

# A. C. Van Raalte Institute

Annual Report  
August 2016–December 2017

**Hope College  
Holland, Michigan  
2018**

© 2018 Van Raalte Press  
All rights reserved

A. C. Van Raalte Institute, Hope College

Van Raalte Press is a division of Hope College Publishing

Offices located in:      Theil Research Center  
                                    9 East 10th Street  
                                    Holland, MI 49423

Mailing address:        PO Box 9000  
                                    Holland, MI 49422-9000

(616) 395-7678  
vanraalte@hope.edu  
www.hope.edu/vri

Jacob E. Nyenhuis, PhD  
Editor-in-Chief and Publisher

JoHannah Smith  
Editorial Associate/Office Manager



August 2016–December 2017



# Contents

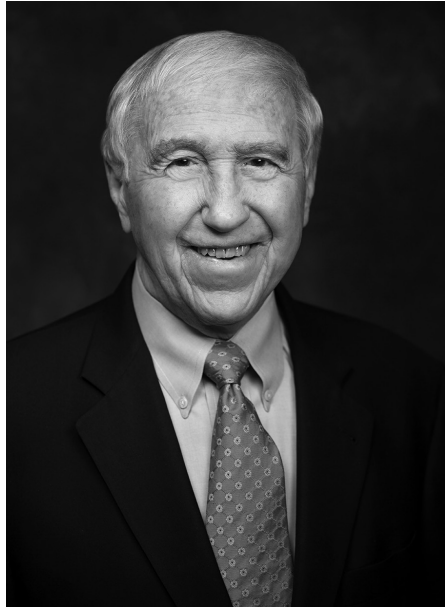
Peter H. Huizenga In Memoriam	1
A Message from the Director	3
Reports	
Earl Wm. Kennedy	13
Nella Kennedy	17
Henk Aay	20
Donald A. Luidens	25
Donald J. Bruggink	28
Robert P. Swierenga	32
Jacob E. Nyenhuis	35
Dennis N. Voskuil	38
Honorary Research Fellow J. P. Verhave	39
Publications, Presentations, and Awards	40
Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series	43
Applications Invited	45
Van Raalte Institute Staff	46
Mission Statement	49



## In Memoriam

The work described in the pages of this annual report would not have been possible without the ongoing strong support of Peter H. Huizenga, who endowed the VRI as a research institute dedicated to honoring the memory and vision of the Reverend Albertus C. Van Raalte, DD, founder of the city of Holland and cofounder of Hope College.

Throughout our history, Peter Huizenga has taken a keen interest in the research and writings of our members, often providing additional financial



support to enable us to sponsor conferences and to publish our work. He commissioned the publication of the journals and correspondence of his Aunt Tena: Jacob E. Nyenhuis, Robert P. Swierenga, and Lauren M. Berka, eds., *Aunt Tena, Called to Serve: Journals and Letters of Tena A. Huizenga, Missionary Nurse to Nigeria* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009). He supported and raised funds for the celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of Albertus C. Van Raalte, with conferences at Hope College and in Ommen, Overijssel, the Netherlands, in 2011, and he underwrote publication of the papers from those conferences. Peter's latest commission was for Robert P. Swierenga to write the history of Timothy Christian Schools, nearly finished at this writing. His generosity was exceeded only by his enthusiasm for the work of the fellows of the Van Raalte Institute; he often remarked that its establishment was his most important contribution during his long service on the Hope College Board of Trustees.

It is therefore with great sadness and a deep sense of loss that we report the passing of Peter H. Huizenga, on May 2, 2018. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his cherished wife of fifty years, Heidi, and their four children and their families. We also extend our sympathy to Peter's siblings: Sue and Herm Kanis, Virginia "Ginger" and James Jurries, and J. C. and Tammy Huizenga. We publish this annual report *In Memoriam* to Peter, with love and gratitude.

Peter H. Huizenga Sr. (14 March 1939 – 2 May 2018)

Peter H. Huizenga, age 79, of Oak Brook, Illinois, died on Wednesday, May 2nd, and was received into glory by his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was the loving husband of his cherished wife, Heidi, for fifty years. Peter loved his children: Betsy (Dave) Bradley, Greta Huizenga, Peter Jr. (Abby) Huizenga, and Tim Huizenga. His ten grandchildren include Elizabeth, Matthew, William, and Michael Bradley; Soleil and Noah Huizenga Giesen; and Hally, Hope, Peter III “Tripp” and Hannah Huizenga. Peter also had four siblings: Sue Kanis, Virginia “Ginger” Jurries, John Charles “J. C.” Huizenga, and the late Elizabeth “B. J.” Buntrock.

Peter Huizenga was born in a Dutch community outside Chicago in 1939 to a family of garbage haulers. As a child during summers he worked on a garbage truck from 2 a.m. until noon every day. It is this background where he learned the value of hard work and the power of friendship, faith, and determination.

After graduating from Hope College, he was a captain in the US Army Reserve and then attended the University of Illinois Law School. Huizenga practiced law at the firm of Hlustik, Huizenga, Williams, and Vander Woude. In 1968 Peter joined his family’s garbage business, which evolved into Waste Management Inc. and became a Fortune 500 company. At Waste Management he served as a director for thirty years, held various officer roles, and helped take the company public in 1972. Waste Management was the largest waste disposal company in the world. Peter was an early investor in Blockbuster Video and many other businesses. He was very active with Big Shoulders Fund, Timothy Christian Schools, Christ Church of Oak Brook, Trinity Christian College, Elim Christian Services, Hope College, Boy Scouts of America, and many other organizations.

Of his father, PJ said: “I am incredibly fortunate to have had a mentor, friend, and father all in the same man. He loved his family, faith, and making a difference in people’s lives through philanthropy and business pursuits.”

A memorial service was held on May 8, 2018, at Christ Church of Oak Brook, Illinois, and gifts were recommended for this church and for Timothy Christian School.



# A Message from the Director

Jacob E. Nyenhuis

In September 2015, I turned over the directorship of the Van Raalte Institute to Dennis Voskuil so I could devote all my energy to completing a history of Hope College's first 150 years. In the spring of 2017, however, after Hope president John Knapp

announced that he had accepted the presidency of Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, the board of trustees asked Dennis to assume leadership of the entire college during the search for a thirteenth president. Dennis became interim president of Hope College in July 2017, with the expectation that his term of office could last up to two years.

Hope College alumnus and long-time trustee of Hope College Peter H. Huizenga hosted a lovely dinner party at his and Heidi's home on the shores of Lake Michigan in honor of Dennis and Betty last summer. All the members of the institute spent a delightful evening celebrating Dennis and Betty, who have given themselves heart and soul to the college, living in the President's Home and hosting students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, and friends of the college. All of us at the institute are deeply grateful to them for their dedicated service to the college, as well as to the institute itself. We are pleased that Dennis frequently returns to join us for coffee time.

After Dennis accepted his appointment as interim president, he in turn asked me to return to the leadership of the Van Raalte Institute on a similarly interim basis. It therefore is my privilege once again to present this annual report, which covers more than a year of the work of all the staff members of the institute. Publication of this report, however, was given a lower priority than the completion of multiple



other projects that JoHannah Smith was charged with editing. She has been hard at work for years on the monumental *A Commentary on the Minutes of the Classis of Holland, 1848-76: A Detailed Record of Persons and Issues, Civil and Religious, in the Dutch Colony of Holland, Michigan*, by senior research fellow Earl Wm. Kennedy.<sup>1</sup> In addition, she has been copy editing *In Peril on the Sea: The Forgotten Story of the William & Mary Shipwreck*, by Kenneth A. Schaaf (long-time staff member of the Library of Congress);<sup>2</sup> *A Constant State of Emergency: Paul de Kruif and the Health of Americans*, by honorary research fellow J. P. Verhave; and my own *Hope College at 150*. All four will be published this year by the Van Raalte Press, now in its second decade. A more complete account of these works is given in the report of senior research fellow Donald J. Bruggink, since all four of the books are included in the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, of which he is the founding general editor. On June 30, 2018, Don will conclude his remarkable tenure of fifty years in this role, during which time, he has overseen the publication of nearly one hundred volumes. Next year's annual report will provide proper coverage of that extraordinary record.

### ***AADAS conference in Fulton, Illinois***

In June 2017, nearly all of the members of the institute traveled to Fulton, Illinois, for the twenty-first biennial AADAS conference. The theme of the conference was “Dutch (North) Americans: Agriculture and Rural Life, Past and Present.” As president of AADAS (Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies), our own Henk Aay organized and presided over the conference. Honorary research fellow George Harinck, of the VU University Amsterdam and Kampen Theological University (Vrijgemaakt), and visiting research fellow J. J. Boersema were also in attendance. The Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Chicago was represented by deputy consul Bianca Oudhoff.

Many of us participated in the preconference tour of Fulton and Whiteside County, visiting Reformed and Christian Reformed Churches in that region, a windmill museum, and a twenty-first-century windmill built in the Netherlands and transported to Fulton. Papers were presented by Henk Aay, Bill Kennedy, Nella Kennedy, and Bob Swierenga, as well as George Harinck and Jan Boersema. As usual,

<sup>1</sup> Available July 2018. All Van Raalte Press publications are available at [hope.edu/vri/](http://hope.edu/vri/)

<sup>2</sup> Also available via print on demand at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)



the Van Raalte Press will publish the papers from this conference, with Bill Kennedy as lead editor and joined by Don Luidens. The Van Raalte Institute thus continues to be a vital resource for sustaining interest in and knowledge of the legacy of Dutch immigrants to the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

### ***Institute as cohost of the State History Conference***

September 22-24, 2017, the Van Raalte Institute cohosted the 143rd annual State History Conference, organized by the Historical Society of Michigan. The Van Raalte Institute and the Joint Archives of Holland both had a considerable presence in the conference. Bob Swierenga led a preconference bus tour of historic Dutch sites in West Michigan. His packed tour attracted more participants than the other two tours combined. Bob also gave the keynote address at the luncheon on Saturday, September 23. Concurrent sessions were led by Jack Nyenhuis (“150 Years of Hope College History”) and Geoffrey Reynolds, the Mary Riepma Ross Director of the Joint Archives of Holland (“Crafting an Industry: Holland’s Boat Builders”).

