On May 2, biology professor Hessel “Bud” Bouma III passed away after battling metastatic melanoma. Colleagues and students remember Bud as a scientist, pioneer, and teacher. In describing how he filled those roles, they use words like caring, Christ-like, generous, inspiring, and encouraging.

Leading the class, “History of Science and Religion” in London, he invested in honors students in ways that left a lasting impact. In January 2015, he took 15 students to London, which he described as, “a treasure trove of history of religion, science, and medicine.” He was fascinated by the tension that Christian scientists wrestled with throughout the Scientific Revolution, when their scientific discoveries contradicted some teachings of the church. Bouma hoped students would apply what they learned in the class to larger conversations of bio-medical science and ethics and learn to make informed, Christ-centered moral choices.

Jean-Luc Garside (San Jose, CA), an honors student who traveled with the most recent group to London, described his experience with Bud. “He was informative, caring, and helpful in many ways. He was a tour guide, comforter, teacher. Bud was like a father to the group. He challenged me to think deeply, which made me a better person.”

The same caring kindness that motivated Bud to tend bird feeders in the rain garden and to set up the Christmas tree in the DeVries Hall atrium extended into his teaching.

“From the very first day of my Perspectives in Medicine course, I knew that Bud was incredibly devoted to his students,” said recent honors biology graduate Taylor Hegg (Hart, MI). “He set high expectations and helped students meet those goals. Bud was one of the most inspirational professors I had at Calvin. I was heart-broken to hear of his passing, but I’m comforted by the fact that his spirit will live on in the numerous lives he touched.”

Honors graduate Carrie Ott (Meadville, PA) shared that the impact he made on his students went beyond the classroom.

“Bud was one of the best teachers I had. He pushed me to look beyond what I saw, to deeper meanings that have affected how I view others and the world. His friendship was limitless, his joy was contagious, and his sense of beauty in simplicity was impeccable. The impact he had on me will forever influence my life, and I believe the fact that so many others would say the same is a testament to the sort of person he was.”

The Honors Program celebrates the investment Bud Bouma made in the lives of students during his 36 years of teaching at Calvin College. They will take the lessons he taught into the world, so that his legacy will live and grow.
Children impacted by a cancer diagnosis often experience anxiety, misconceptions, and uncertainty. Educating children about cancer in an age-appropriate manner can help them develop useful coping skills. Dr. Amy Wilstermann, Honors Associate Director, is a trained biochemist who has spent years researching interactions between anticancer agents and their enzyme targets. She is spearheading a research project called CancerEd, to create curriculum to teach elementary-aged children about cancer. She has involved undergraduate students as curriculum developers. The team relies heavily on input from staff at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. The experts there bring experience and passion for caring for and educating children.

When researching existing K-12 cancer curricula, the CancerEd team discovered a gap in resources that focus on the science of cancer. While teaching about the emotional aspects of a cancer diagnosis is important, it is equally important to help kids understand the science of the disease. Further, they found that most resources are worksheet-based, leaving little opportunity for active learning and engagement. The library of curriculum the CancerEd team is creating will provide teachers and hospital staff tools to engage students in activities pertaining to topics of concern the children have expressed.

According to research assistant Lauren Anderson (Palatine, IL), this experience has been invaluable. “I never dreamed I would be involved in such a world-changing project, meet with staff at Helen DeVos, let alone be invited to the Cancer Symposium at the VanAndel Research Institute. Professor Wilstermann’s interim honors cancer course sparked my interest in the summer research position. I appreciated the fact that each student in my honors class possessed innate curiosity and that the class size was kept small. In this honors course I was treated as an adult with intelligence, power, and creativity to contribute to the world. This allowed me to continue exploring in confidence clothed in Christ. Although I am one person, my voice is valuable.”
**STUDENT NEWS**

**HONORS STUDENT PETER BOERSMA NAMED 2015 BECKMAN SCHOLAR**

The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation annually invites a select group of colleges with a proven commitment to undergraduate research to apply for the Beckman Scholars Program.

In 2014 Calvin College was invited to apply and received a $104,000 award to fund research projects for students in biology, biochemistry, or chemistry. Calvin was one of just 12 institutions nationwide chosen as recipients, joining schools such as Macalester, Bowdoin, Michigan State, and Pomona College. The Beckman Program allows students to sustain an in-depth focus on a single research project.

Every student named a Beckman Scholar pursues independent research under the direction of a faculty mentor. They make a research proposal, work independently on the research project, and publish the results in a peer-reviewed journal.

For 2015-16 the Calvin Selection Committee named Peter Boersma (Milwaukee, WI) as the first Beckman Scholar. Boersma, a senior biology major, is conducting research alongside biology professor John Ubels. They are investigating how UV exposure activates K+ channels in corneal epithelial cells. Recently, Boersma presented his findings at a Harvard Medical School conference on cornea research.

“This is a notable statement that what’s going on at Calvin in chemistry, biochemistry, and biology is comparable to the best that’s going on anywhere,” said chemistry professor Carolyn Anderson. “The Goldwater Awards and Beckman Scholars Program are two of the top awards given to undergraduates in the sciences. That Calvin and its students have been repeatedly recognized by both organizations suggests that the good work we are doing here isn’t going unnoticed by the broader community.”

Anderson, who worked with Beckman Scholars from the college's first award, says a major benefit of the program is that the students are funded well, so they can focus on research. “Having that focus enables them to take their research to another level, to a point where they can be peer collaborators, where they can direct their research more than most students.”

**CALVIN E Earns 16TH GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP**

Math major Samuel Auyeung (Fort Collins, CO) has been named Calvin’s 16th Goldwater Scholar since 2008 – a number unmatched by any other liberal arts college over that span of time.

Competition for the scholarship, considered the premier undergraduate award of its kind, is fierce. Schools can nominate only four students each year. Auyeung is not the only Calvin student recognized. Biochemistry majors Susan Hromada (Lansing, IL) and Evans Lodge (South Bend, IN) received honorable mentions as well.

Calvin’s success in this national competition highlights its commitment to undergraduate research. Professor of chemistry and biochemistry Kumar Sinniah stated, “These awards do recognize the importance of research at the undergraduate level and have the potential to motivate students to seek research opportunities early. They also highlight the administration’s support for undergraduate research.”

Your gift to the Calvin Annual Fund, designated to the Honors Program, supports scholarships and student research.
STUDENT RESEARCH

With its exclusive focus on undergraduate students, Calvin College is able to offer research opportunities unavailable at many larger universities. Highly motivated students in the Calvin Honors Program have opportunities to work alongside professors on projects in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, and even contribute to publications and conference presentations. In summer 2015, 96 undergraduate students worked alongside 51 faculty members in a variety of fields for 8-10 weeks of full-time research. We asked three honors students to share about their research.

Senior Biology Major Alaina Mahn (Centerburg, OH):

Q: What did you study?
A: I joined Professor Keith Grasman’s continuing monitoring program that studies how man-made chemicals, such as PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) and dioxins, affect herring gulls and Caspian terns in the Great Lakes. We traveled to bird colonies throughout Michigan, including one on the coast of Lake Erie and several on islands in Saginaw Bay, Grand Traverse Bay, and in the Upper Peninsula, to collect data that allows us to assess the birds’ health. In addition to checking the general health of the chicks, we also pay close attention to how well the birds’ immune systems function. By doing this work we can learn whether chicks born in colonies where high levels of PCBs and dioxins exist have poorer health or weaker immune systems. Through the years evidence has been found to suggest that these chemicals are affecting the immune health of the birds, making them more susceptible to disease.

Q: What sparked your interest in this project?
A: I hope to go into a career involving ecology research where I can do field work answering questions about how people should treat the environment, and this project allows me to do all of that. We have a good mix of laboratory and field work, and I feel like the research is very meaningful. I also like birding and especially enjoy water-birds, so working with gulls and terns was another factor in convincing me to apply for this project.

Q: What do you hope your research will contribute to the world?
A: My hope is that through this work we can learn more about how chemicals affect the health of the birds and the Great Lakes as a whole. By knowing where the birds are doing well versus where they are doing poorly, scientists, government agencies, and others can make better decisions about how to protect the birds and the Great Lakes.

Q: What have been the most beneficial aspects of being an honors student?
A: Some of the best honors classes I’ve had have been honors contract courses where I was allowed to work with the professor to design a project according to my interests. For example, in an ecosystem management course I was able to do an in-depth investigation on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, an interesting and highly diverse coastal ecosystem in California. Because of these and other honors classes I have gained experience talking to professors about potential projects, additional experience writing scientific and other research papers, and I have learned a great deal about topics I find interesting.

