

The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College
Monday, September 11, 2017

And We Are Off . . .

Already in the 2017–18 academic year we have inaugurated several changes to our usual practices, particularly for incoming students, in the form of a new Passport experience, registration process, and Convocation ceremony. Returning students have been pleasantly surprised by the renovated study spaces in both the library and Hiemenga Hall. Each of these changes was possible only because faculty and staff from across the college imagined a new thing and then worked hard to enact the changes they had envisioned. Please take time to thank these colleagues for all their good work, some of which was above and beyond the call of duty. And I want to thank everyone for their patient and kind responses to the challenges that came with those changes, some of which we knew about ahead of time and some of which surprised us.

It's human nature to be unsettled by change and to remember (to imagine?) a previous time free from the challenges that change brings. During a light-hearted conversation at the Convocation picnic, a retired faculty member reminisced about teaching “back in the day,” a time when the school year signaled peace and quiet after the busyness of the summer, when he could count on mornings free for scholarly work, when students were diligent and eager to learn, and when the administration had endless resources to “give away.” Perhaps due to the doubtful look on my face, the faculty member laughed and acknowledged that some imagination might be coloring that memory.

If you need a reminder of the omnipresent nature of the challenges and opportunities that change brings, I encourage you to visit *Stirring the World*, the exhibition of German printmaking in the age of Luther currently on display at our Center Art Gallery. Like people of Luther's time—like all people everywhere—we begin this academic year amid troubles and challenges that can baffle us, that remind us of our own brokenness and the brokenness of our world. And yet this is the world from which we—and our students—come, and this is the context in which we are called to teach and to learn. This calling can feel like a heavy responsibility, but we endeavor to take it up with passion and hope because we know that we have the potential to change things for the better and because we know that, ultimately, our calling is not our own. It comes from God, who began a good work among us and who we are confident will bring it to completion.

Undoubtedly, this year we faculty and staff will be thinking about how best to respond to the challenges of our time and place as we craft a shared vision for the college, address continued enrollment and financial challenges, strengthen the Reformed qualities that have been and will continue to shape the college, offer academic programs that serve the needs of a new generation of students, build better ways to listen and work together, and so forth. Working through challenges such as these with wise, trusted colleagues makes this a good place to be. Thank you for being here, at Calvin College, to take up this work.

Cheryl Brandsen, provost

Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship (CCCS) Major Grants

CCCS is accepting applications for [Major Grants](#). The deadline for applications is October 2.

Sabbaticals and CRFs

Faculty who are eligible and planning to apply for a [sabbatical](#) or [Calvin Research Fellowship](#) during the 2018–19 academic year can access the forms and all current information online. Please note that sabbatical applications are due by September 20, and CRF applications are due by October 1.

Diversity Flashpoint Workshop

Increasing student diversity provides wonderful opportunities for cross-cultural interaction in the classroom, but it also can heighten the possibility for culture clash and diversity flashpoints. Teaching faculty are encouraged to attend a free [two-session seminar](#) on engaging students across cultural lines. The seminar introduces the concept of Interpersonal Cultural Intelligence (ICQ), developed by Pennylyn Dykstra-Pruim (German), and provides concrete strategies on how to manage diversity flashpoints. Part 1 is on September 12, and part 2 is on September 19; these sessions count as Cultural Competence Professional Development credit. The sessions are from 3:30 to 4:30 and meet in the Commons Knollcrest room (CM302). If you have questions, please contact [Michelle Loyd-Paige](#).

Comment Magazine Coming to Each Department

With the demise of *Books & Culture*, the Provost's office is happy to provide the campus with a new source of thoughtful Christian reflection on culture and society. [Comment magazine](#), edited by Jamie Smith, is a quarterly journal devoted to "public theology for the common good." Nourished by the Reformed intellectual tradition but engaging a range of authors and topics, *Comment* regularly features contributors from Calvin College. We hope it will be a catalyst for conversations across campus. Copies will be distributed to academic departments and other offices who can then circulate the magazine internally. Watch for the first issue in mid-September. Questions? Contact [Jamie Smith](#).

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Jolene Vos-Camy (French), "*Relations d'Albi: Le Portrait d'Une Ville Per Antionette de Salvan de Saliés*," *Papers on French Seventeenth Century Literature* 44, no. 86 (2017): 71–84.
- Matt Heun (Engineering), "Energy Access and Pathways in the Developing World: Case Study: Ghana" (lecture, European Society for Ecological Economics Conference, Budapest, Hungary, June 21, 2017).
- James Smith (Philosophy), "Whose Motivation? Which Good?" [The New Atlantis](#), 52 (2017): 111–118.

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

Note: *FEN* activities are called Intercultural Competency Professional Development Activities and are reported via [this link](#). Contact diversity@calvin.edu if you have questions.

Coming Up on Campus

Monday, September 11

- Chapel. Michelle Loyd-Paige, "Old Testament Characters: Hagar." 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Tuesday, September 12

- Chapel. Morning prayer with Kurt Schaefer (Economics). 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Wednesday, September 13

- Chapel. Hymn sing. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Thursday, September 14

- Chapel. Sounds of Korean worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- [CALL noontime lecture](#). Brendan Looyenga, "Cancer of the Soul." 12:00 noon, Chapel

Friday, September 15

- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel