

**ANNUAL
PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**



**HOPE
COLLEGE
1985-1986**

**HONOR
ROLL
OF DONORS**

STUDENTS

Students are the *raison d'être* of Hope College. It is therefore appropriate to highlight a number of facets of this past year that relate directly to students.

We had a good year in admissions, with 592 students enrolling as freshmen and 79 as transfer students. The total enrollment of 2522, which included 2208 full-time students and 314 part-time students, was down only slightly from the all-time high of a year ago. Our goal continues to be to maintain enrollment at the level we now have, though we recognize that this represents a substantial challenge.

Our students came from 36 states and 22 foreign countries. There is considerable diversity among our students in academic interests and goals, as well as in their economic, social and cultural backgrounds. The most common theme one detects among our students is their desire for a strong academic program in an environment where values and faith are taken seriously. This is the essence of our mission, and it is encouraging to meet many students who chose Hope because of these essential qualities and who, though wanting to be actively involved



“It’s the challenge of teaching, the process of learning, that’s enjoyable. Especially in computer science. It’s not something that you can write on the board and say, ‘learn it.’ Computer science is a constantly changing, dynamic field. So I have to teach by being a good role model. I have to show my students how to solve problems, how to communicate well with others, how to continue learning. Because we’re always on the edge of its frontier, memorizing facts won’t work in computer science. I like my students to believe that the facts are important, but their most essential lesson is learning how to learn.”

Dr. Herb Dershem, professor of computer science and chairperson of the department, came to Hope College in 1969 and specializes in computer science education. At the time of his arrival, computer science was an extension of the math department’s curriculum. In 1974, when computer science became a major, Dershem was Hope’s first and only full-time computer science professor.