Returns

Year in Review 2012-2013

July
- The CCIB held its first-ever Calvin Young Women’s Business Institute, hosting 12 young women from across the Midwest. The Institute exposed young women to business-related careers and also introduced them to businesswomen as possible mentors and role models.

August
- Bob Eames and Gwen Vyhoff Buttrum meet with numerous businesses throughout Michigan to secure CAP project opportunities for the 2012-2013 school year. Many commit to engaging students, including Celebration Cinema, Railside Golf Club, and Fifth Third Bank, as well as a local pet food distributor and a non-profit working to end the problem of domestic abuse in the Grand Rapids community.
- Chair of the Business Department, Leonard Van Duren, presents “Finance and Christianity,” a research paper written for the Theology of Work Project during Faith @ Work at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in NYC. The paper is also accepted for publication.

September
- The CCIB funds two student workers, to assist with developing program content for the Calvin Business Partners Awards Luncheon. The students gain hands-on business experience while working with several members of the business community.

October
- Several students compete in Calvin’s third-annual Idea Pitch Competition, which allows participants to continue their engagement with creative, innovative thinking. Jake Mantel, a senior business major, wins the competition. His winning idea includes a credit card processing app for smart phones.

November (continued)
- Jake Mantel represents Calvin at the Regional Idea Pitch Competition, a competition put on by the West Michigan Colleges Univeristy (WMCCUS). Mantel places fourth in the competition, competing against seven area schools, including Grand Valley State University, Hope College, and Davenport University.

January
- Jeff Van Duzer, the author of Why Business Matters to God: And What Still Needs to be Fixed and dean of the School of Economics and Business at Seattle Pacific University, speaks during Calvin’s acclaimed January Series. The CCIB co-sponsored the presentation along with Van Wyk Risk & Financial Management.

March
- Calvin hosts its 6th Annual BizPlan Competition. The competition allows students to create business plans using an intense, hands-on approach, which prepares them to take the leap of faith required of entrepreneurs. Marissa DeBoer, a business major, enters “Drawn Back to Life,” a non-profit organization that provides art therapy to children in West Michigan, into the competition and wins. The CCIB and SoundOFF Signal sponsor the event.

April
- Marissa DeBoer enters “Drawn Back to Life” into WMCCUS’s fourth annual West Michigan Business Plan Competition, held at GVUSU. She places third out of the seven schools represented, the highest finish for a non-profit business.

May
- The CCIB hosts nearly 600 West Michigan-based business professionals at the Chick-Fil-A Loadercard, a simulcast event featuring well-known authors and business leaders from around the nation. Calvin students and staff are invited to attend the event at a significantly reduced rate, thanks to CCIB sponsorship.

Investments
- 3 small grants awarded
- 3 major grants awarded
- 1 travel grant awarded
- 2 business speakers supported
- 1 interim supported

Returns
- 57 CAP projects were completed
- 34 unique businesses were engaged through CAP projects
- 583 members of the business community attended the Chick-Fil-A Loadercard
- 1 new program developed to honor business within west Michigan

Grant Monies Awarded
- $27,954 total grant money awarded to faculty

2012-13 Business Department Statistics
- 100% of business faculty had professional experience
- 100% of graduating students had at least 3 CAP project experiences
- 89.6% of graduating business majors had a formal internship experience
- 518 business department majors represent 11% of Calvin undergrads
- 74.7% of students passed the CPA exam on their first attempt

Travel Grants ($5,157) 6%
Small Grants ($2,297) 19%
Major Grants ($20,500) 75%
Dear investors,

Before the academic year kicks into full gear, our business colleagues gather to plan and prepare for the upcoming year. During that time, we look back on the previous year and consider what we did well and what we could do better. This year, despite changes in our funding, we did really, really well.

In fact, a colleague of mine remarked how the Business Department has changed and grown improved over the past few years, since the inception of the CCIB. It made me feel good, perhaps even a little proud. But we are reminded in 1 Corinthians 4:2 that those who are given great trust must prove to be faithful. And, as Wong and Raa noted, “to be faithful involves perseverance in the work God has called a person to do, that doing work with integrity and excellence, and using work as an avenue to live out our faith.”