ALUMNI IN Volvement

If you are a former Calvin honors student we would love to talk with you about opportunities you have to give back to the program. Honors students are great candidates to serve on research projects or as interns in your field. The Honors Program would also be happy to host events at which you could share your experiences with students on topics such as graduate school, research, and careers. Please email Professor Bruce Berglund at brb6@calvin.edu.
Junior Business Major Nicole Karl (Riverview, MI):
Q: Tell us about your project.
A: The project that I took part in was entitled “Virtues and Character Strengths in Young Adults - What’s the Impact?” I conducted a meta-analysis of the studies that fall under our area of interest in order to discover the general consensus of research about young adults and virtue. We set up an Access database, consequently reworked that database, searched numerous databases for relevant and useful journal articles, read and highlighted those articles, and then recorded the important information, such as variables and demographics, in the Access database. We hope to discover scientifically proven ways to build character in young adults and then apply that knowledge to Calvin’s Core Curriculum.

Q: How did you become interested in the project?
A: I became interested in this project when my advisors, Julie Yonker (psychology) and Brian Cawley (business), suggested that I apply to the McGregor Research Fellowship to work under them. It seemed like a good way to gain skills for the future, so I sent in my application and was accepted!

Q: What do you hope your research will accomplish?
A: I hope that my research will help others to understand what it means to be a young adult with character, and how to get to that point. There are an awful lot of studies out there, so hopefully the work that we’ve done to pull as many studies as we can together in a cohesive paper will allow others to simply have to read our work to learn what the general body of research says about this topic.

Q: What skills have you gained being an honors student?
A: The most beneficial aspect of being an honors student for me has been the relationships that I’ve formed with my peers and professors. When I came into Calvin as a freshman, I was pretty nervous to go and talk with professors, but after several honors contracts and the one-on-one interaction that comes with that, I’m no longer nervous to go into professors’ offices and sit and talk with them. Developing those relationships has helped me immensely - for example, getting the opportunity to work on the research that I did. Some skills that I’ve learned through the honors program include listening well, working hard, managing my time well, and supporting others. All of those have come into play with this research project, as I must listen carefully to what my professors want me to do, work hard in order to get that done, spend my time wisely, prioritize certain tasks over others, and help my research partner as well.

Junior International Relations Major Ha Young Bahng (Pampanga, Philippines):
Q: Tell us about the research project you are planning.
A: Although I am a Korean citizen and lived in Korea for 10 years, I do not know much about its politics or economy. One day, I was introduced to this political-economic structure that I couldn’t quite grasp. It is a Jaebol economy, or in English, an oligopoly. This is a market form in which a market or industry is dominated by a small number of sellers. How those Jaebols came to power dates back to the post-Korean War era in the 1950s, as the government was trying to boost the economy by strengthening and supporting industries, which eventually became Jaebols.

Q: How do you plan to research the Korean government?
A: I am planning a study abroad semester at Seoul National University in Korea as a visiting student. I am excited to interact and learn more about this topic.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish through your research?
A: With a greater understanding of the Korean economy, I would like to construct a thesis outlining a more durable and equitable political economic structure.

Q: What benefited you from your experience in honors?
A: As part of the Honors Program, I became much closer to the professors with whom I took classes than I would have otherwise. I appreciated my professors’ time and effort to work with me, offer advice, and listen. Also, because many honors assignments include research papers, my writing has improved with practice and discussions with the professors. Honors in general has taught me self-discipline in managing time.

Students get experience presenting at the Science Division Poster Fair
On April 22nd, faculty, friends, and loved ones filled the Covenant Fine Arts Center to recognize 2015 honors graduates and students who had earned a place on the Dean’s List in the last year. Students are named to the Dean’s List when they finish a semester with a GPA of 3.5 or higher, while maintaining a cumulative GPA over 3.3. This year 148 seniors earned recognition for holding a place on the Dean’s List for every semester during their time at Calvin.

Honors Convocation customarily features addresses by a faculty member and a graduating senior, chosen by the Honors Student Council. This year’s speakers were kinesiology professor Julie Walton and student Jed Bell (Harare, Zimbabwe), who completed honors in biochemistry as well as a major in public health. Professor Walton’s address came as she finished her teaching career at Calvin. Jed plans to attend medical school following his graduation. Here are excerpts from their speeches:

**Julie Walton:**

It is my hope that your willingness to work hard is sown in a Christian ethic that believes the work and the ability to carry it out are both gifts from God—not something we do in our own power. This is why we roll up our sleeves daily, and why we encourage each other to think deeply, act justly, and serve as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world.

The world will add that you must lean in with the intent of focusing on your own success. It is a time in your life to be especially watchful, to seek God’s face in a new place as Daniel did in Babylon, and to make sure you are anchored in your faith through prayer. Soon enough you will be a resident alien in a world obsessed with the chase instead of the cross.

And so I say, **look up!** You have nothing to prove but God’s faithfulness! Don’t let the world convince you to chase after false idols like success and money. As you receive your medal, you will have to bow your head. In that one small move is the answer to questions you have not even thought to ask. This honor means you also have greater responsibility going forward. It will require you to look up more often at those around you, to care about their well-being, to mentor them and help them develop as professionals and people, to encourage them to take risks and seek to understand other cultures, and to work well together in teams. Just as your Calvin College faculty and staff have so faithfully done for you.

There are all kinds of things we can wear around our neck, but in the end, Christ expects we only wear one thing: the yoke he asks us to share and bear with him in our work and our walk. The Honors medal symbolizes a distinction, and we give it to you to acknowledge your full engagement in your studies and college life. Wear it well, with the knowledge that you have work to do as Christ’s standard bearers in the world.

**Jed Bell:**

When I first came to Calvin from Zimbabwe, I was excited to become independent – away from my parents, community, and even country. I had a vision to succeed on my own, to become an independent man. But, as I reflect upon my own Calvin experience, I find my journey has been anything but an individual one. As I prepare to leave, I cannot help but be reminded of the Southern African idea of **Ubuntu**.

Ubuntu, a Zulu word, is a concept that acknowledges our shared humanity and states that our lives are inextricably intertwined. Ubuntu encapsulates the idea that “I am what I am because of who we all are/I am because we are.” As Christians, Ubuntu is an extension of our belief in community. Because we believe we share not only humanity, but the image of God, we have an even stronger tie to each other.

I have seen this idea of Ubuntu in my years at Calvin through the connections with some remarkable people who have been pivotal to my success here. I know each of you has your own examples of Ubuntu lived out. So this is a celebration not only of each student here that has excelled, but all those who have been part of this success – one made possible largely because of the friends, family members, professors, and mentors who have invested in each of us. Seniors, we have had the privilege of four years of growing and learning together as others have invested in us. Now, as we leave, we have the opportunity to develop our own spirit of Christ-like Ubuntu. Who will we invest in?

As we think about the success of this last year, and everyone who’s been part of it, and the hopes of the future, I leave you with words by South African Archbishop emeritus, Desmond Tutu.

“We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas we are connected and what we do affects the whole world. When we do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity.”

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**Grace Kim Earns Honors in Three Majors**

Grace Kim earned the rare distinction of honors in three majors – Spanish, linguistics, and interdisciplinary majors. Only two other students have ever achieved this honor. Grace said of her accomplishment: “The value of being an honors student does not come from its ‘outstanding’ title but from the experience and the learning that I gained. I appreciate the relationships I built with the professors, who took an interest in me and my work. I enjoyed the community of honors students. We encouraged each other, shared our struggles, and now congratulate each other for accomplishments as if they were our own. Indeed, my experience in the Honors Program has immensely enriched my life at Calvin.”
2015 HONORS GRADUATES

Laurel Ackerman
Holland, MI, Business

Hannah Albers
Hutto, TX, Chemical Engineering

Ojone Ameadaji
Lagos, Nigeria, Strategic Communication

Stephanie Anderson
Sparta, MI, Biochemistry

Jedidiah Bell
Harare, Zimbabwe, Biochemistry

Rian Bylsma
Grand Rapids, MI, Biochemistry

Andrea Bootsma
Kitchener, Ontario, Chemistry

Tom Bouwkamp
Pella, IA, Economics

Jocelyn Brame
Libertyville, IL, Classical Languages

Maria Cupery
Istanbul, Turkey, Linguistics

Lucas da Silva
São Paulo, Brazil, Film and Media

Lauren DeHaan
Grandville, MI, Economics

Hailey De Jong
Kalamazoo, MI, History

Benjamin DeVries
New Lenox, IL, English Literature

Jenna DeVries
Grand Rapids, MI, Psychology

Jodie DeVries
Holland, MI, Biology

Cory Doot
Palos Park, IL, Integrated Science

Joshua Ferguson
Naperville, IL, History

Abigail Grace Fincel
Oskaloosa, IA, Biology

Rachel Gabrielse
Allendale, MI, Organizational Communication

Serena Hamann
Grants Pass, OR, Spanish

Andrew Jordan Harris
Manila, Philippines, Business

Alden Hartopo
Jakarta, Indonesia, International Relations

Matthew Haveman
Bloomington, MN, Chemistry

Taylor R. Hegg
New Era, MI, Biochemistry (ACS Certified)

Paulina Heule
Ada, MI, English Literature

Jonathan Hielkema
Nepean, ON, History

Brittany Holleman
Hudsonville, MI, Biology

Allan S. Jensen
Urumqi, China, Business

Andrew Jo
Grand Rapids, MI, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Jee Myung Kim
Seoul, South Korea, Mechanical Engineering

Grace J. Kim
Korea & San Fransisco de Macoris, Dominican Republic, Spanish, Linguistics, and Interdisciplinary Majors

Jessica Koranda
Crete, IL, Spanish

Anna Claire Lambers
Tampa, FL, Elementary Education

James Lamine
Dexter, MI, Computer Science

Monica Langeland
Grand Rapids, MI, Biology

Sydney Lee
Elmhurst, IL, International Relations

Zion Lee
Toronto, ON, Engineering

Abigail Leistra
Rochester, NY, Biochemistry

Kyle Luck
Sturgis, MI, Philosophy

Brianna Marshall
Fairfield, CA, Geology

Marlena Maria May
Naperville, IL, Spanish and Business

Lauren Merz
Spring Lake, MI, Kinesiology

Okkar Myint
Taungoo, Myanmar

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Tran Nguyen
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Biology

Ye In Oh
Chiang Mai, Thailand, Psychology

Carrie Ott
Meadville, PA, Linguistics and Japanese

Daniel Paulson
Plymouth, MI, History

Jenai Quan
Singapore, Biology

Julianne Schram
Elmhurst, IL, Business

John Sherwood
Hoffman Estates, IL, Engineering

Soeyeon Shin
Daegu, South Korea & Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Biology

Nathan Slauer
Grand Rapids, MI, History

Alicia Smit
Dyer, IN Political, Science

Wendy Tableer
Milwaukee, WI

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Josiah Valk
Paw Paw, MI, Biochemistry

Kelsey Veldkamp
Holland, MI, Biology and Chemistry

Kara Venema
Hudsonville, MI, Strategic Communication

Carolyn Vos
Comstock Park, MI, Psychology

Lusi Wang
Chongqing, China, Philosophy

Erin Ward
Caledonia, MI, Biology

Jeremy Ward
Edgerton, MN, Engineering

Luke Wiers
Willard, OH, Environmental Science

Chad Westra
Dearborn, MI, History

Monica Wood Limback
Grand Rapids, MI, Electrical Engineering

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I had the privilege of studying for a semester at the University of Oxford with BestSemester’s Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (SCIO) program. Through this Calvin-partnered program, I got to enter a centuries-old institution in what Oscar Wilde called “the city of a thousand dreaming spires,” the home of iconic intellectuals like C.S. Lewis.

Though students attend lectures from the hundreds offered, the principal means of education is one-on-one interaction with Oxford faculty. Through BestSemester, my 50 program-mates and I, all from U.S. Christian colleges, became official Oxford students to complete the eight-week sprint through the Michaelmas term. My primary tutorial was Victorian literature, so I read novels, then researched and wrote essays for weekly meetings with my tutor. At tutorial, I read my paper aloud to my tutor and discussed related material. My tutors were enthusiastic about the material as well as personally interested in my well-being. Though the tutors are experts in their fields, they made our interactions feel like casual conversations between literature nerds traveling the same path, one of whom was bit more seasoned traveler.

The diverse and academically rigorous schedules of each student did not allow for as much exploration time as many other study abroad programs, so SCIO started with an extra four weeks of “British Landscape” classes and trips to famous sites like Stonehenge and Hampton Court. We learned about British history, then visited the places where it happened!

My semester abroad made me recognize and appreciate Calvin’s academic excellence and the excellent preparation it gave me to tackle the intellectual challenges I faced at Oxford - be it in tutorials or in spontaneous debates with my SCIO friends. I felt myself drawing on ideas or writing strategies I had learned in honors classes. My experience at Calvin prepared me so well that, at the end of the program, I was honored with the de Jager award for writing one of the best final SCIO research essays. Like Gatsby, I can claim to be an “Oxford (wo)man,” but I appreciate my Calvin education and how it has influenced my worldview and my drive to be a responsible thinker and actioner and to pursue excellence.

~Claire Lambert (Grand Rapids, MI), recipient of de Jager Prize for Exceptional Academic Performance

CALVIN’S SCHOLAR ATHLETES STAND OUT

New students often ask if it’s possible to complete a degree with honors and participate in extracurricular activities. While honors courses and college athletics are challenging, honors students in sports say that the discipline of athletics helps them in their academics. Klara Oh (Seattle; nursing soph.) says she’s a better student during the swim season. “The combination of hard work, time with great teammates, and post-exercise endorphins guarantees I am in a good mood after practice and ready to tackle my homework.” Like other honors students in sports, Klara has learned that efficiency with her time is essential. “My daily-planner is my best friend,” she jokes.

Carissa Weis (Mount Prospect, IL) will finish her psychology degree with honors this spring. She also hopes to repeat as a medalist in the triple jump at the conference meet. Carissa chose Calvin because athletics are not emphasized over academics. She’s found that members of the track team encourage each other in their school work. “My teammates do a great job of keeping everyone accountable and supporting each other in stressful times. Frequently, there is unofficial peer-to-peer tutoring; the upperclassmen help the underclassmen.” The dedication pays off. The women’s track team has earned All-Academic Team honors for 14 straight years, and the men’s team has been honored for the last seven years.

Lauren Strohbehn (Stillwater, MN) sees that same atmosphere on the cross country team. The runners do homework on bus rides to meets, and some even take classes with each other so they can study together. “Academic excellence is definitely encouraged.” While working toward her degree in biology, Lauren has had athletic and academic success. She won this fall’s conference and regional meets, and was named to the Academic All-District track team last spring.

This fall also brought news of continued running success for a former Academic All-American and honors graduate. Nicole Michmerhuizen earned an honors degree in chemical engineering and a second major in biochemistry in 2014. She was also national champion in the 10,000 meters in 2013. Now a graduate student at the University of Michigan, she is running marathons. She won the first two marathons she ever ran and qualified for February’s Olympic Marathon Trials.
The days are getting shorter, and the weather is getting colder. It’s the perfect time to curl up with a good book. We asked professors who’ve taught in the Honors Program to offer their suggestions for autumn reading.

Roman Williams regularly teaches sociology as part of the fall Honors Cluster. He shared about one of his favorite reads: “We live in what some refer to as a postindustrial culture, one in which most of our products and possessions are produced outside of the United States — indeed, an increasing variety of services are outsourced as well. Colleges prepare people for careers in the so-called knowledge economy, and few students contemplate careers in the manual trades. In fact, some attend college to avoid ‘blue collar’ work. In Shop Class as Soulcraft (Penguin Books, 2009), Matthew Crawford explores the loss of manual competence (one’s ability to construct and repair things) and makes a compelling argument for vocations that require one to work with one’s hands. This was a stimulating read for me as I completed a house renovation, during which I experienced the ‘cognitive demands of manual work’ (p. 21), not to mention the frustrations of my manual incompetence. Crawford offers a consideration of our relationship to the material world that challenges typical understandings of a vocational calling.”

Jill Risner teaches Honors Business Foundations. This fall, she entered ArtPrize 7 with a display of modular origami, entitled Bloom. “Many hours of folding must be done before pieces can be brought together to create the beautiful, finished whole object. This practice of enjoying the process could benefit all of us as societal pressures often lead us to focus too heavily on the end result instead. Practicing modular origami has helped me to focus more on the power of the process. The process represents the daily experiences we have as we move through life, which should be valued for what they are, not just for the goals they help us achieve.” The book she recommends, What Money Can’t Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013), relates to this theme. “This book brings up a thought-provoking perspective that I believe we can benefit from considering. Sandel presents examples of how our traditional views of buying and selling have been applied to all areas of life. People now pay for someone to apologize on their behalf, their children to get good grades, or someone to stand in line for them. This book explores some questions that should be asked about the pervasiveness of market reasoning being used in non-traditional ways.

Craig Hanson leads the annual ArtPrize tour for Honors Fellows. He is the author of The English Virtuoso: Art, Medicine and Antiquarianism in the Age of Empiricism (University of Chicago Press, 2009). “I’m glad to offer a ringing endorsement of James McBride’s novel The Good Lord Bird (Penguin Books, August 2013), which brilliantly recounts the attacks of the quixotic abolitionist John Brown on America’s slave-supporting establishment, from the Western frontier to the East Coast, all culminating in the raid on the arms depot at Harpers Ferry in 1859. Narrated by a twelve-year-old slave boy, freed by Brown in Kansas and then mistakenly identified as a girl, the book is one of the funniest I’ve read in years. Brown and ‘Little Onion’ are perfectly matched in this picaresque novel that masterfully explores the absurdity of antebellum America on multiple fronts. It’s a book that makes the past seem both stranger and more familiar than readers might expect, a book that in the end makes possibilities of a better world seem more likely, not because of reason but out of an abiding hope in principled fervor.”

* Look for this winner of the National Book Award for Fiction to be made into a movie starring Jaden Smith.

The connection between vice and vocation is not often explored in contemporary scholarship. Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung researches and writes on virtues and virtue theory. DeYoung regularly teaches the honors course Fundamental Questions in Philosophy in the fall. “Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Barton (InterVarsity Press, 2006) is a wise book on spiritual formation through the traditional spiritual disciplines. I often recommend it as a follow-up to people who read my book Glittering Vices and are looking for positive practices to try after beginning the work of self-examination. It’s also a helpful book for those who have been immersed in salvation-centric churches and are now looking to go deeper, or, in other words, those who want to make deeper communion with God a more intentional way of life. Barton is a gentle and well-practiced guide.”
Machutmi Shishak ’97, honors in social science group major, received his M.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University, then joined the U.S. Foreign Service. His first posting was Kabul, Afghanistan, where he witnessed the ratification of Afghanistan’s post-war constitution. His subsequent posting was Manila, Philippines. He met his wife Paulina Kreivi in Washington, D.C., as he was completing language study. Serving as Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Officer in Indonesia, he covered a wide range of issues. He and his wife went to Myanmar, Burma, where he took up duties as Economic and Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy. In 2013, he received the State Department’s Herbert Salzman Award for Excellence in International Economic Performance, awarded for outstanding contributions by a Foreign Service Officer in advancing U.S. international relations and economic objectives. He is now in the United States preparing for his next assignment as Political and Economic Section Chief in Laos.

Ben Spalink ’03, honors in English, serves as the lead pastor of City Grace Church in Manhattan. Celebrating its seventh anniversary, the young church draws students from NYU and recent college graduates who work in such high profile careers as finance, law, consulting, and medicine. The church has a unique opportunity to impact New York City with the Gospel, but the Christian lifestyle is frequently at odds with popular cultural values, such as sexuality and finances. Ben explores various teaching styles and discipleship methods to challenge the congregation to live missionally, model stewardship, and avoid making idols of a successful career and the benefits. Both Ben and his wife, Christy ’04, are shining God’s light. Christy lives out her faith as a nurse practitioner at NYU Langone Medical Center, working alongside experts in the field of neurology to treat a rare dysautonomic genetic disorder that occurs only in Jewish people.

Abram Van Engen ’03, honors in English & philosophy, earned a Ph.D. in English at Northwestern, specializing in American literature and religion. Abram taught at Trinity University in San Antonio, then accepted a position at Washington University in St. Louis. His essays have appeared in a variety of journals, and his first book, Sympathetic Puritans: Calvinist Fellow Feeling in Early New England, was published earlier this year by Oxford University Press. He received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for his current work on a cultural history of John Winthrop’s “City on a Hill” sermon in American culture. He also received the Whitehall Prize in Early American History for a related essay published in The New England Quarterly.

Tom Mazanec ’07, honors in English, is a Ph.D. candidate at Princeton University, pursuing degrees in East Asian studies and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the humanities. After graduating he headed to the University of Colorado for an M.A. in comparative literature. He moved on to study at Princeton, zeroing in on a dissertation on poetry written by Buddhist monks in ninth and tenth-century China. His research has taken him all over Asia, from Taipei to Tokyo to Kathmandu. He returned to the States after completing a Fulbright Fellowship at Fudan University in Shanghai. Tom has presented his research at many international fora, including the American Comparative Literature Association. He is writing his dissertation and creating digital resources for scholarship on classical Chinese poetry. In addition, he writes creatively under a pen name.