### ***Visit of the consul general and the cultural attaché of the Netherlands***

It was our privilege in November 2017 to welcome the Honorable Louis W. M. Piët, consul general of the Kingdom of the Netherlands posted in Chicago, and his wife, Dyonne Steijns, as well as Joost Taverne, cultural attaché of the Kingdom of the Netherlands posted in New York. They were in town to attend the annual Dutch American

Heritage Day Dinner held at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville. Richard Harms, recently retired curator of Heritage Hall and archivist of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, was honored with a Dutch American Heritage Leadership Award, along with me.

We have had an ongoing conversation with Mr. Taverne about how we can best promote conservation of and research on Dutch heritage in the Midwest. The Dutch American Historical Commission has been asked to take the lead in organizing a colloquy of scholars from the six colleges in the Midwest associated with either the Reformed Church in America or the Christian Reformed Church in North America. A preliminary gathering is expected to be held in Grand Rapids in June, and a further assembly is proposed in conjunction with the Scholte conference in Pella in August.

### *Visiting research fellows*

Since 2003 we have had a regular progression of visiting research fellows at the institute. Most years we have had two fellows but occasionally only one; in 2018-19, we will have one short-term and three regular fellows. The following fellows have been either appointed or in residence since the last annual report was published.

#### **For 2016-17**

**Mark Mulder**, professor of sociology at Calvin College, is a graduate of Trinity Christian College; he earned his master of arts in history (1997) and PhD in urban studies (2003) from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The author of *Shades of White Flight: Evangelical Congregations and Urban Departure* (Rutgers University Press, 2015), he is under contract with



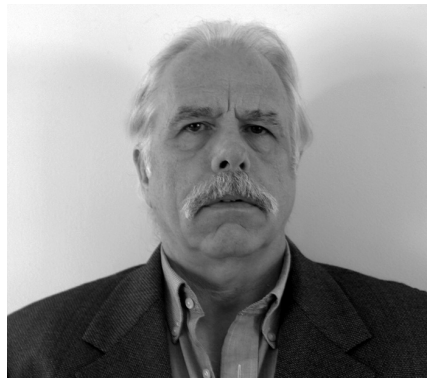
Rowman and Littlefield for *Latino Protestants in America*. His project (“Ten Thousand Panes of Glass: The Crystal Cathedral and Religious Innovation in the United States”) for this fellowship involved research for a book of the same title, on which he is collaborating with a professor at Davidson College. His public lecture, “Plugging in the Electric Church: Robert Schuller, the Crystal Cathedral, and Entrepreneurial Evangelicalism,” was delivered on February 15, 2018.

**For 2017-18**

**Paul Heusinkveld**, a 1972 graduate of Hope College with advanced study at the University of Arizona and the Foreign Service Institute, served in the US Department of State 1984-2012; he had previously spent nine years as an officer in the US Navy (he holds the rank of commander). His postings with the Department of State include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait (twice), as well as assignments in Washington, DC.

Paul has been working on a biography of Eleanor Calverley, MD (1886-1958), a pioneering missionary doctor who served in America's Arabian Mission under the auspices of the Reformed Church in America. She was the first female physician (and one of the first two doctors) in Kuwait. In the future, Paul hopes to write biographies of two other missionary doctors who were part of the Arabian Mission, including Paul W. Harrison, MD, with whom Dr. Calverley opened the American Mission Hospital in Kuwait. Paul grew up in the Arabian Mission, where his father also was a doctor. Paul has told the fascinating story of his childhood in *Elephant Baseball: A Missionary Kid's Tale* (Eerdmans, 2017). He presented his public lecture, "Eleanor Calverley, First Doctor to Kuwait: Celebrating 100 Years of Kuwait-American Friendship," on April 19, 2018.

**Kenneth W. Bult** received his BA in history from DePaul University and both an MA (digital art/photography) and an MFA (independent film and digital imaging) from Governors State University. He is the author of *Glenwood (Images of America)* (Arcadia Publishing, 2011) and *The Dutch in the Calumet Region* (Arcadia Publishing, 2015). He has



served or is serving as an adjunct faculty member at Indiana University South Bend, Purdue University-Calumet, Art Institute Online, South Suburban College, Westwood College, and International Academy of Design and Technology. He is researching Dutch migration across the Midwest, using photographs as an important medium for tracing the westward movement of Dutch immigrants during the period 1840-

1920. He will present his public lecture fall semester 2018.

### For 2018-19

**Marc Baer**, professor emeritus of history at Hope College (1983-2016), served for a year as interim dean for arts and humanities immediately following his retirement. A graduate of Iowa State University, he earned an MA (1971) and a PhD (1976) in history from the University of Iowa. A specialist in British history, he has published several books, numerous articles, and over eighty reviews. His project is a history of the Music Department at Hope College. He plans to complete his research between mid-April and the end of June 2018.



**Bruce Geelhoed**, professor of history at Ball State University, is a 1970 graduate of Hope. He earned an MA from Central Michigan University (1972) and a PhD from Ball State University (1976). A member of the faculty of BSU since 1981, he has specialized in the history of education and the history of sport and has authored or coauthored numerous books. He will spend part of his sabbatical year (2018-19) at the Van Raalte Institute. His project is to write a history of the Hope College Pull, a larger-than-life tug-of-war between freshmen and sophomores, held annually since 1898.

**Andrew Klumpp** is a PhD candidate at Southern Methodist University, specializing in American religious history. A 2010 graduate of Northwestern College (Iowa), he earned a master of divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School in 2014. He was awarded a travel grant to enable him to spend a fortnight or so at the institute and the Joint Archives this summer to gain a clearer sense of the



resources available and to sharpen the focus of his work on his doctoral dissertation on rural midwestern religion. He is expected to return as a visiting research fellow in 2019 to conduct the actual research.

**Robert Schoone-Jongen** is a 1971 graduate of Calvin College; he earned an MA in European history from the University of Kentucky (1973) and another in American history from the University of Delaware (2003), where he earned a PhD degree in 2007. After more than a quarter of a century teaching social studies at Southwest Minnesota Christian High School, he joined the faculty of Calvin College in 2003 as associate professor of history. His extensive list of publications and presentations include many that relate to his fellowship topic, whose working title is “There Was Work in the Valley: Dutch Immigration to Northern New Jersey, 1840-1950.” His goal is to publish a book on this general topic.



### ***Van Raalte Press***

Since the publication of the 2015-16 annual report, JoHannah and I have been engaged in the large book projects described elsewhere in this report and therefore have published only one book: *Sharing Pasts: Dutch Americans through Four Centuries* (May 2017). Henk Aay served as lead editor for this collection of papers presented at the joint conference of the New Netherland Institute (NNI) and AADAS, held in Albany, New York, in September 2015. His coeditors were Janny Venema (NNI) and Dennis Voskuil (VRI). The Van Raalte Press is the official publisher for papers from the biennial conferences of AADAS.

### ***The Van Raalte Institute Library***

Thanks to the good efforts of Don Luidens, the books in the institute library are being accessioned by staff of the Van Wylen Library. The books have unique labels to identify them as property of the institute and will not circulate, but by cataloguing these books, we give scholars across the country and around the world notice of our

collection. Some of the Dutch books are not being catalogued at this time but are kept in storage where they will be readily accessible, with a record of their titles available in our office.

### ***Student research assistants***

From the very beginning of the institute, we have had student research assistants. The 2012-13 annual report was dedicated to all the students who had served during the first twenty years of the institute, and their names are listed there for posterity's sake. During the past year and a half, Annika Gidley, Fred Ottensmeyer, and Isabelle Rembert have worked as student research assistants, and much of their time has been devoted to assisting senior research fellow Henk Aay with his ongoing work on the atlas of Dutch American history and culture.

### ***Scholte conference in Pella***

Honorary research fellow George Harinck is organizing the H. P. Scholte Sesquicentennial Conference, 1868-2018, which will be held at the Pella Opera House in Pella, Iowa, August, 14-16, 2018. The conference proceedings will be published. In his call for papers, Harinck described the conference as follows:

In August 2018, it will be 150 years since the death of Dutch Seceder pastor and American immigrant leader Hendrik P. Scholte (1805-1868). His legacy is related to the Secession of 1834 in the Netherlands and is tangibly present in Pella, Iowa, where he settled in 1847, with his eight-hundred-member Dutch immigrant group. His original house is still there, and Pella is one of the most vibrant pockets of Dutch American history in the United States.

The conference will focus on the history and legacy of Scholte and his community in the Netherlands and the United States. We will seek to understand the distinctive leadership of Scholte in the context of that time period, considering features like the separation of church and state, expanding mobility, democratization, and education.

The A. C. Van Raalte Institute is a cosponsor of the conference, along with: Central College in Pella; the Pella Historical Society; the Historical Documentation Center for Dutch Protestantism, partner of the Amsterdam Centre for Religious History at the Vrije Universiteit



Amsterdam; and Theological University Kampen. Professor Harinck is on the faculty of both of the last two institutions.

I encourage all readers of this report who have an interest in the *Afscheiding* (Secession) of 1834 and/or Dutch migration to America in the nineteenth century to consider attending this conference. The institute will send a large contingent, and several members will actively participate in the conference.

### ***Upcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of the institute***

At a recent staff meeting, I noted that the institute's twenty-fifth anniversary will come during the next academic year. In late 1993, a gift to the endowment of the college for the establishment of the A. C. Van Raalte Institute was given by the Huizenga family; Elton Bruins was named director, and he began his work in January 1994 at a desk in the corner of an office for retired faculty in the link between Van Zoeren Hall and Van Wylene Library. Planning for the celebration of the silver anniversary of the VRI will be done by an ad hoc committee chaired by Nella Kennedy. Also serving on the committee are Henk Aay, Don Luidens, and Jack Nyenhuis (*ex officio*).

### **H. P. Scholte Sesquicentennial Conference, 1868-2018 Accommodations and Registration**

A block of rooms has been reserved at:

Royal Amsterdam Hotel  
705 E 1st Street  
Pella, IA 50219

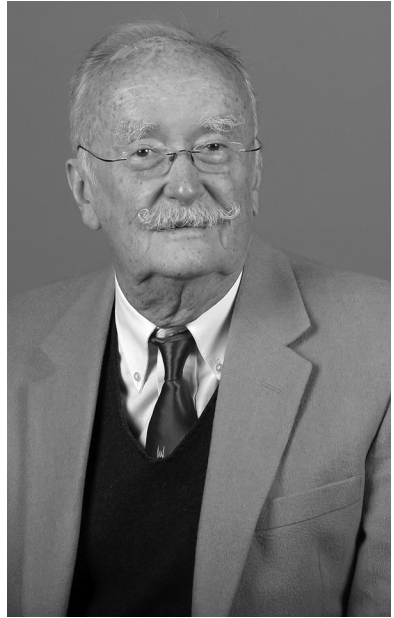
The hotel is next to the Pella Opera House. Reservations are the responsibility of conference attendees and can be made online at: <http://royalamsterdam.com> or by phone 641.620.8400.

Conference registration should be made at:  
[vvankooten@pellahistorical.com](mailto:vvankooten@pellahistorical.com).



## Earl Wm. Kennedy

The major news this year is that my “magnum opus” has been edited, indexed, and introduced and is now in the final prepublication stages. As some of you may recall, I have been engaged with this project, on and off, for well over a decade and a half. It is a commentary on the English-language translation of the Dutch minutes of the Classis of Holland from 1848 to 1876, the era of A. C. Van Raalte, the founder of Holland, Michigan. As stated in last year’s annual report, “The small-font footnote ‘annotations’ have been promoted by my editors to normal-font status and renamed ‘commentary.’ My work will thus be accessible to seniors and (other) visually impaired.” I went on to announce that the book would appear in the upper eighties of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, edited by Donald Bruggink. In the intervening time, however, the book has risen to no. 92 (because other, faster writers, have crowded onto the runway ahead of me; one thinks of the tortoise and the hare). I also noted that it would probably be published in three hard-cover volumes and that “the entire text . . . (about two thousand words in the new format)” had been edited and formatted. No one, to my knowledge, has commented on the remarkably large type required to fill three volumes with two thousand *words*! As some of our more perspicacious readers may have deduced, a typographical error somehow crept into the annual report, so that *words* was written instead of *pages*. We trust that this does not augur ill for the accuracy of the finished product.



However this may be, I have finished the necessary but time-consuming and not-very-exciting task of preparing a subject index for both the original minutes and the commentary (often longer than the minutes). I have also continued to insert into the typescript a few unobtrusive *addenda et corrigenda*, under the ever-watchful (suspicious) eye of our copy editor, JoHannah Smith. The lengthy introduction has been completed, with considerable attention being paid to the

forerunner of the present work, the 1943 edition of the *Classis of Holland* minutes from 1848 to 1858. A few photographs have been selected to put faces on some of the characters who appear prominently in the book. A chronological list of all the congregations of the classis organized up to 1876 has been prepared. Maps of the Netherlands and western Michigan (with the places of the congregations included) have been designed by Mark Cook. A very thorough person index has been completed by Russell Gasero.

The papers of the 2015 Albany, New York, joint conference of the AADAS and NNI (New Netherland Institute) have been published, including mine on the 1855 debate on slavery in the Dutch Reformed Church. Furthermore, most of us of the Van Raalte Institute attended the AADAS conference at Fulton, Illinois, in June 2017, which not only centered on agriculture and rural life but also included various other topics as well, such as my piece on the long-lived Rev. Hendrik Georg Klijn, the very temporary, cofounding pastor of the Christian Reformed Church. The papers given on that occasion are scheduled to be published later in 2018, edited by me (taking my turn as lead editor), Donald Luidens, and David Zwart. I spent considerable time reworking my Klijn paper (e.g., adding meaty footnotes), for publication, even though it had been carefully prepared for delivery at Fulton. We all enjoyed the visit to western Illinois and the small town/rural hospitality there. Most of us plan to be at the conference on the Rev. Hendrik Pieter Scholte in Pella, Iowa, this coming August. I hope to participate in a panel discussion of the man and his theology.

I continue to satisfy my interest in genealogy and family history by researching not only my own (including my informal memoirs) and my wife's families but also the ancestors in the Netherlands of several persons with ties to Hope College.



Nella and me visiting picturesque  
Monschau, Germany

As for peregrinations, my wife, Nella, and I continue to be torn between three continents, given the presence of our two sons and their families in both Europe and Japan. We finished our summer 2016 visit to the Netherlands in August of that year, returned to the Netherlands the following summer, and then again in December 2017,

interspersed with a visit from our Dutch family (son, wife, and three teenagers) at Christmas 2016.

In the meantime, in late March 2017, we made a longer trek to Tokyo to see our Japanese family (son, wife, and two young children) for ten days, just as the cherry blossoms were beginning to make their appearance. The most memorable “excursion” on our European trips was the ten days we spent in the summer of 2017 with the five members of our Dutch family in England: a couple of days in London (Westminster Abbey, British Museum, and Imperial War Museum, with a fine, exhaustive, and exhausting exhibit on World War I) and a week in Cornwall, visiting little towns and walking the cliffs, and so forth, although my cliff-climbing days are pretty well over. We also took in two places (in Wiltshire and Kent), from which a couple of my Puritan ancestors came. On the more mundane level, we relaxed in our little domicile in Maarn, near the center of the Netherlands.



Helping out in Nella's garden at home  
in Maarn, Netherlands

Finally, I continue to meet semiannually as a board member of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society and to participate as an aspiring tenor in the choir of the Third Reformed Church of Holland.

### Excerpt from Klijn paper

Hendrik Georg(e) Klijn, also known as H. G. Klijn, or Henry G. Klyn (anglicized) (1793-1883) is best known as the cofounder, with Koene van den Bosch, of the Christian Reformed Church, when in April 1857, these two Dutch-immigrant dominies of the young Classis of Holland, Michigan, bade adieu (along with other dissatisfied members) to the old Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the East. For Van den Bosch, it was a harsh farewell, but for Klijn, it was a gentle, brotherly, almost apologetic adieu, one of which he soon repented as he returned to the Reformed Church. Who was this reluctant, irenic separatist? He has received relatively little attention in the histories of the two American denominations with which he was associated—the RCA and the CRC<sup>1</sup>—probably because he deserted both of them, the one temporarily and the other permanently. He seems to fall between the cracks. (But this is to get ahead of the story.)

Nevertheless, H. G. Klijn stands out in several respects, since, although, like Piet Heyn (the Dutch sea hero in a popular folk song), his name was Klijn (pronounced *klein*, meaning small), *zijn daden bennen groot* (his deeds are big), or at least Klijn surpassed all his immigrant ministerial peers in being the oldest (born 1793), the longest lived (ninety), the one who preached the most years (about fifty-one), and survived the most wives (three). Besides, he was the initial pastor of three immigrant RPDC<sup>2</sup> congregations (Graafschap and Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Finally, Klijn was the only pioneer pastor to appear in a volume of *Nederland's Patriciaat* (a kind of *Who's Who* of Dutch families),<sup>3</sup> but he was also unique in having the worst possible start in life, one so bad that he insisted on living his later years under an assumed surname, his mother's (Klijn).

<sup>1</sup> “RCA” and “CRC” are acronyms for the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church (in North America), respectively.

<sup>2</sup> “RPDC” stands for the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, the name of the RCA before 1867.

<sup>3</sup> *Nederland's Patriciaat*, vol. 32 (1946), 203-14. This series of annual books is better known as *het Blauwe boekje* (“the blue book”); it contains the genealogies of prominent “patrician” (but not noble) families. Two of Klijn's first cousins as well as two of their sons were ministers in the *Hervormde Kerk* (the Dutch public church from which Klijn would secede); two other cousins were medical doctors.

## Nella Kennedy

The new hymnbook of 1807 did not find a ready acceptance among the orthodox of the Dutch population, but nevertheless, one hymn in it became a perennial favorite, although sung only at New Year's Eve services. The content was not cheerful, speaking of "hours, days, months, and years which fly past and are but a shadow gone."<sup>1</sup> It is my particular task, however, in this annual report to give an account of my research and writing during the hours, days, and months of this past year and a half at the Van Raalte Institute.



A highlight was of course the veritable exodus of virtually all the Van Raalte fellows to the AADAS conference in Fulton, Illinois, from June 15 to 17, 2017. In the paper I presented there, I explored the life and artistic career of John Henry Vanderpoel (1857-1911). The project was a new frontier for me, for, although Vanderpoel was feted in the Chicago art community, I found that he was not well known in the Dutch American scholarly community. John Henry had left the Netherlands with his father and siblings as a twelve year old, settling in Chicago, where he was trained as an artist. Although he was a fine painter and draftsman, his reputation rests primarily on the three decades he taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he was a beloved and respected docent. His initial 1907 publication, *The Human Figure*, was reprinted numerous times, the last in 2017.

