWeide and **Terri Brink** (2009) were married on July 25, 2009.

Marc Scaturro (2009) and Ruth Sandbulte were married on August 1, 2009.

Shane Rozeveld (2009) and Emma Cunningham were married on August 8, 2009.

Births:

Chris (2007) and **Karen (Meulink) Neumair** (2009) welcomed Hannah Marie into their family on February 26, 2009.

Kel and **Leanne (Verkaik)** Penny (2007) welcomed daughter Noelle Ava into their family on May 19, 2009.

Luke and **Jessica (Edwards)** Maddox (1998), along with big sister Rebecca, were blessed with the birth of Mary Adele on August 14, 2009.

Jeremy (2007) and **Marie Visser** were blessed with their first child, Geneva Mae, on August 16, 2009.

Home Going:

Mary (De Boer) Vanden Bosch (1942) passed away peacefully into the arms of her Lord and Savior on Monday, August 3, 2009.

John De Young (1982), husband of Jerre, went into the arms of Jesus on Wednesday, August 26, 2009.

Can business be a path to missions?

A new course has been added to the Kuyper curriculum—an introductory course on one of the latest trends in missions—Business as Missions (BAM). Taught by BAM practitioners, this course gives students the missiological principles of BAM as a new frontier. Through this course students learn a biblical worldview and kingdom perspective on business as a mission field, as well as the spiritual dynamics of business and the successful integration of sound business practices with ministry objectives in a missionary context. This course also prepares students to

consider how they can become involved in self-supported ministries, particularly in restricted or closed countries.

During the winter semester, the course was taught by Lou Havemen—the first CRWRC staff person in Africa—who, in the course of 22 years, established nine CRWRC programs in six different African countries.

As to why he feels this course is important, Havemen responded: “I spent 22 years as a layman doing missionary work. I spent 15 years as a real estate professional. I am spending the rest of my

life as a person who does not separate the secular and sacred, and really sees the marketplace as where we, as believers, should live, fellowship and find purpose.” According to Havemen, the marketplace is one of the key areas where Christians live their faith. “This is where the church comes alive,” he said. “This is where almost all of us live.”

Commenting on the course, a student said, “I will not forget how this course has played a big part in shaping my character and giving me new perspectives about business and ministry.”

Dégagé continued from cover

services they provide their patrons. “The research also allowed our students the opportunity to better understand and appreciate the role of research within the social work profession while learning research methodologies and practices,” said Meerman. “In addition, the students had the opportunity to practice social work skills as they developed, administered and analyzed survey data, conducted focus groups and interviewed patrons.”

The students developed a survey instrument that was completed by donors, board members, volunteers, neighboring community agencies and staff. Through volunteering at Dégagé, the students also built relationships which allowed them to have one-on-one interviews and focus groups with patrons. The gathered data from all

of these individual groups was then analyzed by the students, and their conclusions and recommendations were formally presented. According to



FRLR: Rachael Lefeber, Margery Brummel, Gretchen Marsman, Karen Wiersma, Kathryn Baumgras
BRLR: Anna Kooi, Andrew Duesendang, Mary Lee, Kurt Hulst, Benjamin Jacobs and Professor Meerman

Meerman, as a result of the research findings, Dégagé has already changed some of their procedures with patrons.

“From an educational perspective,

this method of teaching is very rewarding,” said Meerman. “We held classes at Dégagé all semester, which allowed a time of foundational learning within the context of research. From there, teaching and learning were continuous throughout the project.”

Meerman also said that the research project was so successful and well received that Kuyper has been approached by the Heartside Agencies Group—a consortium of area agencies that work with the disadvantaged—to conduct a new research project among the homeless population during the winter of 2010. “We are excited to once again have the opportunity to serve the Heartside Community while learning research,” said Meerman.

“We will be holding classes during the semester at Bethlehem Lutheran Church across from the Mel Trotter Mission and conducting our research in that general area of Grand Rapids.”

Kai Ton Chau continued from cover

presently a candidate for a Doctorate of Worship Studies (D.W.S.) at the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies in Orange Park, Florida.

Prior to coming to Kuyper, Professor Chau held senior positions at the Institute

for Christian Studies in Toronto and at Redeemer University College in Hamilton, Ontario. He has also been a member of the Pan Asia Symphony Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

“We are indeed fortunate to have someone of the stature of Professor Chau

assume the professorship for the Jack Van Laar Endowed Chair,” said Dr. Mel Flikkema, Kuyper College’s provost. “His demonstrated knowledge, music skills, and his passion for church music and worship will usher in a new era of studies at Kuyper.”

Address service requested

S T U D E N T S T O W A T C H



Melinda Richert
Hometown: Dearborn, Michigan
Year: Class of 2011
Major: Social Work

“I have an AMAZING family. I love them SO much!” Those were the opening words of Melinda Richert’s interview with *The Kuyper News*. Growing up in Dearborn, Michigan, she spoke of her parents—Joe and Julie—and their love for the Lord, which was passed on to Melinda and her older sister, Amanda. “I have a lot of great memories of my growing up years at home,” said Melinda. One of those memories is very special to her: “I was curious why my mom attended a Bible study and what they did there. One day when I was five, I asked her questions pertaining to what the Bible is and why it’s important. She explained the gospel to me, and I realized Jesus was something I wanted and needed in my life.”

By her own admission, Melinda’s high school years were busy and focused “mainly on sports.” She was a four-year varsity softball player and played volleyball as well. She was also active in her church’s youth group, and during the summers she worked at Lake Ann Camp—a Christian Camp in northern Michigan.

Melinda’s vision of college did not include Kuyper, at least at first. “During my search for the right college, my mom randomly stumbled across Kuyper online and forwarded me the link. At the time, I didn’t take it too seriously. I was planning on being an education major,” said Melinda. “However,” she continued, “as I visited different schools, I would arrive on their campuses and be disappointed. I didn’t

‘fit.’ I’d walk around and feel that I couldn’t see myself spending the next four years at this place. When I finally visited Kuyper, as soon as I was there, I knew Kuyper was the perfect fit. There isn’t a whole lot of reason or rationale behind it. God just spoke and showed me Kuyper was for me.”

According to Melinda, her classes are one of the highlights of her college experience. “I absolutely love both the Bible and social work classes,” she said. “After going to public schools for all those years, the Bible classes are so refreshing. The small class size enables a lot of relationship building between students and professors, which is one of my favorite parts about Kuyper. I love getting to talk to my professors outside of class about life, rather than our conversations just being limited to studies.” In addition to her studies, Melinda gives credit to the spiritual atmosphere on campus and to the students for the growth she has experienced since arriving at Kuyper. “Chapels are great,” said Melinda. “I love the variety in them and especially the student-led ones. I’ve learned much from them, and also from my roommates. They are the best friends I ever could have asked for. Not only are they a ridiculous amount of fun to be with, but they also encourage and challenge me spiritually. We study together, laugh together, pray together and grow together.”

As for the future, Melinda sees herself involved in a ministry that serves women-at-risk. “I definitely feel called to work with women and the issues that surround them,” concluded Melinda. “I want to show them their worth—that they are beautiful, cherished daughters of God and that nothing should compromise that. Women all too often settle for less, or buy into finding their identity in things other than Christ. I want to show them that the only real identity worth having is being a daughter of the King.”

KUYPER COLLEGE COUGARS MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2009-10

Date	Day	Opponent	Time
Nov 5, 2009	Thurs	Great Lakes Christian College at Kuyper	7:00 pm
Nov 6, 2009	Fri	Kuyper at Davenport University (Tourn)	TBA
Nov 7, 2009	Sat	Kuyper at Davenport University (Tourn)	TBA
Nov 10, 2009	Tues	Cornerstone University at Kuyper	7:30 pm
Nov 13, 2009	Fri	Mitchell Classic @Trinity Christian College	8:00 pm
Nov 14, 2009	Sat	Mitchell Classic @Trinity Christian College	1:00 pm
Nov 20, 2009	Fri	Kuyper at Bethel College (Tourn)	TBA
Nov 21, 2009	Sat	Kuyper at Bethel College (Tourn)	TBA
Nov 24, 2009	Tues	Kuyper at Huntington University	7:00 pm
Nov 28, 2009	Sat	Marian University at Kuyper	3:00 pm
Dec 3, 2009	Thurs	Tip Off Tournament at Northland Baptist BC Kuyper vs. Northland Baptist Bible College	8:00 pm
Dec 4, 2009	Fri	Tip Off Tournament at Northland Baptist Kuyper vs. Emmaus Bible College	4:00 pm
Dec 5, 2009	Sat	Tip Off Tournament at Northland Baptist Kuyper vs. Moody Bible Institute	6:00 pm
Dec 8, 2009	Tues	Kuyper at Spring Arbor University	7:00 pm
Dec 11, 2009	Fri	Kuyper at Bethel College (Tourn)	TBA
Dec 12, 2009	Sat	Kuyper at Bethel College (Tourn)	TBA
Dec 19, 2009	Sat	Kuyper at Cornerstone University	5:00 pm
Jan 5, 2010	Tues	Kuyper at Indiana University NW	5:00 pm
Jan 9, 2010	Sat	Lincoln Christian College at Kuyper	3:00 pm
Jan 16, 2010	Sat	Kuyper at Great Lakes Christian College	12:00 pm
Jan 19, 2010	Tues	Kuyper at Grace Bible College	7:00 pm
Jan 23, 2010	Sat	Dayspring Bible College at Kuyper	2:00 pm
Jan 27, 2010	Wed	Andrews University at Kuyper	8:00 pm
Jan 30, 2010	Sat	Rochester University at Kuyper	3:00 pm
Feb 5, 2010	Fri	Kuyper at Marion University of Indianapolis	TBA
Feb 6, 2010	Sat	Kuyper at Rochester University	3:00 pm
Feb 10, 2010	Wed	Kuyper at Andrews University	8:00 pm
Feb 12, 2010	Fri	Indiana University NW at Kuyper	7:00 pm
Feb 16, 2010	Tue	Grace Bible College at Kuyper	7:00 pm
Feb 19, 2010	Fri	Kuyper at Lincoln Christian College	7:00 pm
Feb 20, 2010	Sat	Kuyper at Dayspring Bible College	1:00 pm