Rebekah Bell ’10, honors in English, returned home to Harare, Zimbabwe, where she secured a teaching position at the Arundel School. Arundel, a private high school for girls, is one of the top performing schools in the country, usually achieving 100% pass rates on the Cambridge International Examinations. She has worn many hats there. In addition to teaching English literature and language (occasionally English as a second language to Chinese learners), she served in the career department and as housemistress of a boarding hostel. She also helped the Environment and Wildlife Club, the Book Club, and (rather bizarrely), the Gymnastics Club. Outside of work she teaches SAT prep courses to underprivileged students hoping to study in the U.S. on full scholarships. Rebekah is returning to the United States to pursue a master’s degree in school counseling.

Jared Warren ’11, honors in history & French, worked as a museum guide and a florist, completed a masters degree in Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies at the University of Kansas, and studied Polish at the University of Pittsburgh, John Paul II Catholic University, and at Cracow’s Jagiellonian University during its 650th anniversary. In his travels, Jared has found smuggled goods hidden in his bus seat at the Polish border, kayaked in Silesia, and enjoyed one of Poland’s micro-breweries in Warsaw, inside the former Communist Party headquarters. He saw the excitement of John Paul II’s canonization in a small town in Poland, celebrated Easter with a Croatian family in the hills outside of Zagreb, and was stranded in a gorge at Slovakia’s
Paradise National Park in a torrential hailstorm. Jared is a member of the seventh cohort of the Lilly Graduate Fellows program, and a Ph.D. student in modern European history at New York University.

Rebecca Hiemstra ’12, honors in international relations, has spent two years in Rwanda serving as a Peace Corps community health volunteer in a remote, impoverished village on the edge of Nyungwe Rainforest. Working with a community development NGO called Kageno Rwanda, she focused on community health issues, including HIV/AIDS and malaria prevention, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation. She learned Kinyarwanda, the local Bantu language. Her main projects were in clean water and sanitation. Rebecca applied for and received grant funds for two projects to extend clean water to the villages. They built 17 public water taps and installed many miles of piping from the community’s mountain spring water source. With no cars or machinery, they needed large-scale community mobilization. The people of the community dug six miles of trench by hand and transported cubic meters of sand, rocks, and bricks on their heads for many miles.

Rebecca applied for latrine-building funds and managed projects to build 50 household latrines. The households dig their holes to 25 feet deep with shovels and buckets. In addition to these projects, she led trainings on hygiene, clean water, sanitation, and nutrition and worked with high school students to teach HIV/AIDS prevention, leadership, and life skills. “My favorite part was living in a village – a cultural immersion experience hard to find anywhere else. I’ll never forget my community and the people I worked and lived with. I was part of a local church, and pastors sometimes asked me to preach in Kinyarwandan! There were many novelties to daily life and unforgettable friendships.”

Hidy Kong ’13, honors in music & computer science, faced a challenge when she entered a Ph.D. program – the dominance of research in her life. She recalls hearing the phrase “the only thing standing between you and graduation is yourself,” during her first year at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She found this to be true, because research does not end like a homework assignment or an exam. Research does not end on Friday or when summer vacation starts. Research never ends. You have to know when to pause and when to press on. Her time at Calvin taught her how to distinguish time for school, for work, for friends, and for her relationship with God. It helps that her research on assistive technology incorporates many topics that she is passionate about, including music therapy, special education, and aging population.

Sabrina Lee ’13, honors in English literature & French, travelled to Perugia, Italy, after graduation to learn Italian on a scholarship from the Grand Rapids Sister Cities Committee. Then, she made her way to Tours, France, where she lived on a narrow, steep, medieval street and worked as an English language teaching assistant in a French high school. During her time in France, she taught students about American culture – both high school prom and the death penalty elicited impassioned responses – helped seniors prepare for baccalaureate, and led an extra-curricular creative writing group. Unable to extend her French visa, Sabrina returned home, waitressed, took language classes, and learned the basics of American tango. She recently entered the Ph.D. program in English at the University of Illinois to study British modernism and women’s writing.

Katie Van Zanen ’14, honors in writing:

After four stimulating years as an honors student, I was afraid I might get bored when I graduated. My search for meaningful, interesting work took me to Cairo, Egypt, through the Mennonite Central Committee’s SALT program. I spent eleven months with EpiscoCare, a community development organization under the leadership of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt, composing grant proposals and coordinating communication. My position proved dynamic and challenging, and working cross-culturally kept me learning about the history, culture, and geopolitics of the Middle East, Islam, international development, Arabic language and literature, and the Mennonite peace tradition. This year I return to more institutional study at Boston College as a master’s student in English. I’ll focus on the literature of globalization and contemporary cultural identity.”