There’s nothing new about department newsletters these days, except perhaps that they come by email and on the web these days rather than in the mail. The stories told in this one likely will seem familiar, whether you graduated from Calvin’s history department five years ago or (like me) more than 25 years ago. They’ll give you an idea about what faculty and staff in the History Department today are up to, as well as highlight what some of our current students and recent graduates are doing.

The new thing for History Department is that along with this newsletter we’re reaching out to current, future, and past students in a variety of new ways. We now have a blog and a Twitter account, in addition to our Facebook page and our “traditional” website. This is all about communication and keeping up ties. We plan to send you an issue of this newsletter a couple of times a year. And we think that you'll enjoy hearing from us regularly if you sign up to these other media.

So what’s up with the newsletter? We hope that giving you an update about things going on in the History Department today will inspire you to let us know what you’re up to. We regularly tell prospective Calvin College students, especially potential history majors, about all the interesting and diverse things that our alumni are doing. If you look at our website, you’ll see that we brag about you. (Check out the links here!) We want to hear from you. Click the link provided below and bring us up to date about yourself, your work, your family, and the like. Please e-mail us at history@calvin.edu.
Faculty News

Robert Schoone-Jongen: Will be doing a presentation at the Christian Educators conference in October. The topic is “Lessons Student Teachers Teach Me.” Also he is slated to have an article published in the fall edition of the Journal of South Texas: “From King Ranch Range to Riviera: Theodore F. Koch and the Development of South Texas”.

On his recent travels he visited: Cahokia Mounds in Illinois and Serpent Mound and Hopewell Mounds in Central Ohio. And, of course, he was able to visit some Presidential sites as well: William Henry Harrison’s home in Vincennes, Indiana; Ulysses Grant’s birthplace and boyhood home in Point Pleasant and Georgetown, Ohio; James A. Garfield’s home in Mentor, Ohio; and Rutherford B. Hayes’ home in Fremont, Ohio.

Frans van Liere: Is preparing for publication the manuscript of “Victorine Texts in Translation, vol. 6: Interpretation of Scripture: Practice”. He is being assisted by history major Rachel Weaver, who is working on the bibliography. He also travelled to Göttingen (Germany) to give a paper at the conference “Theologie und Bildung im Mittelalter”, organized by the “Internationale Gesellschaft für Theologie in Mittelalter”, on Hugh of Saint Victor’s views on theological education. After the conference he went on a hike in the South-German Wutachschlucht with his son Thomas.

Daniel Miller: “My wife and I just got back from spending two weeks driving around the highlands of Scotland. ... Scotland’s countryside is not only spectacularly beautiful, it is relatively unspoiled by the unsightly billboards that fill our roadsides. Their towns are also wonderfully picturesque, full of old stone houses and shops right along the narrow, winding streets. ... We also encountered lots of historic sites. In the isles of Orkney we saw a burial tomb and standing stone rings that are more than 4000 years old. Not far away is the even older coastal village of Skara Brae (c 3200 BC). The cozy looking stone houses are older than the pyramids of Egypt (and unlike Egypt where slaves made up a good part of the population, Skara Brae was a simple egalitarian society meaning it was probably a better place to live for everyone but the Pharaoh). We also saw Pictish runes—lovely tessellations carved in stone by people the Romans considered barbarians (meaning they successfully resisted being conquered).” (Unfortunately, their camera was lost during their trip to Scotland so he has no pictures to share!) Read the full description of Dan’s travels on our blog.

Scholarship News

Did you know that there is a History Department Alumni Scholarship? This scholarship was established in 2010 to aid History majors, both incoming and current students, with their tuition. Currently, the scholarship is only a name; it is not yet available to students as there is no money in the account! Would you be willing to help our students? If you are able to donate to this scholarship please contact:

Calvin College
Named Scholarship Program
3201 Burton St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Or online at:
http://www.calvin.edu/support/

Just specify that you are donating to The History Alumni Scholarship and the funds will be deposited into the correct account.

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Faculty News Continued

**Doug Howard:** Spent the summer working with Géza Dávid, a professor from the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest. Their joint project was to produce a critical edition and English translation of an Ottoman Turkish work from the seventeenth century called *Kavanin-i Al-i Osman* (*Laws of the Ottoman Dynasty*). The treatise describes the administration of the provincial cavalry of the Ottoman Empire. Although well-known and often used by historians, it has never been translated into English, and no one has tried to understand the divergences among the more than fifty manuscript copies of the work that have been found. Professor Dávid received a Fulbright fellowship for the project; Calvin College was his host institution.

**Kristin Kobes Du Mez:** Traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, to give a paper at the Yale-Edinburgh Group’s conference on Gender and Missions in World Christianity. The rest of the summer she’s spent putting the finishing touches on her book *A New Gospel for Women: Katharine Bushnell and the Challenge of Christian Feminism* (Oxford, April 2015), and launching a new project on Hillary Clinton’s religious formation, with the help of McGregor researcher Alicia Smit.

**William Katerberg:** “I worked on several projects this summer. One is a book on radical politics, on the Left and Right, in the US since 1945. This summer I did research for a chapter on pro-segregationists in the 50s and 60s. I also co-wrote a proposal, with Carol Higham, for a series of documents readers on the US West for high school courses (e.g., AP History classes) and university courses. Finally, I wrote and gave a paper at the International Big History Society meeting at Dominican University in California; the paper is part of a larger project on the tradition of universal history writing. Not much time for fun this summer. When I wasn’t working, I spent a lot of time doing photography. “

For some of his images, check out his photography blog: [http://noordinarylight.wordpress.com/](http://noordinarylight.wordpress.com/)

Where Will History Take You?

In the department we have a bulletin board set up with a world map. On this map we pinpoint different places that our historians have been or are currently living. If you are traveling, for business or pleasure, consider sending a postcard with a brief description of where you were and why. Or, send a postcard (or photo) of where you live and what you are doing! We would love to keep adding to this board.

We also love pictures of our alumni wearing department t-shirts around the world. Send us a photo of you wearing the History Dept. shirt with a short description of where you were and why. (If you don’t have a shirt, contact us to find out how to get one!!)
Hot off the presses

Joel Carpenter:
1. *Christian Higher Education: A Global Reconnaissance*. Eerdmans, 2014. This book offers a fresh report and interpretation of what is happening at the intersection of two great contemporary movements: the rapid growth of higher education worldwide and the rise of world Christianity. Very little research has examined the scope and direction of Christian higher education throughout the world, so this volume fills a real gap.

2. *Christianity in Chinese Public Life: Religion, Society and the Rule of Law*, co-edited with Kevin den Dulk. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. Today a quarter of all Chinese claim to be religious, yet their government remains deeply concerned about religion. The contributors of this book examine the prospects for social and political change: does an increase of religious activity in China amount to a nudging forward of democracy?

Young Kim:
*Anchoratus*, St. Epiphanius of Cyprus. The Catholic University of America Press, 2014. Epiphanius of Cyprus was lead bishop of the island from AD 367 until his death in 403. He is well known among modern scholars for his monumental heresiology, the *Panarion*, as well as for his involvement in several ecclesiastical and theological controversies. Before he began to write his magnum opus, however, he had already completed the *Anchoratus*.... The *Anchoratus* addressed numerous theological issues, particularly in response to the continuous disputes about the divinity of the Son, the developing arguments over the divinity of the Holy Spirit, and the early quarrels over the Incarnation of Christ. In addition, he included his thoughts on proper biblical exegesis, the problematic theology of Origen, and the relationship of the Christian faith with Hellenistic culture. Because there has been no complete English translation of the *Anchoratus* to date, this volume adds significantly to the resources available for patristic studies.

Frans van Liere
*An Introduction to the Medieval Bible*. Cambridge University Press, 2014. The Middle Ages spanned the period between two watersheds in the history of the biblical text: Jerome's Latin translation c. AD 405 and Gutenberg's first printed version in 1455. In an account that is sensitive to the religiously diverse world of the Middle Ages, Frans van Liere offers here an accessible introduction to the study of the Bible in this period. Discussion of the material evidence - the Bible as book - complements an in-depth examination of concepts such as lay literacy and book culture. This Introduction includes a thorough treatment of the principles of medieval hermeneutics, and a discussion of the formation of the Latin Bible text and its canon. It will be a useful starting point for all those engaged in medieval and biblical studies.

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FEATURED ALUMNI: Madi Goodman, ‘14:

“Being a History major has given me an appreciation for cultures and how they grow and change over time. With this foundation, I have travelled the world during my Calvin career (including China, Hungary, Serbia, etc.), but it all began with an archaeological class to Umm el-Jimal, Jordan with Professor Bert de Vries in 2012. This past June, I returned to Jordan with Professor de Vries, Calvin students, and Calvin alumni to aid in excavations in the ruins of House XVII-XVIII. There were 17 of us in the group, including two local Jordanians who oversaw the excavations. As Professor de Vries said, it was reverse colonialization as the Jordanians were teaching us how to carry out excavations. Five students and one alum focused on excavating trenches around the house where they found various potsherds, glass fragments, petrified animal dung, animal bones, plaster floors, and even a tabun (an ancient oven shaped like a cone that is covered to allow the food to cook for a couple of hours). The overall object of the excavations was to find information of how this structure was used to see if it was a house, a hotel, a political center...etc. Aside from the digging, three alumni worked on creating a video to promote restoring the ancient water reservoirs for use as this area of Jordan is quite arid. Then I, along with another alum, worked on creating a 3D model of House XVII-XVIII. This model will eventually be used online at ummeljimal.org to provide a virtual walkthrough of this structure.

On weekdays we worked very diligently and on the weekends we took excursions around Jordan, to interesting places such as Petra, Jerash, and the Dead Sea. For the last weekend, we stayed in Bethlehem and had our own last supper at a local community center. Most everyone flew home the next day, but I stayed behind and am now living in Amman, Jordan, with a host family to study Arabic at a local institute. With my knowledge of Chinese and Asian cultures, learning Arabic and more about Near Eastern culture, the world will become much more open to me.”

Eric Bratt, ’09: “I have been working as a Consular Adjudicator in the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing since April 2014. Prior to this, I spent one-and-a-half years in Taiwan completing my MA in political science at National Taiwan University. Beijing is one of the world's largest non-immigrant visa (NIV) posts and we process more than half-a-million NIVs every year. The work is rewarding and I'm enjoying living in Beijing with my wife, Tiffany Wang ('10), who is looking forward to working in the section. I'm very grateful to have participated in Calvin's Beijing semester with Professor Bays in the fall 2006--a lot has changed since then, but I still find China to be just as fascinating and transfixing.”
Alumni, continued.

Will Van Arragon, ’92: “I am currently Associate Professor of History at The King’s University in Edmonton, Alberta, where I teach courses in American and Canadian history, among other things. Prior to arriving at King’s in 2007 I was lucky enough to teach for two great years in the Calvin History Department. I am working on several research projects, including one on the environmental history of Edmonton’s North Saskatchewan River Valley, which contains North America’s largest system of urban parks. I’m married to Rebecca Warren (also BA 1992); implausibly, we are also the parents of two high school-aged kids (Emma and Jon), which makes me feel old.”

Rachel Meyer, ’06: currently lives in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She volunteers with Agape International Ministries (AIM), a Christian anti-trafficking NGO. She is a school administrator with her two friends, Kimberly and Becki, who collectively are the Grace and Peace Gals. The school is located in a village where there is a high incidence of child sex trafficking and is part of the prevention and restoration work of AIM. The new school year will start in October with 350 students.

Jenna Hunt, ’07: “I graduated with honors in history in 2007 and moved to England to do an MA in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. After working as an intern for a summer at a museum in Cambridge, I spent two years working at the Natural History Museum in London doing collections data entry (where I spent most of my time typing information about parasitic worms and other invertebrates!). Living in England (and meeting my now husband, Laurence, there) was quite an adventure, and I enjoyed the many opportunities to travel.

In late 2010, we moved back to the US. I did two semesters in a School Counseling grad program but decided it wasn’t for me; if I’m going back to grad school, it will be in history, my real love. In 2012 I started work as one of the department assistants right here in the history department, and it felt like coming home. I’m honored to be part of this department and working with some of my favorite people in the whole wide world! This past spring I started a second position with Seminars at Calvin, which involves running academic conferences throughout the year and hosting visiting scholars and their families during the summer. It’s both stressful and exhilarating, and I love that I am able to put to use the skills in project management, critical thinking, and communication that I developed during my time as a history student.

I’ve made a home here in west Michigan with my husband and our 3 cats, 2 ferrets, and numerous fish. In my free time I still love to travel. I’m also still writing the novel I started some years ago, but find I spend more time these days reading with a cat on my lap.”

Are you an alum of the department and would like to update us on where you are and what you are doing? Send us an e-mail at history@calvin.edu in order to be featured in our next newsletter!
**Emeriti**

**Ron Wells:** Will see a book of his back in print in August. His book with the journalist Alistair Cooke, *America Observed*, was published in the late 1980s by Knopf and Penguin. He has written a new introduction for the 25th anniversary edition, which will appear as both an ebook and a print book from a new, innovative publisher, [openroadmedia](http://openroadmedia.com).

Dr. Wells is also at work planning for an annual conference he directs, "The Maryville College Symposium on Faith and the Liberal Arts." It will be held on October 24-25. The theme this year will be, "The Future of the Church-Related College."

**Dan Bays:** Dan and Jan Bays came to Calvin in 1999, Dan as the Spoelhof chair, to help build an Asian Studies Program at Calvin. Jan also found her niche, teaching piano, accompanying, and vocal coaching in the Music Department. Dan retired in 2012, leaving a thriving Asian Studies Program. They moved to Kansas City, MO in January 2013, where they live close to their children and grandchild. Although they have a home directly on a golf course, they sorely miss Calvin, Madison Square Church, and Grand Rapids. But they will be returning regularly. Dan is co-directing a National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar at Calvin in summer 2015, so they will be here for several weeks next summer.

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**History Online**

Did you know that you can keep up with the department in multiple ways? As always, our website, [www.calvin.edu/academic/history](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/history) is kept up-to-date with lecture information, scholarships, and all relevant updates from the department.

Don’t miss any information from the department by following and liking our other online pages!

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