

KUYPER

College News

A Publication for Alumni & Friends

The

KUYPER COLLEGE

DRIVING FORCE

Behind Kuyper College

The world ushers in new uncertainties every day. Like opening a fire hydrant, one needs only to turn on a news channel or open an internet browser before we are met with a torrent of distressing information. With political turmoil, climate concerns, economic uncertainties, international disputes, to name a few, it is easy to become swept away by the currents of unpredictability. More than ever before, Kuyper College is grateful to be strengthened and confidently guided by its solid foundation, rooted in the Bible and reliance on God.

Even the namesake of the College reflects this bedrock truth. Abraham Kuyper was a statesman, scholar, theologian, pastor, journalist and educator who lived in the Netherlands from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries. Much of his theology revolved around the idea of worldview, which he believed was both a corporate and personal way of perceiving and interacting with reality. At Kuyper College, our faith is more than just a private matter. Here, Scripture is applied to all parts of life, helping us to make sense of the world around us. Having a strong understanding of both our worldview and that of the individuals and cultures we are engaging with is a key part of bringing God's grace into our various spheres of influence.

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Listening to God's Word

"God's Word—spoken and listened to, written and read—is intended to do something in us, give health and wholeness, vitality and holiness, wisdom and hope." -Eugene Peterson

If I'm honest with myself, I have more skill, and more practice, in speaking than in listening. I find it's much too easy to jump ahead to what I can add to a conversation than to listen well, really well. And I realize that my impatience with listening can also impede my opportunity to hear God speak.

This honest appraisal of myself makes me wonder if I could have stood with God's people and listened attentively to Moses, Joshua, King Josiah, and Ezra read aloud the Book of the Law, from start to finish, all in one day.

The public reading of Scripture was an intended spiritual practice throughout the Old Testament. Before the Israelites entered the promised land, Moses told them that they should do it least every seven years. Sadly, God's people didn't stay faithful to that practice.

In the New Testament, we hear that Jesus read Scripture aloud in the synagogue and that Paul instructs Timothy to "devote

yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching."

While I question my attentiveness to stand for a whole day and listen to Scripture, I am thankful that I've had the opportunity to learn and exercise the practice of publicly listening to God's Word.

A few years ago, I was part of a cohort of presidents of Christian colleges. We were mentored in spiritual practices by leaders of the Fuller Center for Spiritual and Missional Formation. The one practice I found most beneficial—which still makes my soul sing—was listening to the communal reading of Scripture. Of course, we didn't stand for a whole day of listening, but we did listen to large sections of Scripture and then spent time reflecting on what we heard. This experience opened my heart and mind and strengthened my patience to hear God speak through His Word.

Since then, I've continued this practice at Kuyper with my leadership team, and



this year, as a College community, we are joining together to listen to Exodus and Philippians. This practice keeps us focused as a community on God's grand story and who we are, and how we're called to live as His people.

As our cover story describes, at Kuyper, we seriously take the teaching of the Bible and integration of a biblical worldview into all parts of life as we seek to live faithfully for Jesus Christ in God's good world. This year, I'm eager to see how God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will shape us as we communally listen to His Word.

Grateful to serve,

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

Dr. Patricia R. Harris
President

Kuyper Community Notes

Marriages

Keith Williams (2020) and Steph (Landheer) Williams were married on August 7, 2021.

Professional Development

Rebecca Laarman (2000) joined the Chiang Rai International Christian School staff in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

Michael Van Maanen (2009) and **Megan (Boer) Van Maanen** (2010) moved from Thailand to Lynden, Washington, where both joined the staff of Lynden Christian School.

Gary June and **Allison (Wiersema) June** (2010) are the new co-worship directors at Hager Park Church in Jenison, Michigan.

Rebecca (Sikkes) VandenHoek (2011) joined Sanford Comprehensive Treatment for Eating Disorders in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as an outpatient therapist.

Daniel DeVries (2012) and **Betsy (Hochhalter) DeVries** (2012) accepted a call to co-pastor Bethany CRC in Gallup, New Mexico.

