

## May 2024 Newsletter



Matt Lundberg  
Director

I had COVID recently. It wasn't a severe case, but it did keep me out of commission for about a week. Unfortunately that week was when the annual Kuyper Conference was happening here at Calvin University. I am told that it was a wonderful conference—excellent plenaries, thought-provoking breakout sessions, and ample opportunities for participants in the conference to get to know one another. At the center of the conference was the awarding of the 2024 Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life to Mr. Sid Jansma Jr (see below for more information). I am grateful to Jordan Ballor and Margie Styf for their outstanding work planning and organizing the conference.

We are also happy to announce that the 2025 Kuyper Conference will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in March 2025, with the International Reformed Evangelical Seminary graciously hosting the event. Stay tuned for more information as plans take shape!

Before then, the de Vries Institute is co-sponsoring a conference here in Grand Rapids, Michigan, this coming October 10-12. The conference theme asks us to ponder what a fully integrated education looks like in view of the many ways that we are tempted to content ourselves with fractured and partial approaches to people, knowledge and faith. We have an impressive slate of plenary speakers already lined up. And this will be an international conference—we already know of people coming from Uganda, Indonesia, Hungary, Australia, the Netherlands, as well as people from across the United States. For more information, see below. Don't miss what is sure to be a fantastic opportunity to learn from wonderful people from around the world who are committed to higher education that is shaped by Christian faith.

## Faith & Learning Collaboration Grants

A new de Vries Institute program provides grants of up to \$7,000 to Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary faculty to encourage enriching conversation about Christian faith in relation to teaching, curriculum, group culture, and research. So far, we have awarded Faith & Learning Collaboration Grants for projects such as:

- A Nursing department retreat to align faith integration goals in their BSN and MSN curricula;
- An Education department lecture and workshop series on education, faith, and democracy;
- A Religion department retreat focused on effective teaching of Bible and theology;
- A partnership with the Career Center to conduct faculty/staff workshops on sharing our own messy vocational stories with students;
- The Speech Pathology and Audiology department's multi-month process of working on transformative faith integration in their online curriculum.

These projects provide funding to promote deeper conversations about faith and learning integration at Calvin and build community between faculty members. See the [full description of this opportunity](#).

## Integrated Education in a Reductionist Age - Call for Papers

The call for papers is open for the October 10-12 conference on faith and education, sponsored by the [de Vries Institute](#), the [Kuyvers Institute](#), and the [International Network of Christian Higher Education](#).

Contemporary culture contains powerful forces that push toward a reduction of learning to some single facet. Whether it is a matter of reducing identity to political alignment or learning outcomes to countable skills, the drive to simplify seems to push us toward taking some part for the whole. Yet it is easier to talk about a holistic approach to learning and scholarship than it is to design approaches to faith-informed educational practices that can gain traction.

The conference invites examination of how Christian approaches to teaching and learning can expand our understanding of how learners grow, and shape practices that resist reductionism and undergird a more holistic pursuit of student and teacher flourishing. How do we honor the coherence of Christian faith and life in teaching, learning, scholarship, and service in a reductionist age? Contributions are invited from any discipline, and from both empirical and conceptual perspectives.

Paper proposals of 1-2 pages, including 100-word abstracts, should be sent via e-mail to [kuyvers@calvin.edu](mailto:kuyvers@calvin.edu) by June 14, 2024. **For those submitting proposals from outside the US**, please submit earlier to allow time for visa applications, if required. [Learn more](#).

Not interested in submitting a proposal, but interested in attending the conference? [Register here!](#)

## Kuyper Prize 2024



Sid Jansma, Jr.

At the Kuyper Conference in April, on the theme of "**Stewardship in the Kingdom: Business, Academy, and Society**," Sid Jansma Jr. was awarded the 2024 Kuyper Prize.

Established in 1998 by Ruth and Rimmer de Vries, this prize is awarded to a scholar or community leader whose outstanding contribution to their chosen sphere reflects the ideas and values characteristic of Kuyper's Neo-Calvinist vision of religious engagement in matters of social, political, and cultural significance in one or more of the 'spheres' of society.

Jansma Jr. is an influential business leader, serving for more than 40 years as leader and CEO of Wolverine Gas and Oil Corporation. Jansma Jr. is also heavily engaged with the local church and various philanthropic activities locally and internationally.

One of the spaces Jansma Jr. has invested his time in most heavily is higher education, both locally and nationally, and even behind bars. He spent time serving on the boards of Calvin Theological Seminary and the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. He was instrumental in the vision for the [School of Business at Calvin University](#) and played a key role in the creation of the [Calvin Prison Initiative \(CPI\)](#)—a leading exemplar for prison education nationwide.

"Sid is a person of faith who seeks to better the spheres of business, education, politics, and the Church," said Jul Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

In his acceptance speech, Jansma Jr. shared, "We have felt called to support Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary because both institutions are in the business of training women and men to go into the world, and do exactly what Kuyper called for us to do in the Stone Lectures—to realize that every square inch belongs to Jesus. What a big bang for the buck, to support places that impact so many lives that are going out and living for the next 50 years or more, putting their training to good use in whatever job they decide to do, and playing their part in transforming society for God."

The 2025 Kuyper Conference will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia. Keep an eye on this newsletter for details as they develop.

## David I. Smith Wins Calvin's Presidential Teaching Award



David I. Smith, dVI coordinator and director of the Kuyers Institute, won Calvin University's highest teaching honor in a faculty awards ceremony in April.


The de Vries Institute benefits from David's deep commitment to excellence and faith integration in education. He has been instrumental in the creation of Reflecting Faith courses and developing relationships with institutions worldwide who are seeking more holistic ways to express faith in higher education. [Learn more](#) about Dr. Smith and Calvin's Presidential Teaching Award.

## Grow as a Christian Scholar

Learn how to link your faith to your teaching and scholarship—wherever you are in the world.

 COURSES

 WHAT'S NEW

 REGISTER NOW

## Reflecting Faith Courses

*"The Humanity in God's Image course was helpful to me in expanding my understanding of what the Image of God meant from both scripture and the Christian tradition. It provided time for me to slow down and steep myself in scripture and readings which allowed me to create important connections between this theological concept and my work as a public health nurse, teacher, and researcher. Discussions with others in the course as well as application exercises pushed me past deeper understanding into action and excitement around how the doctrine of the Image of God changes the way I treat the communities I work with, the students I teach, and the way I conduct my research."*

--Dr. Keagan Johnson, assistant professor of nursing, Calvin University



Dr. Keagan Johnson

Interested in deepening the integration of faith into your work in higher education? Register for an online Reflecting Faith course to explore how faith can infuse and inform many aspects of teaching and scholarship. Options include self-paced courses available on demand and international cohort-based experiences offered every other month. We can also arrange for a cohort from *your* university to take a course together.

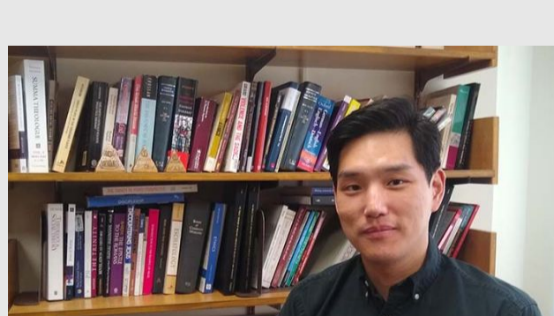
This month, scholars from around the world are joining together in an online course to explore the topic **Humanity in God's Image**. Groups of faculty from Australia, South Africa, India, and elsewhere in the world, will dive deep into what scripture says about humanity as image-bearers and how that idea might inform their work in higher education.

In July, we offer another opportunity to join a group of scholars to think deeply about the topic **Faith, Community, and Learning**. Faculty participating in this course will develop an outline of how an emphasis on Christianity could modify their teaching and scholarship. The course is offered online asynchronously. It will take around 8 hours to complete over the month of July and early August.



To register, create an account at [learn.calvin.edu](http://learn.calvin.edu) then navigate to the Calvin Offerings list to find the course. The cost is \$100 but discounts are available in the registration process for those with financial need. Go to [reflecting.faith](http://reflecting.faith) to explore courses and register.

## De Vries Postdoc Fellow's New Book



Dr. Jae Yang

Jae Yang, a member of the inaugural cohort of de Vries Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows, recently published his first book: *Christianity Outside the Church: Pannenberg's Public Theology in Dialogue with Max Stackhouse*. Based on his doctoral dissertation, this book proposes a path toward Christian theological engagement with the spheres of family, culture, religion, economics, and politics outside the church.

Congratulations to Dr. Yang on this accomplishment!

## Other Calvin University Centers & Institutes: The Van Lunen Center

Calvin has a variety of institutes and centers to promote specific institutional projects and goals, several of which, like the de Vries Institute, seek to enrich Christian education, from K-12 through higher education.

The Van Lunen Center was founded in 2007 to provide world-class executive management training for heads of K-12 schools based on the historic Christian faith. The Van Lunen Center manages two signature programs:

- The Van Lunen Fellows program is designed for the heads of Christian schools who have been in their positions for at least one year and report directly to the governing board of their schools. Each year a cohort of 20-24 Fellows begins the year-long executive management training program. Its purpose is to examine and strengthen leadership from within in order to lead their staff and community well. All sessions are led by faculty who are experienced heads of Christian schools with proven executive management skills and represent the diversity of schools within the Christian school movement.
- The Van Lunen Ascending Leaders Program is designed to equip aspiring leaders with executive management education in preparation for new leadership roles. The program is designed and directed by Christian school leaders who have management experience, expertise, and a longstanding association with the Center's Fellows program. Curriculum topics include mission and vision, principles of leadership, budgeting and finance management, board governance, personnel assessment and management, and personal and spiritual leadership.

Visit [calvin.edu/centers-institutes/van-lunen-center](http://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/van-lunen-center) for more information.

## Stay Informed by Following Us on LinkedIn

Want to be the first to find out about conference dates? Want to gain helpful tips taken from Reflecting Faith courses?

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to get updates and information between newsletters!

We look forward to staying in touch with you regularly!



## Contact us

Have a question? Contact [dvi@calvin.edu](mailto:dvi@calvin.edu).