

Appendix E

CALVIN
College



Embrace Our Place
Festival

*ACADEMIC ENGAGED
SCHOLARSHIP*

CALVIN COLLEGE EMBRACE OUR PLACE ACADEMIC ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP SHOWCASE

Calvin's Office of Community Engagement within the Provost's Office recently held a week-long festival to commemorate Calvin's connection to and partnership with our community, city, and region. The festival was April 16-23, 2007. Following are highlights of the many ways our academic mission of teaching, learning, research, and scholarship is fulfilled within our place.



COMMUNITY BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH



Semester of Project: Spring 2002, 2003, 2004, and ongoing

Primary Investigators: Gail Zandee (Nursing Department Community Partnership Coordinator) and Gail Heffner (Director of Community Engagement)

Participants: Beth Gordon, Deb Bossenbroek, and Renae Boss Potts (Nursing Department Neighborhood Coordinators), Calvin nursing students, Lissa Schwander and Calvin social work students, Ferris pharmacy students, MSU medical students, and residents of Creston / Belknap, Baxter / Madison, and Burton Heights neighborhoods

Description: Community Based Participatory Research is an approach to research that actively involves the community being studied. In this project, focus groups were conducted by the nursing department to allow residents of three urban neighborhoods (Creston/Belknap, Baxter/Madison, and Burton Heights) to define neighborhood strengths and areas for growth. A door-to-door health survey was then completed based on the results of the focus group. Results were presented back to residents and neighborhood providers for interpretation. Finally, residents identified solutions to their health concerns by identifying how they thought Calvin nursing could partner with them to promote health in their areas of concern.

This research model helps drive community experiences for nursing students while promoting social change. Community Based Participatory Research is an ongoing model that will be replicated in these urban Grand Rapids neighborhoods.



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW) PROGRAM

Semester of Project: Spring 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007

Primary Investigators: Gail Zandee (Nursing Department Community Partnership Coordinator), Megan Friesen (nursing student) and Deb Bossenbroek (Neighborhood Coordinator)

Participants: Beth Gordon, Renae Boss Potts, and Dianne Slager (Nursing Department Neighborhood Coordinators), Calvin nursing students, and residents of Creston/Belknap, Baxter/Madison, and Burton Heights neighborhoods

Description: Neighborhood residents themselves identified the concept of using CHW's. The ideal CHW is someone who lives in the neighborhood, attends training on basic health care and community resources, and acts as a bridge between the neighborhood and the health care system. In this program, nursing students worked along side the CHW to promote and protect the health of neighborhood residents and improve access to health care. CHW's also worked collaboratively with the researcher to design evaluation measures and assist nursing students in gathering data and interpreting research results. Changes in access to care and health care knowledge are measured using a pre-/post-test survey.

A pilot of the program was conducted with Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) grant funding from HUD in 2004. The program was expanded to all three neighborhoods with funding from Spectrum Health's Healthier Communities Department in 2005 and continues today.



ASSISTING NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILIES TO GET THE LEAD OUT (GTLO)

Semester of the Project: Spring 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2007

Participants: Debra Bossenbroek, Beth Gordon and Dianne Slager (Nursing Faculty, Neighborhood Coordinators) and Calvin nursing students

Description: Elevated blood lead levels are a significant risk for many children in the three neighborhoods with which Calvin student nurses partner for various educational interactions. The primary cause of this lead poisoning is known to be lead-based paint and lead dust in homes built before 1978.

Senior Calvin student nurses visit families whose children have a known or potential for elevated blood lead level. In a series of three visits, two students get to know a family and share information about proper cleaning for lead dust and specific foods that will aid in the decreased absorption of lead into the child's blood. An elevated blood lead level can lead to a variety of developmental problems. Some students also go to a home at the invitation of the family and engage in a "super clean." This involves the group of students using paper towels, gloves, a special vacuum (HEPA) and spray bottles to assist the family in decreasing the lead dust in the home.



GET THE LEAD OUT (GTLO) COLLABORATIVE VENTURE

Semester of project: Spring 2006, Spring 2007

Principal Investigators: Beth Gordon (Calvin Nursing faculty) and Jean Martin (GVSU Nursing faculty)

Co-Investigators: Debra Bossenbroek and Dianne Slager from Calvin, Michelle Datema

and Marilyn VanderWerf (GVSU)

Description: Calvin College and Grand Valley State University student nurses and faculty collaborated last academic year on a research venture to learn what local paint retailers know about Lead Safe Work Practices (LSWP). A sample of approximately 40 paint retailers serving the SWAN, Baxter/Madison, Creston/Belknap and Burton Heights neighborhoods were asked to participate in a survey. These neighborhoods were selected because they are at the highest risk for childhood lead poisoning. Additionally they are neighborhoods in which the nursing students already participate in a variety of educational partnerships with residents. The retailers were selected because of their geographical proximity to, and likelihood to serve, the residents who reside in the above named neighborhoods.

The purpose of the survey was to collect baseline data that will allow the Get the Lead Out! project to work in partnership with retailers to better serve customers, and to help their customers work safely around lead-based paint. Thirty-two retailers participated in the survey. Using survey results, students developed educational programs for paint retailers themselves and their customers. Additional resources for testing homes and children for lead levels were included.

This year, in ongoing collaboration, students developed more detailed educational materials and will return to the retailers to participate in staff training or more informal conversation with retailers about LSWP.



COMMUNITY BASED ADULT DIABETIC EDUCATION

Semester of the Project: Spring 2006, Spring 2007

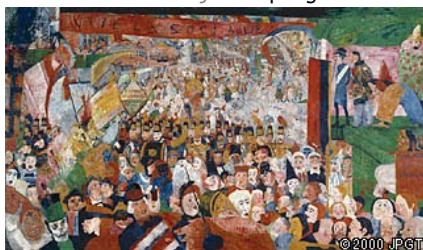
Principal Investigator/other Participants: Dianne Slager, Nursing Students N379, Burton Heights Practicum

Description: Analysis of impact of individualized education for new or chronically non-compliant adult diabetics with HbA1C greater than 9, and potential co-morbidities of obesity, hyperlipidemia, and/or hypertension. Selected adults received instruction in their indigenous language individualized to specific morbidities based on client problem identification. Adults also received information regarding access issues for care, medication and medical supplies.



SEEKING THE WELFARE OF THE CITY: URBAN ALTRUISM AND LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR(HOOD)S

Semester of the Project: Spring 2006



Principal Investigator/other Participants: James K.A. Smith, Philosophy/students in PHIL 390

Description: This course was an interdisciplinary investigation of the "material conditions" of loving our neighbors—and our neighborhoods—in urban contexts. Drawing on work in philosophy, theology, and the social sciences, students explored how the built environment contributes to, or detracts from, the other regarding concern

("altruism") and civic community. Students then undertook group projects and generated concrete proposals for improving "urban altruism" in the city of Grand Rapids. Their proposals were then displayed at City Hall, where they were seen by the mayor and city council members. The story also appeared on the local Fox News affiliate. More information is available <http://www.calvin.edu/~jks4/city/seminar.html>.



TRANSFORMATION THROUGH WORSHIP: A STUDY OF GRAND RAPIDS CONGREGATIONS

Semester of the Project: 2005-2007

Principal Investigators: Janel Curry, Kathi Groenendyk, Gail Heffner, Denise Isom, Mark Mulder

Description: The Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, with funding from the Lilly Foundation and significant support from the Calvin Center for Social Research (CSR), has commissioned a team of Calvin researchers to better understand the transformative nature of worship. As part of the initiative, five faculty from Calvin College are partnering with ten local congregations in Grand Rapids to do a series of studies. These studies cover worship's relationship to everything from conceptions of community to issues of race. The goal of these studies is to help congregations become more reflective about how worship can empower congregants to be transformative agents in society.



Educating for Vocation

God and Nature: Depictions of the Asian Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in Worship

Dr. Janel Curry, Professor of Geography, is carrying out a project in ten churches in Grand Rapids that represent a variety of denominations in both urban and suburban locations. The three worship services following both the Asian tsunami (January 2, 9, and 16, 2005) and Hurricane Katrina (September 4, 11, and 18, 2005) from each church are being analyzed to see how the relationship among God, nature, and humans are depicted.

The Framing of Community and Faith: A Rhetorical Analysis of Sermons

Dr. Kathi Groenendyk, Associate Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, is studying twelve Sunday morning worship services, spanning one year, from ten churches in urban and suburban Grand Rapids. In the first of a series of studies, she is examining the themes, language, and rhetorical appeals to individuals and communities made within the sermons.

Understanding Racialization in Congregations

Dr. Gail Heffner, Director of Community Engagement and Dr. Denise Isom, Assistant Professor of Education, a multi-racial research team, are exploring the role of religious institutions in bridging the racial divide. Questions include: How do the participants in these congregations understand the notion of "race" and what meaning does it have in their lives and in the lives of their congregation? What do their worship practices reveal about the racial ideology /identity of the congregation? The focus of this research is to understand the lived-experiences of race for people of color and for whites in these congregations.

The Meaning Making World of African American Children

Dr. Isom is also doing a study of African American children, to give voice to how they see the world and themselves. Using several months of observational analysis, as well as

interviews and focus groups, Dr. Isom is looking to capture how Black children define maleness, femaleness, "Blackness", Christianity, and the way in which those ideas/identities intersect and interact. The study involves her serving as a volunteer in one of the church's youth programs as well as attending the church on Sundays. That engagement allows her to get to know the children and observe the way they live out what they think. The final stages of the study will include interviews and focus groups with the children.

Community and the Congregation

Dr. Mark Mulder, Assistant Professor of Sociology, is examining how worship practices might affect or influence a congregation's conception of the immediate community. The research focuses around questions of the connection between worship practices and connections to the local neighborhood. He is examining historical documents, observing churches in action, and interviewing members of the various congregations.

Worship Transcript Database

A major component of this study is the recruitment, management and transcription of monthly audio recordings of worship services. CSR's Gwen Einfeld, '08, has managed monthly contacts with church audio technicians, tracked received recordings for 12 months, and led a student team in transcribing services, including sermons and other materials. These transcripts will be stored in a searchable database the research team can use to test hypotheses and find relevant material.

CSR has also provided statistical and methodological consulting for several Calvin faculty members on a variety of projects in the community. They have also been engaged in design and data collection for several national and denominational projects with strong local connections and implications.



PROJECT CONNECT

Semester of the Project: Summer and Fall, annually

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Department of Computer Science, David Laverell, Keith Vander Linden, CS/IS Students

Description: Project Connect provides basic computers and information literacy to people in the Grand Rapids area by providing low-cost technology training classes and computers for all participants. The training classes cover the basic administration and use of personal computers. The computers are used but good machines with basic hardware and software. More information on Project Connect is available at <http://cs.calvin.edu/activities/connect/>.



LANGUAGE ARTS PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Semester of the Project: 2006—2008

Primary Investigators: KaiLonnie Dunsmore and Jim Rooks (Education)

Participants: Randy Buursma (CAS), Nancy Hull and Gary Schmidt (English), Rob Bobeldyk (Instructional Technology), Calvin Elementary Education Students in EDUC 322, Buchanan Elementary, Calvin Christian School (Wyoming) Coit Elementary, The Potter's House



Description: This Language Arts Partnership Grant is a Title II Professional Development Grant that involves four elementary schools and faculty from four Calvin departments. The ongoing professional development is shaped and directed by the school improvement teams from the four schools, KaiLonnie Dunsmore and Jim Rooks, and involves a coaching literacy network, summer workshops, in-school coaching, tutoring from Calvin students, and creative drama supporting content area literacy with Randy Buursma and the CAS 214 students. The students from the four schools also participate in the Young Authors Festival on campus in April.



WORSHIP RENEWAL GRANT PROGRAM

Semester of the Project: Since 2000

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Prof. John Witvliet (director) and Betty Grit (program manager)

Description: The Worship Renewal Grant Program provides support for worship renewal in congregations and worshipping communities throughout North America. All of the examples provided for this showcase come from the greater Grand Rapids area.

The program facilitates projects that are creatively conceived and carefully crafted for the renewal of worship. This program serves as a financial and educational resource for projects designed to nourish transformative worship leadership and worship participation.

The Worship Renewal Grants Program also serves as a source of learning about worship renewal. As worship leaders develop and implement year-long projects, their learning and reflection can provide instruction for other churches who are seeking renewal.



COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND RADON TESTING IN THREE GRAND RAPIDS NEIGHBORHOODS: BAXTER, CRESTON, AND BURTON HEIGHTS

Semester of the Project: Spring 2007

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Rick Chamiec-Case, class members in Social Work 372

Description: Three teams of students facilitated radon testing of selected homes in three targeted neighborhoods as part of a larger community coalition initiative designed to address issues of environmental justice in the Grand Rapids area. Key tasks for this project included: a) conducting community assessments of assigned neighborhoods; b) identifying and recruiting homeowners in the targeted neighborhoods to participate in the radon testing process; c) conducting research on radon as an environmental hazard and providing a training to community health workers in these three neighborhoods on the dangers of radon exposure; d) visiting recruited homeowners, delivering radon tests, picking up radon kits between 3-7 days later, and conducting a follow-up visit in any cases in which dangerous radon levels were detected.



CHERRY STREET HEALTH SERVICES PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS PROGRAM (PAP)

Semester of the Project: Fall 2004-present

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Fred De Jong (Social Work)/Neil Carlson (CSR)/Mark Van Holstyn (Computer Science '07)

Description: In spring 2007, Dr. Fred De Jong is completing a two-year program evaluation of the Healthy Community Access Project (HCAP), a



Cherry Street Health Services

large federal grant to Grand Rapids health care providers administered through Cherry Street Health Services (www.cherryhealth.com). As a part of the overall evaluation, Cherry Street requested CSR's help with renovating their database systems for administering the Pharmaceutical Access Program (PAP). Offered through Cherry Street's twelve clinics, the Program streamlines applications for free or discounted medications from pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors; several thousand low-income patients who do not qualify for Medicaid have been served. The old database was poorly standardized for program evaluation and ease of use, did not support efficient remote access, and crashed and corrupted data frequently.

Calvin student Mark Van Holstyn applied his programming skills along with design supervision and database expertise from CSR Assistant Director Neil Carlson. We created a state-of-the-art, secure Internet database application, complete with instant patient searches ("LiveSearch") and remote password-protected access from any Internet-connected computer. Cherry Street is now able to offer reliable PAP administrative service from any clinic, including those of other providers. In Spring 2007, four local health service providers have subscribed to the program and are beginning to use it at additional locations around the Grand Rapids metropolitan area.



PLANT!

Semester of the Project: Spring 2006

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Adam Wolpa, Calvin Sculpture class, Ben Schaafsma, et al.

Description: The PLANT! project was maintained by 6 small groups of students from Calvin College. PLANT! consisted of 6 neighborhood-centric sites that had been converted from unused space to urban gardens that act as a vehicle for the participants to better understand "place" in terms of geography, topography, history, community, botany, the environment, psychogeography, emotions, situations, and any other way imaginable. By maintaining a garden, whether the participants choose to grow flowers or simply their ideas, the consistency of being in an outdoor setting apart from daily routine forced the participants to engage this new place in some way.

These garden sites also acted as the participants' studios, as they were all part of a sculpture class at Calvin College, where they spent a minimum of 6 hours a week maintaining and engaging their sites, as well as the neighborhoods and community in which they reside. <http://www.q-rad.org/projects/plant/>



ART EDUCATION AND THE COMMUNITY

Semester of the Project: On-going

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Jo-Ann Van Reeuyk, Professor of Art Education/Art Education students at all levels

Description: Students participate in teaching opportunities via the art museum, the Grandville Art Academy and other venues. Currently being developed is a relationship with the work-release program for the Kent County prison and others. Students participate in before- and after-school programs, art outreach programs for area public school third graders, Saturday morning art programs and non-violent prison inmates.



URBAN BIKE TOUR

Semester of the Project: Spring 2006—On-going

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Don DeGraaf & Matt DeHoog, students in PE/REC 201 class, Service Learning Center, students and professors involved with StreetFest

Description: John Muir, the great American naturalist, once stated: "when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." And so it is with many of the social and community development issues in the United States. Issues such as loss of the public realm, declining tax bases in urban centers, health-related risks, environmental issues, and loss of a sense of community can all be seen as connected to each other in current development patterns. Future developments in our urban areas need to recognize these connections and work to encompass a wide range of economic, social, environmental and spiritual components, which demand an interdisciplinary approach to urban design.



The Urban Bike Tour is a thirty-mile bike trip throughout a mid-size Midwestern metropolitan area. The tour includes over 20 stops of historical or contemporary significance to the fields of health, physical education, and recreation (e.g. parks, old ball parks, bike/jogging paths, etc). The tour provides a means to help participants experience first-hand how urban issues are inter-connected, see a variety of urban challenges and consider how the disciplines of health, physical education, and recreation are a part of addressing these challenges. Objectives of the project include:

- Providing an experiential educational experience that encourages participants to examine a variety of urban issues (including sprawl).
- Encouraging participants to think about the impact of their lifestyle decisions.
- Connecting the issues of lifelong fitness and open space to urban living.
- Examining the bikeability of several neighborhoods in a mid-size metropolitan area.

The urban bike tour has been well received by participants, offering them an excellent overview of the city. As one participant noted in an email, "I just wanted to thank you for taking our class on the bike tour today. While I can't speak for everyone, personally I really enjoyed everything, especially all the downtown revitalization that we saw..." Since its inception in 2005, the bike tour has been offered almost 20 times, serving close to 300 participants in a variety of different groups. The tour offers a very versatile format that can be adapted to address a variety of issues with a wide range of

groups. For example, the bike tour can be used with college and high school classes, nonprofits, and even city officials to examine the past, present or future of a community.



TEAM RESEARCHERS IN A GLOBE-AL ENVIRONMENT (TRIAGE)

Semester of Project: Spring 2007—Fall 2008, including summers

Primary Investigators: Rachel Reed, Crystal Bruxvoort, Jim Jadrach, Ken Bergwerff

Description: TRIAGE utilizes team-based, authentic student research and principles from the GLOBE curriculum to explore environmental sustainability with approximately 160 students in grades 6 – 8 on the campus of Calvin College, in its Ecosystem Preserve and LEED-certified Bunker Interpretive Center (OST site). Through partnerships with the Meijer Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Park, the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Annis Water Resources Institute, the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, and the Van Andel Institute, students will participate in field and laboratory data collection and analyses, visit professional STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) workplaces, explore applications of scientific research in myriad STEM careers, and ultimately design and conduct their own research for presentation to the community at the conclusion of each of two, year-long cohorts. The student research component incorporates “satellite” team members such as parents, in-service middle school science teachers, pre-service science teachers and faculty researchers from Calvin College, and area universities to strengthen students’ commitment to science, to reinforce support networks for students’ involvement in science, and to promote understanding of the nature of science (NOS).



NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY OF VERGENNES AND ADA TOWNSHIPS

Semester of Project: Summer 2004, Summer 2006

Primary Investigators: Randy Van Dragt and David Warners

Participants: Calvin students Ryan Bebej, Jeannette Timmer, Ben VanderWeide and Nate Haan, together with township officials in Vergennes and Ada Townships

Description: Both Vergennes Township (2004) and Ada Township (2006) secured funding to assist Calvin in supporting this work, the objective of which was to identify high quality natural areas existing within each township. We used aerial photos and a variety of maps to initially identify potential high quality sites, then contacted landowners to obtain permission to visit their property. During the first visit, we made preliminary observations and determined whether a second, more in-depth visit was warranted. On the second visit we performed a complete habitat and plant species inventory, from which we generated a quantitative value (Floristic Quality Index) which indicates a site’s relative natural quality. After each visit landowners received detailed reports of what we found, together with management suggestions for how to improve the natural character of their land. Our collective

findings were integrated into a technical report that was given to each township. Included in these reports are sections on township history, geology, land use, topography, aerial photos of each section, detailed descriptions of inventoried sites, as well as an integrative section that encourages the formulation of a green infrastructure network within each township. In addition, investigators and participants gave two open townhall presentations in each township, the first (in the spring) to explain this work and the second (in the fall) to report our results.



KENT COUNTY CONGREGATIONS STUDY

Semester of the Project: Summer 2006 - present

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Doug and Maria DeVos Foundation: Edwin I. Hernandez, Lori Verspoor; Grand Valley State University Community Research Institute: Korrie Ottenwess, Jeremy Pyne, various field staff; Calvin College Center for Social Research: Neil Carlson, Mark Van Holstyn '07, Nate Medeiros-Ward, Kathy Bardolph, Gwen Einfeld '08, Gerald Egede '08, Jeremy Chacko '08



Description: This project is sponsored by the Doug and Maria DeVos Foundation, in cooperation with the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE), the Heart of West Michigan United Way and other community organizations. The purpose is to understand the role of congregations in social service provision, particularly as it relates to educational services for children that will help advance the community's capacity for evidence-based philanthropy.

In the summer of 2006, the Community Research Institute at Grand Valley State University led an effort to take a census of places of worship in Kent County. A substantial portion of metropolitan Grand Rapids, as well as key small towns and some suburban areas, was systematically visited. Religious congregations were identified, photographed and asked a few basic questions if staff were available. CSR participated by providing project design consulting, database resources, and data cleaning services. Over 60 congregations were identified that were not included in available master lists from city government, denominational and organizational lists, church marketing data, and other sources. Many of these were small churches with largely ethnic or racial minority populations. Such churches are important to linking local capacity to philanthropic resources.

The second phase of the project is in planning and will be announced in spring 2007. The project includes a major face-to-face and telephone survey of Kent County clergy, building on prior clergy survey research designs. The primary goal is to document and facilitate analysis of the provision of social and educational services by local congregations.



NURSING DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Semester of the Project: Spring 2005—present

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Nursing: Prof. Gail Zandee; CSR: Joel Phillips '05, Dale Yi '07

Description: The Nursing Department's ongoing work with the neighborhoods of Burton Heights, Baxter and Creston include annual evaluation surveys by residents, neighborhood community health workers, and nursing students. CSR research assistants have handled two years of database design, data entry and analysis support for Prof. Zandee, with a third year forthcoming.



COMENIUS SCHOLARS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Semester of the Project: Each academic term, beginning Spring 2007 (but not including summers)

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Beth Cok, Laurie Lemmen, Kurt Schaefer

Description: This internship program links liberal arts students to nonprofit apprenticeships in the community. Each internship involves a minimum of ten hours of work per week in a professional setting with accountable goals and an approved employer/supervisor. The academic seminar accompanying the internships involves readings, seminars/workshops, expert speakers in nonprofit leadership positions, reflective journals, and a major paper/project/presentation. During Spring 2007, 23 students are working with 18 different organizations in a wide variety of positions.



PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD (PN)

Semester of the Project: Started in 1998 and is on-going

Principal Investigator/other Participants: PN currently involves three houses. The Peniel house (425 Eastern Ave) is mentored by Mike and Megan Ribbens and houses five Calvin students: Randy DeKleine, Joel Voogt, Jocelyn Jones, Krista Sneller, and Jackie Postma. The Koinonia House (1230 Lake Dr.) is mentored by Jeffery and Lisa Schra and currently houses five students: Matt DeHoag, Jon Williamson, Rob Zanstra, Jeannine Keller, and Stephanie DeKok. The Harambee House (656 Bates Ave) is mentored by Andrew and Ruth Ippel and houses six students: Joseph Na, Scott Page, Elly Baumgras, Kinsco Borgyos, Caroline VanderLoo, and Ann Reilly.



Description: The mission of Project Neighborhood is to explore what it means to live together as a community in Christ away from Calvin's campus and as intentional members of our surrounding communities. Our aim is to conduct ourselves in a Christ-like manner both within our house and within the neighborhood. We eat together, conduct business meetings, have devotions, take outings, and spend time doing community service. Usually this service takes the form of working with the kids of our communities and also building reciprocal relationships with our neighbors. Photos of the houses can be found on the Calvin PN web page:

www.calvin.edu/admin/sdo/projectneighborhood/houses.htm



NUTRITION STUDENTS' PICTORIAL RECIPE PROJECT FOR LOW LITERACY CLIENTS USING COMMON FOOD PANTRY COMMODITIES

Semester of the Project: Spring 2007—Fall 2008

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Julie Walton, HPERDS, Calvin; Shawn Fleet and Linda Quist, Senior Meals on Wheels (SMOW); Sue VerWys, Spectrum Health HeartReach Program



Description: The purpose of this project is to use HE 254 Nutrition students (approximately 100 per year) to create healthy recipes for use by the SMOW Senior Food and Chronically-Ill Food Pantries' clientele. The pantries rely on foods donated in county-wide drives, gleaned from Gleaners, and purchased by SMOW. Many of the food pantry clients are low-literacy, and almost all of the users are often unfamiliar with available foods and/or how to prepare them. Consequently, HE 254 students, as part of their course requirement, will:

- visit the pantries early in a semester to survey and photograph foods and be introduced to the workings of the pantry and its clientele;
- work in groups of 4 to create a recipe using mostly pantry commodities;
- digitally photograph and reproduce recipe(s) for distribution;
- re-visit the pantries on a scheduled food distribution day with copies of the recipe(s) and taste-testing samples of each recipe;
- also prepare a nutritional analysis of each recipe to ensure its healthfulness;
- be encouraged to return to the pantry frequently as volunteers.



HOMEWORK HOUSE

Semester of the Project: Fall 2006, Spring 2007 (actually, Calvin College has been working with Homework House for more than fifteen years!)

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Gerard Fondse (Jennifer Williams Fall 2006, Angie Kortenhoven Spring 2007)

Description: Homework House, a ministry of United Church Outreach Ministry, provides tutors for an after-school program in Hall Elementary School, Burton Elementary School, and Southwest Campus. Students in English 101 are required to tutor for this program one hour a week for ten weeks, reflect on their experiences in their journal, write a longer reflection essay, and then select an urban or cross-cultural issue which they have confronted as the target for research which will eventually lead to a more well-developed research essay.



GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI SCHOOL POETRY WORKSHOP

Semester of the Project: Fall 2006

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Debra Rienstra (English), students in English 355 Creative Writing: Poetry, Heidi Zophy (Reading Teacher at GR Montessori), teachers and students in 5th grade classes at GR Montessori

Description: Students in English 355 visited the school on two separate occasions and worked with small groups of 5th graders. We read poems together and helped the fifth graders compose original poems. We then compiled their work into a booklet and made copies for all the 5th graders and their families. In January, the students gave a poetry reading at their school, reading for the 4th and 6th graders as well as parents.



SPECIAL EDUCATION BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION ACTION RESEARCH PROJECTS

Semester of the Project: Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007

Principal Investigator: Debra Paxton-Buursma (Learning Disabilities Program - Graduate Education) and Melodee Walker (Masters Program Graduate Student)

Participants: Students in a Resource Room of a Charter School; the teacher, Melodee Walker, and other Calvin Graduate Students in the Learning Disabilities Program (Education 548, 598)

Description of the Project: Graduate students in the Learning Disabilities Practicum implement action research to study their instructional decisions as they design and implement more authentic literacy instruction through book club discussions with students identified with Learning Disabilities (LD). In this particular study, Melodee developed her research further through two graduate courses (EDUC 594 & 598) investigating how she engaged learners with LD in discussion. This qualitative case study examines a resource room teacher's engagement of seven students with LD in book club discussions. The study responds to instructional issues connected to theory, access to general education curricula, and development of higher order thinking and communicative competence. The research project draws on sociocultural principles and features development of responsive literacy instruction through discourse as pedagogy, Book Club, and action research. Discourse analysis of data from tapings, field notes, journaling, and artifacts examine instructional decisions, tool use, and quality of engagement. Five findings suggest that multiple and simple, but powerful tools supported increasingly sophisticated student engagement in book discussion.

The research has been shared locally at an International Christian School Conference and was presented at two National juried research conferences, Penn Ethnography and American Educators Research Association Conference. The development of this research was supported in part by a grant from the Calvin Alumni Association.



THE HEKMAN LIBRARY - SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS AS A FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY

Semester of the Project: Ongoing

Principal Investigator/other Participants: Diane VanderPol, Documents Librarian, and the librarians at the Hekman Library

Description: In 1967 our Congressional Representative, Gerald R. Ford, invited the library at Calvin College to serve his district as a depository library for federal government

documents. The college accepted his invitation, and has been serving the community in this capacity for the past 40 years. By law, the government documents collection serves the entire congressional district - not just the college campus. Frequently used documents are public laws and regulations, congressional hearings and publications, Supreme Court cases, census information, and tax information. As government information in the 21st century is becoming more available on the Internet, the Hekman Library maintains government information web pages to direct all users to official government sources.



CALVIN
College

*Office of the Provost/Community Engagement
Spoelhof Center
3201 Burton St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4388
(616)526-6871*