Kuyper Welcomes New Faculty

Kuyper is pleased to welcome several new faculty members to the College community. Dr. Tim Detwiler will serve as academic dean, Dr. Andrea Fryling as registrar, and Jennifer Colin assumes the roles of professor of social work and social work program director. Kuyper is looking forward to the expertise and fresh insights that each will bring to their new roles.



Dr. Tim Detwiler

Prior to his appointment at Kuyper College, Dr. Detwiler served as associate provost at Cornerstone University. Dr. Detwiler brings extensive experience in educational administration as well as a deep connection to the surrounding community having served on several boards, including Northview Public Schools, Kent Intermediate Association of School Boards, and the Michigan Association of School Boards. He holds a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Culture from Pennsylvania State University, an M.A. in Communication Studies from Temple University, and a B.A. in Broadcasting from Cedarville University.

“I am enjoying the rhythms of college life. Everyone has been very friendly and welcoming,” he said. “It is a personal and professional blessing to become part of a faith-based community of life-practice and scholarship. I am excited to see how God will bless the work of our hands in the days ahead.”



Dr. Andrea Fryling

Dr. Fryling also worked for Cornerstone University before coming to Kuyper. She served in the professional and graduate studies department, including as assistant doctoral program director and assistant professor of English. She holds a Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from Northern Illinois University (NIU); an M.A. in British and American Literature, also from NIU; and a B.A. in English Literature and Letters from Grand Valley State University. Her experience in teaching and administration in higher education is wide ranging and has always been driven by the desire to help students flourish.

Already, Dr. Fryling has enjoyed building relationships within her new role. “The students have been so impressive to me,” she said of the way they have welcomed her. She added, “Just their love and respect for the College and the people involved is very telling. So that’s exciting.”



Jennifer Colin

Jennifer Colin comes to Kuyper from the worlds of social work and charter school administration. Before joining the Kuyper faculty, she served as the principal of Creative Technologies Academy in Cedar Springs, MI.

Colin also served as secondary principal and K-12 school counselor at the West Michigan Academy of Environmental Sciences, and as a therapist with Alpha Women’s Center in Grand Rapids.

She holds a Master’s in Social Work from Grand Valley State University; a Master’s in Education, also from Grand Valley; a Master’s in Educational Leadership from Central Michigan University; and a B.A. in Psychology from Taylor University.

Colin looks forward to the opportunity to integrate her faith with her work, something she was not able to do while in a public school setting. “I believe God’s hand guided me to Kuyper,” she said. “This is my dream job.”

Katherine (Reynhout) Brouwers (2019) joined the student development staff at Kuyper College as an administrative assistant.

Kristyn DeNooyer (2019) launched Olive & Root Communications in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Julianna Kempema (2019) joined the ministry staff at First Reformed Church in Sheldon, Iowa, as director of outreach and discipleship.

Jonathon Waterbury (2014) is now lead pastor of Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Langdon, North Dakota.

Jacob Morse (2016) is the new youth director at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palm Bay, Florida.

Rachel Potter (2020) joined NorthArrow ABA of Traverse City as a registered behavioral technician.

As alumni, we invite you to get involved and stay in touch by calling the Alumni Office at 877.229.0941 or sending us an email to alumni@kuyper.edu with your contact information or the most recent news about you.

This has been the Kuyper way since the very beginning. When Kuyper College was founded in 1939 as Reformed Bible Institute (RBI), it was a school for training lay women and men for ministry. In the years since, the driving force behind education at Kuyper has remained the same. The end goal has always been to faithfully live for Jesus in God's good world. Learning here is about so much more than achievement, good grades, or the accumulation of knowledge; it is about the love of God and neighbor. As students at Kuyper progress in their studies, they encounter God revealing Himself through whatever material they happen to be covering. They learn to deepen their understanding of who He is and the nature of His love for them, expressed most fully in the person and work of Jesus. They learn and are empowered how to love and serve Him in return—thereby developing a lifelong biblical worldview that helps them serve and love others.

This is the driving force behind all that is done at Kuyper College. Other schools might teach classes on explicitly biblical topics, but Kuyper integrates the Bible into every program and every part of campus life. From the content of curricula to the handling of administrative duties, everything is influenced by the desire to equip students with a biblical, Reformed worldview so they might serve Christ's church and His world more effectively. An example of these are four of our core programs—ministry leadership, social work, business leadership, and interdisciplinary studies.

Learning to Follow Christ

The **ministry leadership program** prepares students for careers in places like the local church, Christian education or parachurch organizations. Students have the opportunity to take classes focusing on Bible and theology as well as ministry-related topics. Choosing a minor in an area that interests them, such as biblical Greek or youth ministry, allows them to personalize their degree path to better prepare themselves for whatever God might be calling them to. After graduation, they are also qualified to pursue a variety of graduate



Professor of Social Work, Kelli Hoffman, in her office reviewing an assignment with a student



Professor of Biblical Studies, Dr. Dan Kroeze, engaging students in the classroom

programs in ministry and theology-related fields. Through their time spent in the program, students are prepared to bring the grace of God to expanding and changing ministry environments. Dr. Dan Kroeze, professor of biblical studies, said of the program, "It equips students to be able to teach and communicate the Word of God."

The **social work program** develops servant leaders who are ready to minister to people at some of the most vulnerable moments life can bring. It builds the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to communicate God's love to those they work with. Students dive deep into topics such as human behavior and social welfare policies, learning to bring these values into their future careers. These could be areas such as child welfare, gerontology, corrections, or one of many other possibilities. Although such spaces may or may not be overtly Christian, graduates of the program learn to follow the lead of Christ wherever they go. "Jesus was consistently reaching out to those on the margins, who were shunned by society, who didn't have a voice, and social work gives us the chance to do the same," said Kelli Hoffman, professor of social work.

The **interdisciplinary studies program** was crafted for individuals who hope to study more than one field. They receive a firm grounding in Bible and theology-related material while also having the ability



Kristyn DeNooyer

to create their own, highly personalized educational path. These students will work with an advisor to build a program that helps them discern and follow the calling God has placed upon their hearts. They may choose to focus on a topic such as psychology or communication studies and have a wide variety of potential careers open to them. Graduates of the program have gone on to become writers, to attend seminary, or to head programs for individuals with disabilities. But the most important thing they gain from their time in the program is the formation of their identities. Kristyn DeNooyer, a graduate of the program, said, "My time at Kuyper was really formational in who I am as a person and who I am in relationship to God."

The **business leadership program** is about much more than the pursuit of profit and success. Building skills in areas like management, marketing or accounting teaches students effective business practices that are informed by biblical principles. They are also prepared to work in fields such as financial planning, public relations, management and marketing or to pursue graduate programs. Driven by the belief that all people are made in the image of God, and that the world is His good creation, the program teaches students to use business endeavors to make a positive impact on people and the planet. “Our biblical worldview here at Kuyper College is interwoven throughout all of the business leadership classes. We teach students to not only make money, although that’s very important, but also to care about the planet and society,” said Marc Andreas, professor of business leadership.

Growing in Service to the Church and the World

Whether a student chooses one of these programs or another, their education will heavily involve real-world experiences. Many other schools separate what happens in the classroom from everyday life, but at Kuyper, there are opportunities to learn everywhere. The College believes that classroom learning strengthens students’ abilities to serve others once they step outside its four walls. In the same way, their experiences in the real world enhance what takes place in the class environment. Many of the programs at Kuyper utilize practicums or require robust internships as an intrinsic part of their degree path, rather than making them optional or supplemental. This holistic experience helps cultivate in students a readiness to grow in service to the church and the world.

Internships are not the only way Kuyper College’s strong biblical foundation has inspired concrete action in the world. In July, the U.S. Department of Education recognized the school as a work college. This makes it only the 10th of its kind in the country and the first ever in the state of Michigan. A work college intentionally integrates service, learning and work to create a one-of-a-kind higher education environment. Students at such institutions hold positions in job placements either on campus or with outside workplace partner



Kuyper Registrar, Dr. Andrea Fryling, going over course schedules with a student



Business Leadership Professor and Program Director, Marc Andreas, answering a student question after class

organizations alongside their regular studies. They receive regular feedback and guidance from both academic and organizational advisors, as well as a work transcript upon graduation.

Properly ordered work has been part of God’s good plan for His creation from the very beginning, and achieving the designation as a work college allows Kuyper to follow that design with a deepened commitment.

This new educational evolution teaches students what it means to be a Christian worker in today’s world while also giving them the tools and experience to succeed in their callings. “We’re working hard to make things as good as possible for our students,” said Dr. Andrea Fryling, registrar of Kuyper College, “and to produce exceptionally well-prepared students.” The goal is for graduates to have a broader range of possibilities upon finishing their degrees.

College-aged students are not the only ones able to take advantage of a Kuyper College education within their own neighborhood. Through a partnership with The Potter’s House Christian School, Kuyper has brought this access to high school students in the Roosevelt Park neighborhood in Grand Rapids. Kuyper professors travel to The Potter’s House to teach business leadership classes and provide unique, hands-on experiences, such as class speakers and field trips to local businesses. Upon graduating high school, students have the option of transferring to Kuyper with up to a year’s worth of college education already completed.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus told the story of the wise and foolish builders. The one who built his house upon a firm foundation was the one who could withstand a storm. Back in 1939 the founders of Reformed Bible Institute built the school on the firm foundation that could never be shaken. Thus, God has been faithful through it all, shepherding the College to become what it is today. It’s biblical foundation and Reformed worldview have never changed and will continue to allow Kuyper College to stand firm through all the years to come.



A Smart and Simple Way to Give

Many people make the mistake of leaving their IRA, 401(k) or other retirement funds to family and then giving entirely different gifts from their will to charity. In most cases, this is the exact opposite of what should happen.

When you leave your retirement funds to family, you create a taxable event. This gift will be treated as income when they withdraw the funds, and your loved ones will be taxed accordingly. However, by giving those funds to ministries, you eliminate the tax bill and provide meaningful support for the missions that mean so much to you. Then, you can give more tax-efficient gifts from your will to provide for the needs of your loved ones.

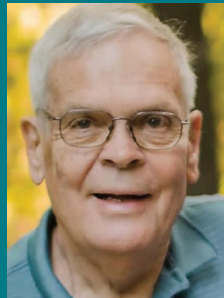
How do you give retirement funds to ministry? It's actually quite simple. You can...

- Designate a particular ministry as a beneficiary on the forms provided by your account manager, specifying the amount you want to give.
- Or if you would like to give your retirement funds to multiple charities, consider working with our trusted partners at Barnabas Foundation. Simply list Barnabas Foundation as the charitable beneficiary on your beneficiary designation forms. Then, you provide Barnabas Foundation with a list of your favorite ministries and the percentage you want each to receive. They'll take care of the distributions at the proper time.

To learn more about giving retirement funds, estate planning or other giving options, please contact the Kuyper Advancement Office at 616-988-3662 or email advancement@kuyper.edu.

Remembering

DR. PAUL BREMER



“The Kuyper community mourns the passing of Dr. Paul Bremer even as we place our hope in Christ’s resurrection. Paul was a cherished colleague, a caring teacher, and a humble witness of the Gospel who poured himself into the lives of others so we could flourish,” said Dr. Patricia Harris, president of Kuyper College.

Anyone who interacted with Dr. Bremer immediately knew one thing about him: he was a teacher who loved the Lord and served him fully. However, he was not just a teacher by profession; instead, his whole attitude was that of a person who delighted to connect with others, encouraged curiosity, and pointed people to a deeper relationship with our great God.

Dr. Bremer was a beloved professor at Kuyper College from 1975 until his retirement in 2006. While attending Calvin Theological Seminary as a student, Dr. Bremer was asked to teach Greek to Calvin undergraduate students. That experience led to him teaching biblical Greek while completing his Ph.D. at Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Bremer then joined the faculty at Kuyper College and spent the remainder of his career there investing in students from all over the world.

While at Kuyper, Dr. Bremer served as academic vice president and assisted in developing a program of study in philosophy and New Testament Greek for pre-seminary students. He was also an ordained pastor in the Christian Reformed Church and preached and spoke extensively in Reformed and Presbyterian circles.