I continue to revise some of the earlier translations of Dutch-language documents in the Van Raalte Institute files, which I am in the process of renaming and clarifying. Occasionally, I am asked to translate a Dutch letter written either by or to early immigrants. The letters vary in length and are sometimes difficult to read. If they have some significance, I transcribe them first. There have been a few occasions on which I have translated printed articles in books or magazines that

<sup>1</sup> *Uren, dagen, maanden, jaren vliegen als een schaduw heen.*

are of interest for further research. For example, an article appeared in the *Groningen Jaarboek* (annual of Groningen history) which elaborated, with various graphs, on the agrarian situation in Groningen in the nineteenth century, focusing on areas which saw large numbers of Groningers leave the province, many of whom went to Michigan.

Apart from research and translations, I have been involved with the design of front covers of Van Raalte Press publications and have gathered photos for Bill Kennedy's forthcoming commentary on the Minutes of the Classis of Holland. Increasingly limited space in the VRI library has necessitated the culling of some of our Dutch language books (selected by myself and some others). I have catalogued them all so they can be retrieved if needed.

At present I am working on an article dealing with the city of Holland's grand welcome of state-wide lodge members on the occasion of the completion of the Masonic temple in Holland in August 1921.



On top of a tor in Devonshire, England

I continue membership, as a representative of the Van Raalte Institute, in the Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council (DHCC), and I have organized a number of classes at Third Reformed Church concerning the history of the Dutch Reformed church, from the Reformation until the Secession of 1834, one of which Bill and I taught. I have written a number of vignettes on selected episodes in the history



---

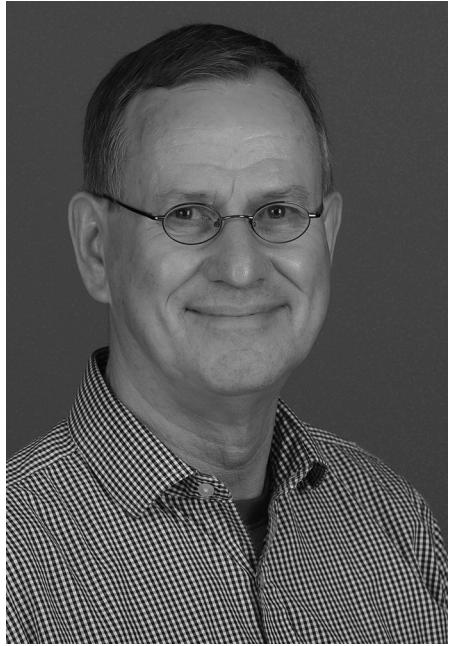
of the Third Reformed Church, in celebration of her 150th anniversary, and this summer, I will teach a course for HASP (Hope Academy of Senior Professionals) on Chagall and His Contemporaries.

**Excerpt from the John Henry Vanderpoel article:**

Vanderpoel was especially cherished for a course only he taught, on the scientific and artistic construction of the head, its features, and the human figure. His words in describing human form were reinforced by the large drawings he made while speaking. Since this course was given during the day and at night, he taught numerous students over the years. Many of these considered him to be the “best teacher living of the drawing of the human figure” and even “the greatest draftsman on earth” who “made the Art Institute great.” Georgia O’Keeffe, a student at the Art Institute for one year . . . wrote in her autobiography that Vanderpoel was “one of the few true teachers she had ever known.”

## Henk Aay

*Tempus fugit!* For me, this state is associated with a high level of enjoyment and interest. My many different projects and tasks during this last year and a half—editing, writing, providing leadership, teaching, archiving, presenting, collaborating, supervising, researching, and doing field work—have all been part of my Dutch American scholarship. This has made my total experience in Dutch American studies especially rewarding. And then there are the returns that come from the VRI and the Joint Archives community—camaraderie, support, common purpose, shared goals, and *gezelligheid* at our eleven o'clock coffee time.



As lead editor for the volume of papers presented at the joint conference of the New Netherland Institute (NNI) and AADAS, held in Albany, New York, in September 2015, I spent much time during the fall of 2016 and into 2017 editing the twelve manuscripts and working with the authors and my fellow editors, Janny Venema (NNI) and Dennis Voskuil (VRI). The book, *Sharing Pasts: Dutch Americans through Four Centuries*, was published in May of 2017. It includes my essay on the expansion of the Dutch American culture region from the mid-sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century, as measured by the spread of Dutch Reformed churches.

From 2015 to 2017, I served as president of AADAS. The principal



responsibility of the president is to take the lead in organizing the biennial conference. Together with several other members of the board's executive committee and a terrific local organizer, we planned a conference in Fulton, Illinois, for June 15-17, 2017, on the theme of Dutch Americans and agriculture. We organized a preconference field trip of Dutch settlements and Dutch Reformed churches in Fulton and elsewhere in Whiteside County. Some sixty-five people attended the conference and took in and discussed sixteen presentations. One of these presentations—on Dutch immigrants and nature—was mine.



Nella Kennedy leading the singing of Sinterklaas songs after the Dutch dinner at Fulton Presbyterian Church (*l-r*): Herm De Vries; Chris and Henk Aay; Jan Boersema, professor emeritus, Leiden University; George Harinck, professor at VU University Amsterdam and Kampen Theological University (Vrijgemaakt); Bill and Nella Kennedy; Gerrit Sheeres; and unidentified participant



Conferees at the windmill in Fulton, Illinois



Enjoying a cookout overlooking the Mississippi River from Clinton, Iowa



Church historian gives presentation at one of the RCA churches on our field trip

*L-r.* Dennis Voskuil, Phil Renkes, Elton Bruins, and Maiske Renkes on the preconference field trip





Michael Douma (l) and Elton Bruins enjoying coffee and conversation

As part of an initiative to interest Hope's engineering and environmental science programs to consider a May off-campus course in the Netherlands, my Calvin colleague, Bob Hoeksema, and I, on September 23, 2016, each gave a presentation to students in the sciences on water management in that country from an historical perspective. The talk was well attended, with plenty of comments and questions.

I have long taught an off-campus Calvin January interim course, Geography and Landscapes of the Netherlands. I received another opportunity to teach this course in January 2017, together with two other colleagues. Twenty-three students enrolled for this three-and-a-half-week field course. In three vans, with background readings, field-trip guides, and commentary en route, we explored the Netherlands' diverse landscapes. The course included a two-day homestay with Dutch families. Again, during March of 2017, I taught a four-session course, Enjoying and Understanding Dutch Landscapes, for the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP), to some fifty life-long learners. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and rather informal experience, with plenty of interest and questions about the topic.

I have long been a collector of Dutch fiction films, and Christine and I regularly have friends over for a Dutch dinner and a Dutch movie (with English subtitles for those who do not know the language). Together with Herman De Vries, who holds the Meijer Chair in Dutch Language and Culture at Calvin College, I taught a four-session Calvin CALL (Calvin Association for Lifelong Learning) course, Religion in Several Recent Dutch Movies, during the fall of 2017. It was timed to coincide with the five-hundred-year anniversary of the Reformation. We introduced each movie, viewed them together, and led post-viewing discussions.

My book manuscript on the Dutch documentary films shown in the United States has a new title: "American Eyes on the Netherlands:

Film, Public Diplomacy, and Dutch Identity, 1943-74.” The stills for the book from the movies need more attention. In spite of a crowded publication docket at the VRI, I hope the book will be published in 2018. I have also submitted my manuscript from the 2017 AADAS conference to the editors for inclusion in the volume of papers from that conference.

For the past year and a half, the atlas of Dutch American history and culture project has been focused on building databases from the yearbooks of seven Dutch Reformed denominations in North America. These churches, along with Reformed colleges, were and are centerpieces of Dutch American/Canadian culture. For the Reformed Church in America, these tasks had been completed earlier. Hope College student researchers prepared databases from the yearbooks of the Christian Reformed Church, the Protestant Reformed Church, and the Canadian Reformed Church. Still to be completed are those of the United Reformed Church, the Netherlands Reformed Congregations, and the Heritage Reformed Congregations. Calvin students have completed the production of different thematic maps at various scales for the Reformed Church in America and for the Christian Reformed Church. We hope to complete the maps, charts, and graphs for all the Dutch Reformed denominations in 2018. With that, all the materials for the section in the atlas on Dutch Americans/Canadians and religion will be in place.

My life outside of the orbit of the VRI is also quite contented. Christine and I very much enjoy our lives together. She is the animal lover and has taken up a couple of new hobbies, which have, of course, pulled me in as well: feeding, identifying, and enjoying birds from our front windows in winter and fostering kittens from a cat rescue organization (two litters so far). Our seven grandchildren are each a source of joy and wonder. I have become church historian/archivist at Eastern Avenue CRC and, together with volunteers, am slowly completing an inventory of our holdings. We continue to see growing commitments and improvements to Alger Heights, our neighborhood of more than thirty years.

## Donald A. Luidens

The past year has rushed by, and as I review my activities, I am struck by the periods of frenetic activity (and travel), broken by other episodes of quiet research, reflection, and writing (office work). Crowning those experiences are the regular intervals when we visited with our children and grandchildren.

The year of 2017 began with an extended sojourn in Florida, where I was able to bask in the warmth and avail myself of the office for research in our

temporary lodgings. As a son of the desert, I have found four decades of Michigan winters to be barely bearable. It was good to sit in a sun-bathed window and just let the warmth permeate my being.

Throughout the year—and most decidedly while in Florida—I have continued to plug along on my long-term project: editing the missionary letters of my parents, Ruth and Ed Luidens, and turning them into a continuous narrative. They served in Basrah and Amarah, Iraq, and in Manama, Bahrain, from late 1944 through the spring of 1957, a period of momentous change, as the British Empire crumbled around them and nascent nationalist movements—tinged with often sectarian, religious awakenings—were sweeping across the larger Middle East and the Indian subcontinent. My parents were “eyewitnesses” to much of this, and recorded—sometimes in coded fashion to avoid censors’ critical eyes—what they saw. This research is an ongoing project which promises to take a couple of more years. I look forward with excited anticipation to the fruit of these labors, as delightful as the work has been.