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KUYPER COLLEGE COUGARS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2009-10

Date	Day	Opponent	Time
Nov 11, 2009	Wed	Marygrove College at Kuyper	6:00 pm
Nov 19, 2009	Thurs	Kuyper at Northland International University	6:30 pm
Nov 19, 2009	Thurs	Tip off Tournament vs. Emmaus Baptist College at Northland International University	7:00 pm
Nov 20, 2009	Fri	Tip off Tournament vs. Maranatha Baptist Bible College at Maranatha Bible College	8:00 pm
Nov 28, 2009	Sat	Marian University of Indianapolis at Kuyper	1:00 pm
Dec 4, 2009	Fri	Cincinnati Christian University at Kuyper	6:00 pm
Dec 5, 2009	Sat	Principia College at Kuyper	1:00 pm
Dec 11, 2009	Fri	Grace Bible College Christmas Tournament	TBA
Dec 12, 2009	Sat	Grace Bible College Christmas Tournament	TBA
Jan 5, 2010	Tues	Kuyper at Indiana University NW	5:00 pm
Jan 8, 2010	Fri	Silver Lake College at Kuyper	7:00 pm
Jan 9, 2010	Sat	Mt. Mary's College at Kuyper	1:00 pm
Jan 13, 2010	Wed	Kuyper at Marygrove College	6:00 pm
Jan 16, 2010	Sat	Lincoln Christian College at Kuyper	1:00 pm
Jan 19, 2010	Tue	Kuyper at Grace Bible College	5:00 pm
Jan 23, 2010	Sat	Kuyper at Mt. Mary's College	1:00 pm
Jan 27, 2010	Wed	Andrews University at Kuyper	6:00 pm
Jan 30, 2010	Sat	Rochester University at Kuyper	1:00 pm
Feb 5, 2010	Fri	Kuyper at Marion University of Indianapolis	TBA
Feb 6, 2010	Sat	Kuyper at Rochester University	1:00 pm
Feb 10, 2010	Wed	Kuyper at Andrews University	6:00 pm
Feb 12, 2010	Fri	Indiana University NW at Kuyper	5:00 pm
Feb 16, 2010	Tue	Grace Bible College at Kuyper	5:00 pm
Feb 20, 2010	Sat	Kuyper at Lincoln Christian College	1:00 pm
Feb 23, 2010	Tue	Moody Bible Institute at Kuyper	6:00 pm

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New women's basketball coach



Christine Moran, Kuyper College athletic director, announced the appointment of Bill VanderWoude as the new head coach of the Cougars' women's basketball team.

Prior to his appointment, Coach VanderWoude was involved in varsity basketball for 29 years in the Grand Rapids,

Michigan, Forest Hills school system. He coached girls' and boys' basketball at Forest Hills Central and girls' basketball at Forest Hills Eastern, where he continues to teach mathematics.

Coach VanderWoude played during his college career at Western Michigan University, where he was a three-time member of the Mid-American All-Academic Team and a two-time Academic All-American. After college, while serving in the U.S. Army, he

was selected as a member of the All-Army Team.

"Basketball is an avenue that we can use to demonstrate the talents God has given us," said VanderWoude, while sharing his philosophy on coaching. "We must work to develop those talents to the fullest, and by doing so, we will honor and glorify Him."

Coach VanderWoude holds a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University.