Even after his retirement in 2006, Dr. Bremer did not stop learning and teaching. He loved traveling to national parks, exploring Civil War sites, studying Abraham Lincoln, and researching the Navajo Code Talkers of WWII. In 2013, Dr. Bremer was the recipient of the H. J. Kuiper Founder’s Service Award from Kuyper College, and in 2014, he co-authored the Kuyper College 75th Anniversary book.

Dr. Bremer had a gift for making complex and deep subjects understandable and engaging. For him, studying biblical Greek was never just about decoding a language; it was a way to find joy in an active God and access the living Scriptures.

Former Greek student and Kuyper colleague Dr. Jessica Maddox recalled, “There is something conspicuously Spirit-filled about someone who delights in lifting up another to new opportunities and privileges. There is something of the divine image we are meant to reclaim when someone unreservedly rejoices over another’s flourishing. Indeed, there are reflections of Jesus himself in someone who grasps that choosing to share a moment of mutual humility raises us both up to greater dignity and respect. Paul lived his faith into the nooks and crannies of life.”

“My prayer for us all,” concluded Dr. Maddox, “is that we, too, like Paul, will live conspicuously Spirit-filled lives into the nooks and crannies of our world—delighting in the flourishing of others.”

Reimagining Discipleship

Following the biblical mandate to go and make disciples is something that Pastor Darrell Delaney cares about very deeply. Since his graduation from Kuyper College in 2005, he has pursued this path. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary and his Master of Theology degree from Calvin Seminary, he spent years working in youth ministry, and he now serves as the campus pastor for Madison Church, Square Campus, in Grand Rapids. Recently, he had the opportunity to take another new step along this journey by joining the podcast Groundwork as its newest cohost.

Groundwork is a production of ReFrame Ministries, formerly known as Back to Ministries International, a global mission that helps transform lives by using indigenous teams to produce media in 10 of the world's major languages. The podcast began airing in 2010 through a partnership between ReFrame and Words of Hope. Pastor Delaney noted, "This podcast is something that the Christian Reformed Church has been doing to equip people with tools to grow in their walk with Jesus."

Every week he and his cohost, Scott Hoezee, dig into the Bible, exploring it as the foundation for life. "I want to help others fall in love with Jesus and become more and more like Him in their attitudes and actions and seek to make other disciple-makers who do the same," said Pastor Delaney.

During the half-hour podcast, Pastor Delaney and his cohost delve into Old and New Testament Scripture and substantive themes like



Pastor Darrell Delaney recording a Groundwork podcast

reconciliation, fellowship, Christian freedom, and finding strength in God through life tragedies.

Though Pastor Delaney and his cohost begin the program with an outline, God often uncovers fresh insight through their give and take. "I come in with notes, but then God reveals something in the moment, a timely word, and I love being part of bringing that to our listeners," he said.

Pastor Delaney's excitement for seeing people grow in their knowledge and love of God is contagious. Though he already spends much of his time preaching, teaching and discipling at Madison Church, working with Groundwork never tires him. "Because it's my passion, it doesn't deplete me. I'm communicating the Gospel. Who doesn't want to do that?" he explained.

Genuine Friendships

Rachael (Smith) Austin (2014) knows there are a number of unmet needs among individuals with disabilities in her community. "But among the most important ones is the need these individuals have for genuine friendships," she said. Recognizing this void led Austin to spearhead the creation of a new Friendship Groups program at The Point, a nonprofit community center in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Austin has worked with individuals with disabilities in a variety of settings, including group homes and one-on-one positions. She came to The Point through its connection with Centerpoint Church of Kalamazoo, where she worships and serves as part of her degree programming as she pursues her Master of Divinity Degree at Western Theological Seminary. "When I was hired, the Church wanted to serve the disabled community, but they had no idea how. So, I helped develop a plan to do so," Austin recalled.



Rachel Austin with a friend at The Point

"Friendship Groups run from 4 to 5:30 p.m., seven days a week. We don't take days off so we can keep routines for our friends who come," said Austin. The program is led by volunteers and funded through donations and the sale of art created by participants in the program. "A typical afternoon at Friendship Groups will include various fun activities, all

focused on building friendships and loving people the way Christ would love them," Austin emphasized. "Our desire is to create a sense of true inclusion for everyone, no matter their abilities. It's like pulling a chair up to the kingdom table that is already so vast there is room for everyone," she said.

Austin will soon begin creating other new programs at The Point. "We just received funding for a sensory-friendly day room, so we will hopefully start construction by fall," she said. Austin has also started working with church leadership to create one sensory friendly service each month.

"We're trying to live a theology where every part of the body is valuable and necessary," said Austin. "We need that in the Church. This is a space where those who come don't have to change to be accepted. It's a place where they can be who God created them to be."

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

STUDENTS TO WATCH

Tamara Prather

My major at Kuyper is business leadership with a graduating year of 2025. I was born and raised in Dorr, Michigan, just 30 minutes south of Kuyper. I grew up in a loving Christian home with my parents, three sisters and one brother. I have always known Jesus and have had a close relationship with him. We attended church camps and Sunday school for as long as I can remember. While I attended public schools K-8th grade, I began high school at South Christian High School. After graduation, I began college at Grand Rapids Community College, but God had different plans for me. I was married to my high school sweetheart when I was 20 and welcomed my first child soon after, so college didn't work for my life at that point. My story is a bit different than many at Kuyper because I restarted college in my late 30s!

I have been happily married to my husband now for 18 years. We have an 18-year-old daughter who just graduated high school, a 17-year-old son who is a junior in high school, and an 11-year-old daughter who is in fifth grade.

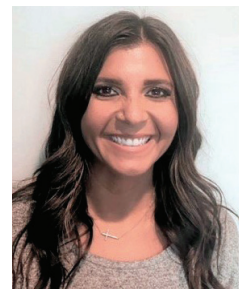
I have worked in healthcare nearly my entire adult life. After working 10 years in critical care services at Metro Health - University of Michigan Health, I recently left to join an old coworker in expanding his nursing concierge services in the Grand Rapids area. This has been an exciting adventure and such a change from what I'm used to coming from a large hospital atmosphere to a small startup with just a few employees.

My Kuyper story is awesome to look back on. I was working at Metro and was good friends with the senior chaplain there. While chatting one day, I began asking him about being a chaplain and what kind of education that took. Chaplaincy was always so interesting to me. What could be more wonderful than praying for patients and their families? He told me about Kuyper and the Master's of Ministry program, so I began looking into it out of curiosity. A few emails later, I found myself setting up classes to start school. Everything about Kuyper was so appealing to me that I never even considered any other school. I loved the atmosphere of the small college

and friendly professors, and it fit me so well. All of the students have been great and helpful, and I have been so impressed in my time at Kuyper. I actually encouraged my daughter to look into going to Kuyper before she made a decision to join the National Guard. I would recommend Kuyper to anyone, young or old!

While my original intentions were to go into chaplain services, I had a change of heart right in the midst of COVID-19 running rampant in our hospital. I knew this wasn't what I wanted to continue doing and didn't want to be a part of it anymore. I feel like God gave me a change of heart to leave Metro for a reason. He was speaking to me clearly and put it on my heart to pursue business leadership instead. This was a program that I had looked at prior to starting Kuyper so I knew this is what I wanted to do. I was able to get into some business leadership classes and meet with Professor Andreas right before the winter semester began. It all fell into place so well, so I know this is what God has planned for me. I have thoroughly enjoyed all the classes I have taken at Kuyper. I truly believe that being older and having more life behind me has made me appreciate school more than I did at the age of 18.

I don't have any future plans after graduation, but I know God will bring everything to fruition as He sees fit. I love marketing, especially marketing through social media, so I plan to do some sort of internship with the marketing director at my current place of employment. I also have a strong desire to study functional nutrition, which I plan to do while completing my business leadership classes at Kuyper, so who knows, maybe I will start a business after graduation in functional nutrition—the possibilities are endless, and I'm so excited to see where God takes me!



CLASS **2025**

HOME **Dorr, Michigan**

MAJOR **Business Leadership**