The initial “teaser,” however, of my much-larger project was published by Van Raalte Press in 2016 as *Seeds of Hope, Seeds of Hate: A Love Story (Begins)*. It is the monograph resulting from my visiting research fellowship and subsequent lecture presentation.

Among our travels this past year was an unforgettable stay in the Netherlands. My wife, Peg, and I were taken on an expedition into my



family's past by Jan Deelstra, a genealogist extraordinaire, who spent considerable time tracking down sources that recounted my ancestors' comings and goings.<sup>1</sup> He had researched my father's family (Groningers) and my mother's family (Frisians) for half-a-dozen generations (with one branch going back to the fourteenth century, fully twenty-four generations). For me, this was the first time I was introduced to the rural and small-town reaches of my ancestral homeland. My previous visits had been largely confined to the big cities of Amsterdam, Utrecht, and Leyden, but this one sparked my interest in Dutch history, and I have begun to read more about the epic swings of fortune which have swept through Dutch life.<sup>2</sup> I understand better the strands of cultural and religious proclivities deeply woven into my family's legacy.

A Van Raalte Institute project that has taken me in an unexpected direction is supervising the accessioning of the VRI's library holdings into the Van Wylen Library collection, working together with librarian Chris Nelson and student Joey Williams. With our collection catalogued with the library collection, researchers from around the globe can be made aware of the specialty volumes held by the VRI.

In November I presented a paper to the Holland Professional Club, "That Other Impeachment and Me," which reviews the events surrounding the Watergate break-in and my own encounters with governmental oversight during that period.

With other members of the Van Raalte Institute, August found me in Fulton, Illinois, for the biennial AADAS conference. A fascinating series of papers on various branches and personalities of the Dutch migrant communities in the United States were further fodder for my late-in-life tutorial on my ethnic heritage. In the wake of that conference, I have been asked to assist the senior editor of the 2017 AADAS publication, Bill Kennedy, in bringing a selection of the presentations to press. The Van Raalte Press is the publisher for the proceedings of the AADAS conferences. As an apprentice editor, I am learning the ropes in anticipation of my turn as senior editor.

<sup>1</sup> This was not a "tulips and windmills" tour of the Netherlands. It was a personalized voyage into my ancestral homeland. Deelstra took us, personally, to the homesteads where my mother's family likely owned farms and the plantations where my father's family probably worked as day laborers. He arranged for local churches to be opened and for a canal boat to take us to inaccessible farm sites. Deelstra can be reached through his website: [www.dutchrootstours.com](http://www.dutchrootstours.com).

<sup>2</sup> I heartily recommend James C. Kennedy, *A Concise History of the Netherlands* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).



I look forward to new opportunities in 2018; partnership in the Van Raalte Institute has been a blessing from the outset. I revel in it every day—at least in the warmer ones.



Stegenga ancestor's home  
in Sloten, Friesland.



Luidens family church  
in Zanderweer



*Pater familias*



Fulton, Illinois,  
windmill



VRI books

## Donald J. Bruggink

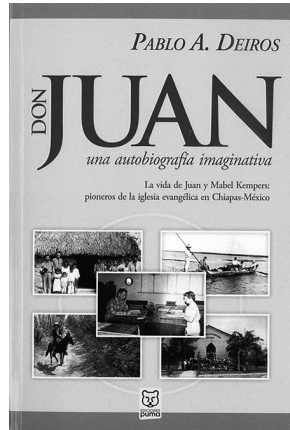
Since my last report, in my role as founding general editor, I have overseen the publication of the following books in the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America:

***Don JUAN una autobiografía imaginativa*** *La vida de Juan y Mabel Kempers: pioneros de la iglesia evangelica en Chiapas-Mexico*, by Pablo A. Deiros. Ediciones Puma, Lima, Peru. Paperback, 6x9, pp. 422, ISBN 978-612-4252-18-1.

Prior Historical Series books in translation have gone into Arabic and Mandarin. In this instance, *Don JUAN* is a translation of last year's publication of *KEMP: The Story of John R. and Mabel Kempers, Founders of the Reformed Church in America Mission in Chiapas, Mexico*. In both instances, it was Dr. Charles Van Engen who obtained the skillful services of historian, pastor, and theologian, Pablo A. Deiros, as author of both the English and Spanish editions, and made the production of both volumes possible. It is hoped that the foundational principles of successful mission work as stated and practiced by Kemp will be influential in the continued spread of the Gospel.

***Elephant Baseball: A Missionary Kid's Tale***, by Paul Heusinkveld, with artwork by Bruce Peck. Eerdmans, 6x9, paperback, pp. xiv - 282, \$28.

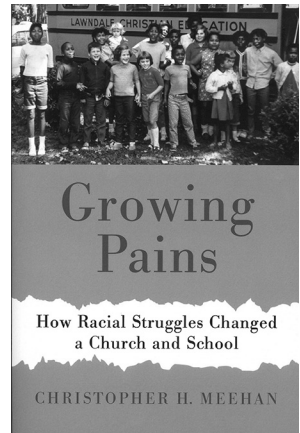
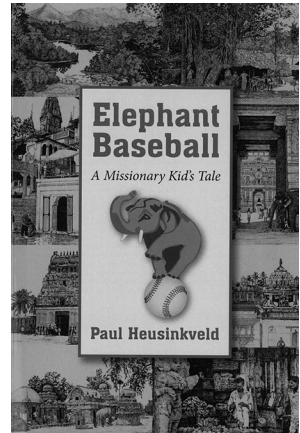
This unique volume has proven to be a bestseller. The son of RCA missionaries, Dr. Maurice and Elinor Heusinkveld, Paul recounts his traumas and triumphs as a youth of nine years being sent to boarding



school three thousand miles from his parents in Bahrain. In this story, beautifully told in the first person, one can identify with the hardships and humor of the life of a growing boy, high atop a mountain in southern India. The immediate adoption of the book by several book clubs in Holland, Michigan, give evidence of the appeal of this book, now in its second printing.

***Growing Pains: How Racial Struggles Changed a Church and School***, by Christopher H. Meehan. Eerdmans, 6x9, paperback, pp. xxiv – 206, \$25.

When Bill Eerdmans asked if I would be willing to put this account of the struggle for the integration of the Timothy Christian School in Cicero, Illinois, in the Historical Series, I agreed, albeit wondering if events of a half century ago would be of interest to anyone, other than the pastors who served the African American members of the CRC in Lawndale, hard by the borders of Cicero. I was wrong. The book has already sold almost seven hundred copies. Although the board of Timothy Christian School resisted the attempt at integration, which would have resulted in violence, destroyed buildings, and perhaps lives, the conflict forced the church to confront racism. The title obviously does not exaggerate, and the church that was changed was not a single congregation, but the entire denomination. When Timothy Christian School moved to Elmhurst, it became a model of racial integration.



***A Ministry Of Reconciliation: Essays in Honor of Gregg Mast***, edited by Allan J. Janssen. Eerdmans, 6x9, paperback, pp. xx – 252, \$30.

This Festschrift honors the retiring president of New Brunswick Theological Seminary. While his most visible accomplishment was the transfer of land to Rutgers in exchange for superb new facilities and a very substantial addition to the endowment, this volume reveals the

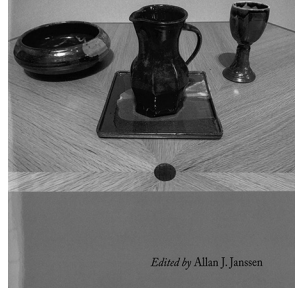
multifaceted talents of Mast, as well as of those of the essayists: Allan J. Janssen, Elton J. Bruins, Cornelis G. Kors, James Brownson, Fritz West, Carol Myers, Renee House, Carol Bechtel, Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, Setri Nyomi, Rodney S. Tshaka, Raynard Daniel Smith, John W. Coakley, Lorena Parrish, and Beth Tanner.

***For Better For Worse: Stories of the Wives of the Early Pastors of the Christian Reformed Church***, by Janet Sjaarda Sheeres. Eerdmans, 6x9, pp. x – 214, \$25.

Considering that only one of the ten ministers' wives chronicled left any written record of her life, Sheeres has done an incredible job of creating historically valid biographies through her knowledge of the historical context, both secular and religious; genealogical records of births, deaths, and occupations; education and social status; and churches served by their husbands. Perhaps one of the most trenchant descriptions of the book was given by Kristen Kobes De Mez, chair of the History Department of Calvin College: "Absent from existing histories, these Dutch immigrant women lived lives marked by hardship and loss, labor and fortitude, birth and death. By focusing on the experience of women, Sheeres adds another dimension to our understanding of the history of the Christian Reformed Church—one in which masculine ambition, human foibles, congregational squabbles, and the sacrificial labor of women take center stage and challenge us to rethink the origins of the Christian Reformed Church in America."

