

# The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, October 14, 2016

## Coordinating Care

---

Over the past several months, a number of folks around the college have been working diligently to implement various components of the college's [2016–17 plan for student retention](#). One such initiative is specifically designed to address the need to improve the coordination of support for our students across divisional and departmental boundaries. Beginning this fall, the [Center for Student Success](#) is launching a new “Coordinated Care” strategy, which attempts to provide and coordinate a holistic and integrated approach to support for the students who are at the highest risk for dropping out, and to improve communication between care providers.

Under the leadership of [Thea Brophy](#) (associate director and program leader), we have identified approximately 30 current student-support staff to serve as Student Success Specialists (S3) for a select group of students; they are responsible for coordinating holistic support to achieve these students' educational goals and to oversee their general well-being. Before the semester started, S3s were preassigned to over 300 first-year students who are at risk of attrition based on several risk factors identified from an analysis of the past four years of first-year student data. The S3 team includes the registrar, advising staff, resident directors, academic counselors, disability coordinators, Intercultural Student Development staff, and pre-college program officers. When possible, students are assigned to S3s with whom they have a preexisting relationship (e.g., to their RD). In addition, other students will likely be on-ramped into the care network via early-alert indicators, including attendance checks, care reports, midterm grades, concerns from advisors or staff, and the like.

To help organize this new support network, [Anna Ferrell](#) (assistant director and success systems coordinator) has been working with CIT to launch a Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) tool, which provides the S3 team with a common system for keeping shared case notes, comments, concerns, and student observations from all members of the Calvin community. With this system, each S3 already has quick access to comments or concerns registered for their assigned students, as well as to contact information and a summary of the student's current academic standing and progress toward completion. In addition to enhancing our care strategies, this system will help improve accountability with staff, quantify and assess effectiveness of care, ensure the fair distribution of work (manageable caseloads), simplify communication between staff and faculty, and archive a more complete narrative of student experience.

If you have a concern or question about a student and would like to ensure that they are connected to the college's coordinated care network, please contact [Thea Brophy](#) or [Anna Ferrell](#). Also know that we are working on multiple ways for faculty and staff to engage with both the S3 and CRM programs, including a simplified mechanism for reporting student concerns and questions.

*Todd Dornbos, director of retention*

## From the Faculty Activity Reports

---

- Debra Rienstra (English), “Scant Verses: Henry Lok as a Forerunner of George Herbert.” *George Herbert Journal* 38, nos. 1–2 (Fall 2014/Spring 2015, publ. August 2016): 80–93.
- Ralph Stearley (Geology), “Biotic Succession in the Stratigraphic Record: Is It More Than Ammunition in a Perceived ‘Culture War’?” (lecture, Geological Society of America annual meeting, September 28, 2016).
- John Witvliet, (Congregational and Ministry Studies), “Lament and Praise as a Way of Life: Why Every Church Should Assess Its Weekly Worship Pattern.” *Reformed Worship* 121 (September 2016): 30–31.

Be sure to [fill out](#) your Faculty Activity Reports regularly. If you have questions, see the [FAQ page](#).

## Welcome to New Staff in the Academic Division

---

**Nicole Brower** has joined the Van Lunen Center as a Program Coordinator. She is a West Michigan native who loves everything about the fall season, with the exception that it is followed by winter. She is a proud 2015 graduate of Grand Valley State University, finishing a bachelor's degree that she began 20 years prior. She coordinates Operation Christmas Child efforts within her church which gives her an excuse to shop the end-cap sales at Target.

**Jonathan Brown** is new to the Center for Faith and Writing working as a videographer and media producer. He is a Calvin alum and was living in San Francisco before moving to Grand Rapids. In San Francisco he worked as a media producer at the PBS/NPR affiliate KQED, winning an Emmy for editing during his time there.

**Tommie Brown** is originally from Detroit, but moved to Grand Rapids two years ago from Chicago—along w/ his wife, Calvin resident director Austin Brown. He earned a B.S. degree in philosophy and political science from Central Michigan University. He also attended Thurgood Marshall Law School at Texas Southern University where he received a Juris Doctor degree. He has practiced law here in Michigan (criminal defense and family law), and has worked for Chicago Public Schools. Tommy is very excited to be a part of the Calvin Community, and is looking forward to working as an academic counselor for the AHANA program to keep students motivated to do well at Calvin.

### Coming Up on Campus (Check the [campus calendar](#) for a full list of events)

---

#### Monday, October 17

- Chapel. Laura Smit. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

#### Tuesday, October 18

- Chapel. "Not the Real Thing." 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Q & A brown bag lunch with disability coordinators. 12:00 noon, SC 382
- Sexuality Series. Austin Brown, Kristin DuMez, Matt Halteman, "Christian Feminism? A Panel Discussion." 7:00 p.m., Commons Annex lecture hall

#### Wednesday, October 19

- Chapel. Sounds of Korean worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- History Department colloquium. Tim Gloege, "Religion on a Business Basis." 3:30 p.m., Commons Annex Alumni Board Room

#### Thursday, October 20

- Chapel. Taizé with Karen Saupe and Debra Rienstra. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Health Services flu clinic. 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Health Services.
- KEY workshop. Irene Kraegel (Broene Center), "Supporting Emotional Resilience among Calvin Students." 11:00 a.m., Commons Annex Alumni Board Room
- Chemistry seminar. Greg Girolami (U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), "Putting the Chemistry into Chemical Vapor Deposition." 11:30 a.m., SB 010
- Philosophy Department book reception. 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall

#### Friday, October 21

- Chapel. Paul Ryan with the student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Science Division summer research poster fair. 12:30 p.m., Devries Hall atrium