

The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, February 3, 2017

May Christ Be Known

I attended two very different conferences this January. One was the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) convention, and the other was the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). When people at the NCAA saw that I was from Calvin College, they commended me (as if I had anything to do with it) on the athletic successes of our athletic teams and on the high level of sportsmanship exhibited by our coaches and players. No surprise: at NCAA Calvin is known for its athletic programs. At the AAC&U, however, when people learned I was from Calvin, they knew of Calvin College in more diverse ways:

Spoken with awe: “Doesn’t that ‘Red Nova’ professor teach at Calvin College?”

Spoken with praise by some and with suspicion by others: “So you’re from the college that produced Betsy DeVos.”

Spoken with gratitude: “Attending the CICW Symposium on Worship is the highlight of my year.”

Spoken with amazement: “How do your faculty, at a Christian college, ‘get away with’ the scholarly work they do?”

Spoken with appreciation: “My son attended Calvin. Your faculty helped him get into a great graduate program.”

Spoken with deep emotion: “I attended Calvin back in the 1970s. That Reformed vision of the Christian life sustains me every day of my life.”

Collectively, these comments reflect the diversity of our work—our teaching, our scholarship, our co-curricular programs. These comments remind me that Calvin’s influence extends far beyond Western Michigan and local Reformed congregations. They remind me that people know Calvin College.

Some would argue that we have entered a “post-fact” era (although I think we’ve been here before). In these uncertain times, may we at Calvin College be known for our commitment to an ancient calling—a devotion to the flourishing of the whole creation and to the health and safety of all people in all places. Calvin’s foundational documents (e.g., *Expanded Statement of Mission, From Every Nation, Confessional Commitment and Academic Freedom*) challenge us to follow this calling with courage and boldness, humility and kindness, knowledge and wisdom. As we follow this calling, we will not speak with one voice; we will not act with single purpose. And yet, as we respond to the events around us, may we draw deeply on the faith that holds us together. And through our diverse words and deeds, may Christ be known.

Cheryl Brandsen, Provost

Kuyers International Programs Fund

The Off-Campus Programs Office invites proposals from faculty and staff for the Kuyers International Programs Fund (*not to be confused with the Kuyers Institute*). This fund facilitates the development of international programs at Calvin and helps faculty teach/connect with Christian colleges around the world. Proposals received before February 20, 2017, will receive full consideration. Application materials and examples of funded programs are available [online](#). Contact [Don DeGraaf](#) if you have questions.

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Debra Freeberg (Communication Arts and Sciences), “You Just Don’t Get It,” [Perspectives](#), January 4, 2017.
- Joe Kuilema (Sociology and Social Work), “Confronting White Privilege,” [The Banner](#), January 2017.
- Mark Muyskens (Chemistry) and Brett De Vries, “Fluorine Atom Influence on Intramolecular Hydrogen Bonding, Isomerization and Methyl Group Rotation in Fluorinated Acetylacetones,” [Computational and Theoretical Chemistry](#) 1097 (December 2016): 15–24.

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

Reimagining Orientation

During the fall semester a project team chartered by the Vice President for Student Life and the First-Year Council took up the task of “reimagining orientation” for new students at Calvin. The results of the team’s efforts have been summarized in this [project overview](#). Anyone with an interest or role in the way we do new student orientation at Calvin will find this to be a helpful overview of the rationale for change and some new ways of working within our traditional Passport and Quest model.

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

Monday, February 6

- Chapel. Michelle Loyd-Paige. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Just Citizenship series. Matt Walhout, “Public Professions: How Should We Then Speak?” 3:30 p.m., Chapel
- Christian Perspectives in Science seminar. John Walton (Wheaton), “The Lost World of Adam and Eve.” 7:00 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall

Tuesday, February 7

- President’s coffee. 8:00 a.m. (refreshments at 7:30), CFAC recital hall
- Chapel. “Storytelling: He’s Got the Whole World...” 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Black History Month. African American Inventors and Inventions Traveling Museum. 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Library lobby/ Hiemenga Hall Career Services corridor
- Reconciliation and Restoration reading group. “America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America.” [RSVP here](#). 12:30 p.m., SC 382

Wednesday, February 8

- Chapel. Sounds of Korean worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Thursday, February 9

- Chapel. Drum circle with Eric Nykamp. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Chemistry seminar. Student research presentation. 11:30 a.m., SB 010
- CALL Noontime Series. Ana Jose, “Who Are the Refugees in Our Midst, and What Are Their Needs?” 12:00 noon, Chapel

Friday, February 10

- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Biology seminar. Student research presentations. 1:30 p.m., SB 010