I would be remiss to leave the impression that the Van Raalte Institute is for me no more than publishing. It is also a place of fellowship and learning. Coffee times oft turn into remarkably learned symposia. This means coming with our knowledge of our Reformed Churches from a variety of perspectives: Henk Aay, professor of geography at Calvin College; Bob Swierenga, professor of history at Calvin and Kent State;

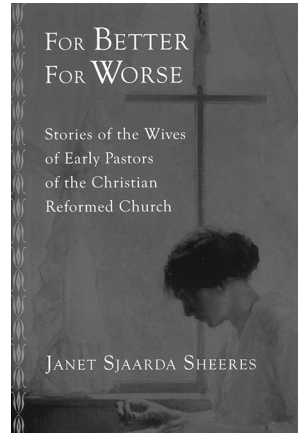
A Ministry of Reconciliation  
*Essays in Honor of Gregg Mast*



FOR BETTER  
FOR WORSE

Stories of the Wives  
of Early Pastors  
of the Christian  
Reformed Church

JANET SJAARDA SHEERES



Elton Bruins, professor of religion, dean, and acting provost (fall 1989) at Hope College; Bill Kennedy, professor of history at Northwestern College; Nella Kennedy, teacher of art history at Northwestern; Don Bruggink, professor of historical theology at Western Seminary; Don Luidens, professor of sociology at Hope College; and our leader, Jack Nyenhuis, professor of classics at Wayne State University and Hope College, where he also served as provost for seventeen years. Dennis Voskuil is currently serving as interim president of Hope College. Their collegiality and mutual support, not only academically, but also personally, is a treasure few are so fortunate to enjoy.

### ***Commendations for Elephant Baseball:***

“Paul Heusinkveld really did play elephant baseball, but his memoir evokes something far more exotic, a magical stepping back into a childhood spent at an American missionary school, Kodaikanal, cloistered at seven thousand feet in the misty mountains of South India. Heusinkveld writes with heartache for a time and place that no longer exists . . . but along the way, he explores his own identity and grapples with an unthinkable tragedy.”

Kai Bird, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *American Prometheus*, historian, and graduate of Kodaikanal School

“Missionary literature is replete with the record of service and sacrifice. Seldom mentioned are the associated experiences of the children of these dedicated Christians. Heusinkveld records with remarkable sensitivity the fears and triumphs of a child separated from parents for nine months each year. While the locale is exotic, and the time past, the reader will resonate with many of those emotions.”

Dennis Voskiul, interim president of Hope College

“Heusinkveld has an amazing ability to evoke the essence of the place, the sounds and smells and sights, as well as the thoughts and feelings of the boys. His memory of the people and events, his gift for storytelling, and the heart-rending experiences he and the boys were going through give the narrative a texture and flow that makes it difficult to put the book down.”

Thomas Staal, United States Agency for International Development

## Robert P. Swierenga

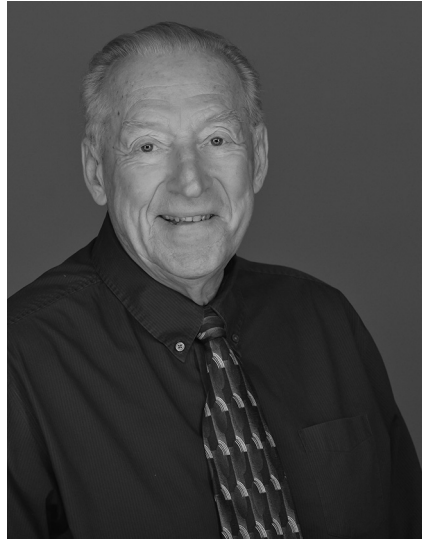
In May 2016, I completed twenty years at the Van Raalte Institute. These two decades are among the most satisfying and productive years of my life. Surrounded by congenial colleagues and a skilled copy editor, with the Joint Archives of Holland literally under my feet, and two publishing outlets—Wm. B. Eerdmans and Van Raalte Press—ready at hand, this scholar is in seventh heaven.

In addition to my lectures and writings listed under publications and presentations at the back of this book, most of my time in the past year has been devoted to writing a commissioned history of my alma mater, Timothy Christian Schools, a K-12 school system, now located on a twenty-two-acre campus in Elmhurst, Illinois. This book is a labor of love that should see the light of day later this year.

I graduated from the elementary school in 1949, when it was located in Cicero, Illinois, as did my five younger siblings. My father, John R. Swierenga, graduated from the elementary school in 1925, when it was located on Chicago's west side. And my grandfather and namesake, Robert Swierenga, served as financial secretary on the first board of trustees in the 1910s. My paternal great-grandfather was a member of the first school society, the body that owned the parent-controlled school. My maternal grandfather offered the prayer at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Cicero school building, in Cicero, in 1927.

Peter H. Huizenga, who commissioned this publication, graduated from the elementary school in 1952. He served as president of the board of trustees twice in the 1980s and has led the Timothy Foundation for nearly forty years. His parents were deeply involved, and his siblings also graduated from Timothy.

A second project that has occupied my time is being a member of the Holland Film Co. steering committee.<sup>1</sup> I lent my expertise to this



<sup>1</sup> Holland Film Company, director of photography, Louis Schaefer; Rob Byrd, producer/director; Jared Radabaugh, technical director.

effort, spearheaded by local entrepreneur and philanthropist Howard Veneklasen, to produce a one-hour television documentary of Holland's history, pitched to high school students. Retired *Holland Sentinel* editor Ben Beversluis wrote the script, narrated by former newscaster Tom Van Howe. The film, *Holland, Michigan: From Wilderness to World-Class City*, had its premier screening at the Knickerbocker Theater in Holland, November 2017.

A third involvement was to serve on the Civil War Muster Committee and to help plan and participate in the annual Civil War Muster reenactment at the Van Raalte Farm in Holland, held on September 16, 2017. On that memorable day, I served as a docent for visitors to the Van Raalte Farmhouse, telling about Holland Colony and its founder, Albertus C. Van Raalte, and the history of his farm and the farmhouse erected by his son, Ben, a Civil War veteran.



Artillery in action at Civil War Muster in Holland at Van Raalte Farm, September 16, 2017

Conferees at authentic Dutch Windmill in Fulton, Illinois, site of AADAS 2017 conference, June 16, 2017



**Excerpt: “Dutch Muck Farming in North America,”  
paper presented at AADAS 2017**

The Dutch are masters of the muck, and at the turn of the century, they knew something that Americans did not: that wetlands, once drained, are ideal for growing vegetables. This type of intensive agriculture they knew first hand, and it supported their families. Their wooden shoes were ideal for working in wet soil, and even their horses were fitted with wooden shoes to keep them from sinking into the soft, wet soil as they pulled the plows.

Dutch muck farms are found in hundreds of townships across North America, each with their specialized cropping patterns based on soil conditions, markets, and individual preferences. For example, South Holland, Illinois, specializes in onion sets; Celeryville, Ohio, in celery; Hudsonville, Michigan, in onions; and Holland Marsh, Ontario, in lettuce.

Where wetlands were relatively small in acreage, Dutch immigrants drained the land themselves, since it could be done with Dutch-style windmills and by ditching and tiling. But in regions like Northern Indiana; Hollandale, Minnesota; and Holland Marsh, dewatering required massive drainage projects, undertaken by large companies with vast amounts of capital. . . .

The Dutch were not the first to farm the muck, but they developed celery varieties that made this tasty vegetable common on American tables. They had the knowledge, work ethic, fortitude, *and proper shoes*, to ditch and tile their fields, to grow under glass, to make genetic improvements, and to develop labor-saving techniques and machines to plant, weed, and harvest, all of which enabled them to dominate the market for celery, unions, and many other vegetables. In recent times, competition from California mega-farms prompted midwestern Dutch farmers to shift to horticulture—flowers and shrubbery.



## Jacob E. Nyenhuis

My thirteen-year tenure as director of the VRI ended on August 31, 2015, but after my successor, Dennis Voskuil, was asked to serve as interim president of Hope College, effective July 1, 2017, I agreed to return as interim director of the VRI. During the interval between my two terms of service, I devoted most of my energies to my research, writing, and editing of a sesquicentennial history of Hope College, which will be published this year as *Hope*



*College at 150*. Since my last report, I have completed a lengthy chapter on the history of the academic program of the college and coauthored a chapter on diversity. I also have devoted a great deal of time to editing the various appendices and chapters written by colleagues. At long last, the end of this fascinating project is in sight.

In my role as editor-in-chief of the Van Raalte Press, I have been involved in overseeing various publishing projects. There currently are four books either ready or nearly ready for publication this year, so my responsibilities have included reviewing manuscripts and making decisions on cover design. I also gave a presentation on the history of the college to alumni at the Fifty-Year Circle in April and to the Historical Society of Michigan's State History Conference in September. I was pleased to be honored with two awards: the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from *Marquis Who's Who* in October and the West Michigan Dutch American Leadership Service Award on Dutch American Heritage Day in November. My wife, Leona, and I were also honored in October with the dedication of a sculpture garden in our name next to the Kruizenga Art Museum. There are currently seven major sculptures in the garden.

My public service includes continuing service on the Dutch American Historical Commission and on the Dutch American Heritage Day Committee and as coordinator of pulpit supply for 14th Street Church (CRC). I have likewise continued as an emeritus member of

the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. I also served as cochair of the planning committee for the Historical Society of Michigan's State History Conference, which was held at Hope College, September 22-24, 2017, with the Van Raalte Institute as a cohost.

**Excerpt: “Strengthened by our Diversity,” by Alfredo M. Gonzales and Jacob E. Nyenhuis, in *Hope College at 150* (Van Raalte Press, forthcoming)**

*It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength. We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of that tapestry are equal in value no matter their color.*

Maya Angelou<sup>1</sup>

*An early international vision*

Many people may assume that cultural diversity arrived at Hope College in the 1960s, but efforts to bring diversity into the college's midst began early in its history. In fact, in the very first decade of the college's existence, international students from a very different culture were brought onto campus and into the life of the young college. It should surprise no one that the first ten students to enroll in collegiate classes at Holland Academy in 1862 were all of Dutch immigrant stock; eight of them were the first students to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree four years later.

In 1870, however, the ethnic profile of Holland Academy changed dramatically. Early that year, President Phelps was in New York City, using offices of the Synod of the Reformed Church in America on Vesey Street, when he learned from one of the secretaries about a destitute Japanese student who had been brought to them only a few hours earlier. Dr. Phelps immediately went to the hotel where Ryozo Tsugawa was staying. Upon learning that Ryozo was about to be sent back to Japan, Phelps “made a quick trip to Washington,” and arranged with the Japanese embassy to bring him to Holland. Ryozo lived with

<sup>1</sup> Quoted by Krissah Thompson, “Young beauty pageant contestant found her dream in Angelou's words,” *The Washington Post*, reprinted in *Grand Rapids Press*, 1 June 2014, B3.

the Phelps family while learning English so he could study at the Preparatory School of Hope College. Phelps raised the funds necessary to underwrite his education, and Ryozo graduated from the Preparatory Department in 1874. His studies had been interrupted for about six months by a return to Japan due to the serious illness of his father. He came back to Hope shortly after the disastrous fire of October 1871, which had destroyed much of the town. Ryozo also brought his brother, Nanomiya, with him, but Nanomiya soon returned to Japan, where he became a very successful silk merchant. After completing preparatory school, Ryozo went back to Japan, where he had a career in mining.<sup>2</sup>

Other Japanese students also came to study at Hope College, and “at one time, there were as many as fourteen. These students lived in Zwemer House, which became known as Japanese Hall.”<sup>3</sup> The first two of these other students arrived in early 1871, and both earned their bachelor’s degrees eight years later. While traveling in January 1871, in the eastern United States, to raise funds for the support of the Ryozo Tsugawa, President Phelps had encountered these two Japanese students, Kumaje Kimura and Motoichiro Oghimi.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. J. A. [Frances Phelps] Otte, “Reminiscences of Early Japanese Students at Hope College,” *Intelligencer Leader*, 12 June 1935. See also Frances F. C. Phelps Otte ‘82, “Hope’s Japanese Students,” *Anchor* 21 no. 8 (1 May 1908), 21-26. A photograph of five of the early Japanese students at Hope was published along with this article. The names of six of the Japanese students and the stories of some of them are included in a student research paper, J. Douglas Braat, “A Guide to the Early Japanese Students at Hope College,” May 1972 (JAH/HCA). Although Tsugawa started as a merchant, he later became a minister and he celebrated the first Christian wedding in Japan (notes on a lecture by Professor F. Andy Nakajima, 2013).

<sup>3</sup> Elton J. Bruins and Karen G. Schakel, eds., *Envisioning Hope College: Letters written by Albertus C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps Jr., 1857 to 1875* (Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011), 263n3. See also Wynand Wichers, *A Century of Hope* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968), 104-5. Wichers states that Phelps brought the first Japanese students to Hope already in 1868 (104).

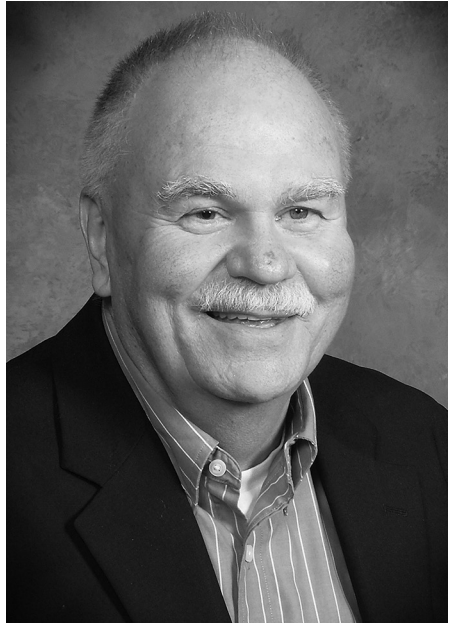
## Dennis N. Voskuil

During the spring of 2017, after John Knapp was appointed president of Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, I was approached by Karl Droppers, the chair of Hope's board of trustees, and asked whether I would consider becoming the interim president of Hope College for a one-to-two-year period. I had been serving as the director of the Van Raalte Institute at that time.

After discussing the possible appointment as interim president with my wife, Betty, consulting the fellows of the institute, and spending considerable time in prayer, I agreed to serve, if appointed. Following a meeting with the executive committee of the board who had recommended my appointment, the board of trustees approved their recommendation. When I formally assumed the presidency in July 2017, Jack Nyenhuis graciously agreed to return to the institute as interim director.

Now, following a year of service as interim president, I realize that the appointment has been challenging and time consuming but also rewarding and a great privilege. It has been especially satisfying to become reacquainted with a remarkable community of students, faculty, administrators, staff, and trustees.

My involvement with the Van Raalte Institute in the last year has been limited to a number of visits during coffee time. I miss my colleagues at the institute and look forward to my return sometime in 2019. Meanwhile, I wish to commend Jack Nyenhuis, the research fellows, and JoHannah Smith for their remarkable productivity during the past year. It is an honor to be one of their colleagues.



## Honorary Research Fellow

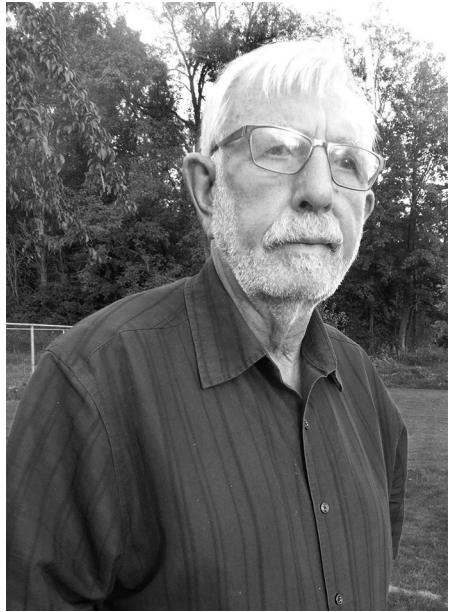
### J. P. Verhave

From May 4 to 7, 2017, I attended the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee. I presented a poster on “Paul de Kruif, Guerilla Fighter for Public Health.” From May 18 to 28, 2017, I worked at the VRI on the manuscript of *A Constant State of Emergency*, the final version of which, plus the illustrations, are now forthcoming, with expectation of publication in 2018.

I gave a lecture on Hideyo Noguchi and the pitfalls of science, on May 23, 2017, in the Schaap Science Center Lecture Hall at Hope College, entitled “A Japanese and a Dutchman in Science: Stories of a Dramatic Disaster.” This subject was also presented at a staff meeting of the Department of Internal Medicine of the Rijnstate Hospital, Arnhem, on December 12, 2017.

A publication that I did not mention in the previous annual report was based on a chapter of Paul de Kruif’s book, *Men against Death*, and dealt with the treatment of syphilis at that time. It appeared in the *Netherlands Journal of Medicine* 160, no. 20 (21 May 2016), 42-45.

On another subject of my interest, I came into contact with Professor Anne Larsen of Hope College; on her invitation, I lectured at the Holland Museum on May 18, 2017, on “The Savant, Artist, and Calvinist, Anna Maria van Schurman, in the Dutch Golden Age. Portraits and Papercuts.”



## Publications, Presentations, and Awards

### *Publications*

- “The Changing Map of the Dutch American Culture Region as Measured by the Spread of Dutch Reformed Churches, 1664-1846.” In *Sharing Pasts: Dutch Americans Through Four Centuries*, 75-104. Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press, 2017. (Aay)
- “Helping Hands: Old Dutch Aid Young Dutch.” In *Sharing Pasts: Dutch Americans Through Four Centuries*, 105-27. Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press, 2017. (Swierenga)
- “Retrospective at Eighty on a Scholar’s Life.” *Origins: Historical Magazine of the [Calvin] Archives* 34, no. 2 (Fall 2016). (Swierenga)
- Seeds of Hope, Seeds of Hate: A Love Story (Begins)*. Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press, 2016. (Luidens)
- Aay, Henk, Janny Venema, and Dennis Voskuil, eds. *Sharing Pasts: Dutch Americans Through Four Centuries* (Holland, MI: Van Raalte Press, 2017). (Aay)

### *Presentations*

- “150 Years of Hope College History.” Historical Society of Michigan’s State History Conference, 23 September 2017. (Nyenhuis)
- Afscheiding of 1834 in the Netherlands: Its Significance for Dutch Reformed Church History. Adult Sunday school class. Third Reformed Church, Holland, MI, 29 October 2017. (Swierenga)
- “Birth of a City: Holland’s 1867 Charter and Its Complications.” PowerPoint presentation for Holland Historical Society, 14 February 2017. (Swierenga)
- “Designed for Dry Feet in the Netherlands: Coastal and Riverine Protection and Modification.” Lecture presented for the Engineering Department, Hope College, 23 September 2016. (Aay)
- “Dutch Muck Farming in North America.” PowerPoint presentation to the twenty-first biennial AADAS conference, Fulton, IL, 16 June 2017. (Swierenga)
- “From Wilderness to World-Class City: An Exploration of Identity Within the City of Holland by the Holland Film Group.” Paper presented to the Third Annual Midwest History Conference, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI, 7 June 2017. (Swierenga)

- “Historic Dutch Reformed Communities of Chicago.” Bus tour for senior group of Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Holland, MI, 8 September 2016. (Swierenga)
- “Historic Holland Colony.” Bus tour for Historical Society of Michigan, 22 September 2017. (Swierenga)
- “Holland’s First Fifty Years.” PowerPoint presentation for the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals, Hope College, 13 November 2017. (Swierenga)
- “‘Old Dutch’ Help ‘Young Dutch.’” Paper presented at twentieth biennial AADAS conference, Albany, NY, 18 September 2016. (Swierenga)
- “Observations about the Natural Environment by Pioneer Dutch Settlers as Recorded in Letters.” Paper presented at the AADAS conference in Fulton, IL, 15-17 June 2017. (Aay)
- Organizing the series “History of the Dutch Reformed Church from the Reformation until the Secession of 1834” for adult education at Third Reformed Church, Holland, for the fall of 2017. I led the session on the growth of pietism in the Netherlands in the eighteenth century. (Nella Kennedy)
- Participation in a Nella Kennedy vignette on the history of the Third Reformed Church for the 150th anniversary of the congregation; Third Reformed Church, Holland, adult education, 9 September 2017. (Bill Kennedy)
- “Remembering the Lubbers Era.” Fifty-Year Circle, Hope College, 29 April 2017 (Nyenhuis)
- “Sesquicentennial History of Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church.” Paper presented to Holland Area Historical Society, Hope College, 1 December 2016. (Swierenga)
- “That Other Impeachment and Me.” Paper presented to the Holland Professional Club, November 2017. (Luidens)
- “The Seventeenth-Century Nadere Reformatie (Further Reformation) in the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands”; Third Reformed Church, Holland, adult education, 24 September 2017. (Bill Kennedy)
- “Turning Points in Dutch Reformed Church History.” Adult Sunday school lecture, Wheaton Christian Reformed Church, 14 May 2017. (Swierenga)
- “Van Raalte Farmhouse: A History.” Talk for Civil War muster at Van Raalte farmhouse, Holland, MI, 16 September 2017. (Swierenga)

“Welkom to Holland.” Paper presented to the Historical Society of Michigan Conference luncheon, Hope College, 23 September 2017. (Swierenga)

“West Michigan’s Native American History.” PowerPoint presentation for Successfully Aging. Christ Memorial Church, Holland, MI, 17 November 2016. (Swierenga)

Writing and directing seven vignettes on selected episodes in the history of Third Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan, in celebration of her 150th anniversary. (Nella Kennedy)

#### *Awards*

Alfred Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. *Marquis Who’s Who*. October 2017. (Nyenhuis)

West Michigan Dutch American Leadership Award. Dutch American Heritage Day, 14 November 2017. (Nyenhuis)



## Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series

*Dutch American Identity Politics: The Use of History by Dutch Immigrants* (2003)  
Hans Krabbendam, Roosevelt Study Center, the Netherlands

*The Rain of God: Reformed Church in America Growth and Decline in Historical Perspective* (2004)  
Lynn M. Japinga, Hope College

*Reassessing 1857: Overlooked Considerations Concerning the Birth of the Christian Reformed Church* (2006)  
James A. De Jong, Calvin Theological Seminary

*Disease and Death among the Early Settlers in Holland, Michigan* (2006)  
J. P. Verhave, Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

*Growing Up Dutch American: Cultural Identity and the Formative Years of Older Dutch Americans* (2007)  
Peter Ester, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

*The Dutch Equation in the RCA Freemasonry Controversy, 1865-1885* (2008)  
Harry Boonstra, Calvin College and Seminary

*“We live presently under a waning moon”: Nicholas Martin Steffens as Leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in Years of Transition (1878-1895)* (2008/published 2013)  
George Harinck, VU University Amsterdam

*Preachers, Pews, and Pupils: Commemorating the past in twentieth-century Dutch America* (2008)  
David Zwart, Dordt College

*“Pope of the Classis”? The Leadership of Albertus C. Van Raalte in Dutch and American Classes* (2009)  
Leon van den Broeke, VU University Amsterdam

*Dutch Americans and the Rise of Heritage Studies* (2010)  
Michael Douma, Florida State University

*Hope: The Legacy of Van Raalte* (2011)  
Rein Nauta, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

*Documentary Films of the Netherlands Shown in the United States, 1942-1973: Viewership, Representativeness, and Visual Rhetoric* (2013/publication forthcoming)

Henk Aay, Calvin College

*Hendrik P. Scholte: His Legacy in the Netherlands and in America* (2015)

Eugene Heideman, RCA staff member, retired

*Seeds of Hope, Seeds of Hate: A Love Story (Begins)* (2016)

Don Luidens, Hope College

*“We made the Wilderness to Blossom”: Nineteenth-Century Dutch Immigrants and the Natural World* (2015/publication forthcoming)

Henk Aay, Calvin College, and Jan Boersema, Leiden University, NL

*Ten Thousand Panes of Glass: The Crystal Cathedral and Religious Innovation in the United States*

(2018/publication forthcoming, Rutgers University Press)

Mark Mulder, Calvin College

*Eleanor Calverley: First Doctor to Kuwait* (2018/publication forthcoming)

Paul Heusinkveld, US Department of State 1984-2012

## **Applications Invited Visiting Research Fellows Programs for Academic Year 2019-20**

The Van Raalte Institute at Hope College invites applications from qualified scholars for a fellowship offered through the Visiting Research Fellows Program. Up to two fellowships per academic year will be awarded, each normally for up to ten weeks in duration and with a stipend of up to \$3,000.

The Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship was established by a grant in 2006 from the Netherland-America Foundation. The goal of this fellowship is to promote international linkage between the Netherlands and the United States in order to enhance mutual understanding and respect.

**Criteria for Selection:** Proposals for support must demonstrate that the proposed research fits the mission statement of the institute, that the scholar is qualified to conduct such research, and that the resources of the institute and of the Joint Archives of Holland are essential to the conduct of that research. A current curriculum vitae should be submitted with the application. The NAF Fellowship is intended solely for respected scholars from the Netherlands.

**Application Process and Deadline:** The candidate is to submit a written application no later than 15 January 2019. Further information about expectations, arrangements, and the application process may be obtained from our website at [www.hope.edu/vri](http://www.hope.edu/vri).

## Van Raalte Institute Staff (2016-17)

Henk Aay                      *Senior Research Fellow* (2013)  
BA (Hons.) Wilfrid Laurier University  
MA Clark University  
PhD Clark University

Donald J. Bruggink    *Senior Research Fellow* (2003)  
BA Central College  
BD Western Theological Seminary  
PhD University of Edinburgh  
DD (honorary) Central College

Elton J. Bruins            *Philip Phelps Jr. Research Professor* (2002-9), *Emeritus*  
(2009); *Founding Director, VRI* (1994-2002); *Ble-  
kink Professor of Religion, Emeritus* (1980-92);  
*Professor of Religion* (1966-80); *Dean for Arts and*  
*Humanities* (1984-89); *Acting Provost* (fall 1989)  
AB Hope College  
BD Western Theological Seminary  
STM Union Theological Seminary, New York  
PhD New York University

George Harinck        *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)  
BA Leiden University  
MA Leiden University  
PhD VU University Amsterdam

Earl Wm. Kennedy    *Senior Research Fellow* (2003)  
AB Occidental College  
BD Fuller Theological Seminary  
ThM Princeton Theological Seminary  
ThD Princeton Theological Seminary

James C. Kennedy    *Research Fellow* (1997-2005); *Honorary Research*  
*Fellow* (2010)  
BSFS Georgetown University  
MACS Calvin College  
PhD University of Iowa

- 
- Nella Kennedy      *Senior Research Fellow, Official Translator* (2010)  
AB Northwestern College  
MA University of Iowa  
Doctoral studies completed University of Iowa
- Hans Krabbendam      *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)  
MA Leiden University  
MA Kent State University  
PhD Leiden University
- Donald A. Luidens      *Senior Research Fellow* (2016)  
BA Hope College  
MDiv Princeton Theological Seminary  
MA Rutgers University  
PhD Rutgers University
- Jacob E. Nyenhuis      *Editor-in-Chief, Van Raalte Press* (2007); *Director Emeritus, VRI* (2002-15); *Interim Director* (2017-present); *Senior Research Fellow* (2001-2); *Provost Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Classics* (1975-2001)  
AB Calvin College  
AM Stanford University  
PhD Stanford University  
LittD (honorary) Hope College
- JoHannah Smith      *Editorial Associate and Office Manager* (2010)  
AB Hope College  
MA studies University of Houston  
Grand Valley State University
- Robert P. Swierenga      *A. C. Van Raalte Research Professor and Adjunct Professor of History* (1996)  
BA Calvin College  
MA University of Iowa  
PhD University of Iowa
- J. P. Verhave      *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)  
BS VU University Amsterdam  
MA VU University Amsterdam  
PhD University of Nijmegen

---

Dennis N. Voskuil    *Senior Research Fellow* (2014); *Director* (Sept. 2015-17); *on leave to serve as Interim President* (July 2017-present)

BS (with honors) University of Wisconsin

BD Western Theological Seminary

PhD Harvard University

## Mission Statement of the A. C. Van Raalte Institute at Hope College

The Van Raalte Institute is a department of Hope College. Hence, its mission relates directly to and supports the mission of Hope College, an undergraduate liberal arts institution offering academic programs in the context of the historic Christian faith. The institute is closely related to another department of Hope College, the Joint Archives of Holland.

*The mission of the institute is to honor the memory and the vision of the Reverend Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte, the founder of Holland, by studying his life and work. From this mission also is derived the scholarly investigation and publication of materials concerned with the immigration and the contributions of the Dutch and their descendants in the United States of America. Furthermore, the institute is dedicated to the study of the history of all segments of the community throughout its history.*

The institute derives its vision from a letter dated 27 November 1846 by A. C. Van Raalte, written shortly after his party landed in New York. As he was headed westward, he declared “I hope that a large colony can be established here in America which will focus its work on the Kingdom of God.” His vision also extended far beyond the boundaries of Holland, Michigan, to other colonies and to immigrants throughout the United States. The bold Christian vision that he had for the church, for education, and for the community continues to have an impact on the “colony” that he founded on 9 February 1847 and on the college which he helped to establish fifteen years later.

The institute carries out its educational mission not only through research and publication but also through the sponsorship of lectures and presentations by its members and invited guests. Through liaison with scholars and educational and cultural institutions in the Netherlands and other countries, the institute seeks to promote the understanding of the history of this community. From time to time, the institute will host visiting scholars from these countries to enable them to engage in research in our local archives and to provide a broader perspective to our own endeavors.

