Filming a scene for Return to the Hiding Place in the Pine Grove. The film, scheduled for release in 2011, is being co-produced by 10 West Studios, whose president is Matt Tailford ’97. For the college, the activity began in May with the return of Grand Rapids, Mich.-based Enthusiastic Productions, immediately filming the award-winning children’s television show. “I don’t think there’s a better place to learn than the product. It’s important to us that the process that you’re going through is equally important to or more important than the product. It’s important to us that the process involve learning,” Thome said. “We’re thrilled to be giving students the opportunity to learn, whether or not they want to pursue a career in television or film.”

Not unlike a college campus, a television or film set is a community of its own, requiring a variety of services and skill sets. For students, that meant a range of opportunities to get involved, from working with props, to assisting the program’s food stylist; to serving as a “kid wrangler,” helping and entertaining the preschoolers in the cast between takes. And they stayed busy doing it.

“Production is one of the most intense work experiences that you can give to somebody in college or just getting out,” said Thome, who noted that Enthusiastic Productions completed 26 shows in 27 days. “The process that you’re going through is incredibly conducive to standing in for Dutch locations. Shooting is also taking place in the Netherlands, Texas and Manistee. Beyond familiar Hope locales, the film will also include members of the Hope community, with students and recent graduates among those who answered the call for extras. Not unlike a college campus, a television or film set is a community of its own, requiring a variety of services and skill sets. For students, that meant a range of opportunities to get involved, from working with props, to assisting the program’s food stylist; to serving as a “kid wrangler,” helping and entertaining the preschoolers in the cast between takes. And they stayed busy doing it.

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