In the upcoming year (and years), I am challenging our team and the Center to think more deeply about the following questions:

- How can we live our faith through our work at the Center?
- How can we accomplish our work with both integrity and excellence?

And in doing so, how can we:

- Improve our business program through partnerships with you and other companies?
- Develop outstanding programs that bring students and faculty and business professionals together?
- Attract and retain exceptional students and faculty and provide them with support to flourish academically, spiritually, and socially?

I am grateful for our partnerships and for the trust you’ve placed in us at the CCIB. I hope and pray that you will find us faithful and that you will continue to find ways to engage and support us in years ahead.

Blessings to you in Christ,

Robert H. Eames, Executive Director, Calvin Center for Innovation in Business

Calvin Hosts Business Partners Awards Luncheon

On Wednesday, November 14, 2012, more than 200 businessmen and women from across West Michigan gathered at Calvin College to celebrate and honor outstanding businesses and individuals within the community that have partnered with Calvin’s business program to actively engage students through internships, project-based learning initiatives (Calvin Action Projects), in-class speakers, and more.

Four awards were presented at the luncheon event:

- Calvin Outstanding Partner Award
  - Van Wyk, owner, Van Wyk Risk and Financial Management
  - Dr. Gaylan Byker, president emeritus, Calvin College

- Robert Madonna, professor of business, Calvin College

- Calvin Outstanding Corporate Partner Award
  - Steelcase, Inc.

“Each of these honored businesses and individuals have been faithful partners over the past several years,” shared Leonard Van Otteren, chair of the Business Department. “They have given above and beyond to provide meaningful internship experiences to our students. They have engaged our students in project-based learning initiatives, acted as mentors, and provided valuable input and experience to help grow and refine our program.”

Bonnie Wurtzacher, former senior VP at the Coca-Cola Company, also spoke at the event, following the awards presentation. Her speech, titled “Bringing Meaning to Your Work” highlighted the importance of developing a workplace that includes work and encourages individuals to work and grow in ways that integrate and honor faith.

Wurtzacher noted that job and wealth creation are two God-honoring vocations that can be used to positively transform our communities.

“Bonnie has long been a proponent of integrating faith and her work,” explained Bob Eames, director of the Calvin Center for Innovation in Business. “Our business program values the same: that business is a noble, valuable calling and one that is done best illuminated by faith. Our students learn to embrace and integrate their faith into their work, wiring the grey areas of business and graduating well-prepared for lives of service in business.”

Our continued thanks to all those who continue to engage and cultivate Calvin students by creative, unique, and innovative means. You are an integral part of our mission and calling, and we are very grateful.

The Year Ahead

The 2013-2014 academic year will bring even more opportunities to serve and to grow:

Calvin Women’s Business Network

This fall, the CCIB will launch the Calvin Women’s Business Network, a student-led organization that will pair students studying business with women business leaders throughout the greater Grand Rapids community. The network will encourage students to learn from, and with, their mentors, as they seek to explore their calling in business.

Leaderscast 2014

Calvin will host Leaderscast 2014, a one-day simulcast event designed to change the way the world thinks about leadership, on May 9, 2014. The event, which drew more than 500 attendees in 2013, will feature presentations by several well-known leadership experts.

Calvin Center for Innovation in Business

Investor Impact Report 2013

“I love my job because it doesn’t just engage my intellect, it engages my heart and my soul. I am able to engage in the restorative work that God cares about … restoring people and restoring a sense of rightness and a sense of dignity and of business as it ought to be, as a channel for the common good.”

— Katie Nienow

How You Can Help

Sponsor CAP: Numerous organizations and businesses have graciously supported us by sponsoring CAP projects, which provide students with hands on learning opportunities. Consider engaging students by involving them in a real-life business challenge or opportunity.

Hire an Intern or Recent Graduate: Employers appreciate our students’ and graduates’ analytical skills, communication skills, work ethic, and values. Consider hiring one of our students as an intern or employee.

Invest in the CCIB: The CCIB is only able to achieve its outlined goals through the financial support of individuals, families, corporations, and foundations. Consider supporting the Center in this capacity, to ensure its financial stability and good work for years to come.

Pray for Calvin College: The most powerful means of support you can give to the center and to the College is prayer. Our God hears and answers each of our prayers for continued grace, clarity, and wisdom for our staff, faculty, and students.