

# The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, October 21, 2016

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## The Value of Midterm Grades and Progress Reports

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It is not uncommon to have a bit of crying in the Center for Student Success (formerly Academic Services) around midterm grades and evaluation time. Accurate self-appraisal is often one of the growth areas for students with whom we work, and the grades and midterm evaluations provided by faculty members help highlight inconsistencies between how a student believes they are doing and the reality of how they are doing. Jubilation, surprise, anger, frustration, and pride are a few of the resulting emotions. The following conversations regularly lead to significant progress in working with our Access scholars or students on academic probation. We couldn't have these important conversations and help students grow as learners without your help.

Midterm *grades* (due today) are submitted for all first-year students and offer a snapshot of their progress thus far. Advisors can access these grades for each advisee in the portal. Reviewing these grades with students to discuss how they met (or did not meet) their own expectations helps students develop as more reflective learners. Advisors can make this information meaningful and actionable for students by breaking down the components of the grade and identifying new strategies or next steps for the student to take in that class. This semester, S3s (Student Support Specialists) also will be able to use these grades to enhance support for first-year students.

Midterm *progress reports* (due Monday) are submitted for students on probation and in the Access program (Access scholars). Academic counselors use these reports to help students both understand their progress in each course and identify their strengths and weaknesses as a learner. Patterns and trends, along with specific advice from professors, help advisors coach students to be more engaged and reflective learners.

Your comments and effort on these reports are essential to our work to retain and develop students. Both the grades and the reports help us better carry out Calvin's mission. **Thank you, thank you, thank you for the work you put into these resources.**

*Kyle Heys, associate director for access and instruction*

*Thea Brophy, associate director for student success*

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## International Education Week

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This year Calvin will celebrate [International Education Week](#) during November 3–6. Please encourage your students to participate in the events, and join us yourself as much as you are able.

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## From the Faculty Activity Reports

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- Susan Felch (English), "Practicing the Art of Writing: Practical Steps toward Revision" (lecture, South Asian Institute for Advanced Christian Studies, Bangalore, India, September 25, 2016).
- Paul Harper (Physics and Astronomy), "Influence of Phosphatidylethanolamine Concentration and Composition on the Detection of Antiphosphatidylethanolamine Antibodies by ELISA," *Journal of Clinical Laboratory Analysis* 30, no. 5 (2016): 689–96, doi:10.1002/jcla.21923
- Micah Watson (Political Science), *C. S. Lewis on Politics and the Natural Law* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016).

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

## Welcome New Staff in the Academic Division

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**Jordan Daley** is a research associate in the Center for Social Research. He was born on the East Coast but has lived in Grand Rapids for the majority of his life. He recently graduated from Calvin, where he was on the basketball team all four years. He hopes to use the experience he gains at the Center for Social Research as a platform for entering a doctoral program in social psychology.

**Charlotte Reynolds**, originally from London, England, is working at Calvin's Center for Social Research as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) research specialist for the next year, after which she plans to move back to the UK and pursue a master's degree.

**Chuck Winkelman** is relocating from Jackson, Mississippi, to join the college as the head coach of the women's basketball team. Chuck received his undergraduate degree in kinesiology from Hamline University (St. Paul, Minnesota), and his master's degree in the same from the University of North Texas. He and his wife, Denise, are proud parents of three beautiful daughters.

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

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### Monday, October 24

- Chapel. Laura de Jong (Campus Ministries Intern). 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Nursing seminar. Barbara Timmermans, Adejoke Ayoola, Elise Veurink, "A Systematic Review of the Content of Mother-Daughter Reproductive Health Communication." 5:00 p.m., SB 110
- Faculty Assembly. 7:00 p.m., Prince Conference Center Great Hall

### Tuesday, October 25

- Academic Advising Recess
- Meeter Center lecture. Epiemembong Ebong (Protestant U of Central Africa), "Engaging John Calvin with the New Wave of African Christianity: A Reformed Response to Christian Spirituality in Africa." 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center (Hekman Library, fourth floor)
- Service-Learning Center conversation. Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy, "Loving Thy (Global) Neighbor: Using Theological Values to Serve." 3:30 p.m., Commons Annex Alumni Board Room

### Wednesday, October 26

- Academic Advising Recess

### Thursday, October 27

- Board of Trustees meeting. 8:00 a.m.
- Chapel. Taizé with Karen Saupe and Debra Rienstra. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Flu Clinic. 10:00–2:00 p.m. Health Services.
- Chemistry seminar. Student seminar. 11:30 a.m., SB 010
- CALL noontime lecture. Neil Carlson, "A Transformative Reading of James." 12:00 noon, Chapel
- Book reception. Becca McBride, *The Globalization of Adoption: Individuals, States, and Agencies across Borders* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016). 3:00 p.m., Spoelhof Center atrium
- Medieval Colloquium. Ilya Dines, "Producing the Bestiary: the Interaction of Scribes and Illuminators," 3:30 p.m., HH 477
- Physics lecture. Paul Harper, "Anesthesia, Vitamin E, Minimal Surfaces, and Lipids." 3:40 p.m., NH 276

### Friday, October 28

- Board of Trustees meeting. 8:00 a.m.
- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Biology seminar. Ricardo Salvador, "Food Movement Rising." 1:30 p.m., SB 010