Join the Conversation

Recently, I read Karin Maag’s *Does the Reformation Still Matter?*, a Calvin Shorts book that I recommend to you. In winsome prose that faculty and staff will associate with her summaries of Faculty Senate meetings, Karin provides historical context for Reformation-era questions, questions that are currently enlivening conversations in the United States and across the globe:

Is a country stronger if the majority of its people share the same beliefs? Should governments support a particular religion or worldview? If members of a particular faith feel they are under attack from their government, are these believers allowed to resist? If so, what forms can this resistance take? Can different communities of faith get along in the public arena? Can groups making competing truth claims about the fundamental values that shape their lives still find ways to coexist? (p. 18)

As contemporary Reformed Christians, we continue to take up these questions because, like our theological forebears, we believe that our world—every square inch of it—belongs to God. According to Calvin’s *Confessional Commitment and Academic Freedom* (another short text I encourage you to read or re-read), “At Calvin College, a confessionally grounded academic freedom makes possible teaching and learning that challenges settled perspectives, explores formerly unexplored dimensions of God’s world and human experience, and allows passionate Christian commitments to develop without coercion” (p. 10). This kind of teaching and researching is never easy; at times (perhaps this particular moment in time), it can seem impossible. For that reason and others, we do this work together. The Just Citizenship weekly forum provides us an opportunity to consider together answers to questions like those raised by the early reformers. This coming Monday, at 3:30 in Calvin’s chapel, Kevin den Dulk, Kristin Du Mez, Elisha Marr, and Mark Mulder will address the topic “*What Were We Thinking? Political Identity and Today’s American Electorate.*”

Come join the conversation.

*Elizabeth Vander Lei, academic dean*

World Affairs Council Lecture Series

This year Calvin is a member of the World Affairs Council (WAC) of West Michigan. As a part of this membership, all Calvin faculty, staff, and students can attend the WAC public lecture series free of charge. The lecture series started on February 6 and continues every Monday evening at 6:00 at Aquinas College. For a complete list of topics and speakers, check out the [WAC website](#).

Welcome New Staff in the Academic Division

**Robert VanLonkhuyzen** joins Calvin as a Web developer for the Christian Classics Ethereal Library (CCEL). Robert is from Holland, Michigan, but grew up in Palos Heights, Illinois. He studied electrical and computer engineering at Calvin College, and missions and evangelism at Calvin Seminary. He recently celebrated six months of marriage.
Nellie Anderson-Wright is the new department assistant and lab manager for the GEO department. She graduated from Calvin with a degree in geography and most recently worked remotely for the Indiana Geographic Information Council while staying home with her two boys.

From the Faculty Activity Reports


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

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

**Monday, February 13**
- Chapel. Neal Plantinga. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- World Affairs Council panel discussion. “Choke Points: Global Water, Food, and Energy Crises.” 1:00 p.m., CFAC Recital hall

**Tuesday, February 14**
- Chapel. “Storytelling: Jesus, I Am Yours.” 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Commons Annex Alumni Board Room

**Wednesday, February 15**
- Chapel. Sounds of Latino Worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**Thursday, February 16**
- Chapel. Drum circle with Eric Nykamp. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Chemistry seminar. Merlin Bruening (Michigan State U), “Modified Membranes for Protein Isolation or Controlled Proteolysis Prior to Mass Spectrometry.” 11:30 a.m., SB 010
- Black History Month. Eric Washington, “The Slaves Niche: Provision Grounds and Double-Production in the West Indies.” 3:30 p.m., CFAC 264
- Cultural Competency workshop. “Little Things Matter: Micro-aggressions.” RSVP here. 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center Lecture Hall
- Health lecture. Robert “Butch” Hubers, “When Every Second Counts: Air Medical Services,” 7:00 p.m., Chapel

**Friday, February 17**
- Chapel. Sounds of Gospel Worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel