

# The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College  
Friday, September 15, 2017

## Programs for New Faculty

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“What do you do for your new faculty?” This is a common question among those who call themselves faculty developers (i.e., people who administrate what typically are called centers for faculty development in teaching and learning). Last year, Calvin’s Teaching Fellows frequently asked this question as we researched trends in such programming for new faculty at undergraduate institutions. We explored this sort of programming and resource allocation both at colleges like Calvin (e.g., Albion College) and at larger institutions (e.g., University of Virginia). To complement this external perspective, we gathered internal input from recently hired Calvin faculty and experienced department chairs. The main question we wanted to answer was, “What could we do here at Calvin for new faculty regarding teaching that will support the departmental mentoring already in play?” Out of this research we developed a series of new programs designed specifically to assist new faculty as they explore what it means to teach effectively. This programming is set to launch this academic year.

Two basic programs will soon come into play. The first program is titled “Teaching at Calvin” and encompasses the must-know aspects of teaching here. Topics of study include writing fair exams and assignments, facilitating class discussion, and administering and interpreting student evaluations. This program began at orientation in August and extends through the fall semester. The second program is titled “In-Depth Study of Teaching and Learning” and spans two semesters. In the first semester, faculty study research-based models of how people learn and consider how these models inform teaching decisions. In the second semester, faculty implement a new teaching practice deemed consistent with the models for learning they studied earlier. During this semester, faculty will observe each other’s classrooms to offer feedback and support. All of this programming is intended to occur before a faculty member undergoes a major teaching evaluation associated with reappointment or a contract renewal. The Teaching Fellows this year—Crystal Bruxvoort, Jim Jadrich, and Jo-Ann Van Reeuwijk—are delighted to serve new faculty as leaders in this new programming work.

*Crystal Bruxvoort, Teaching and Learning Network*

## Program Directors for Off-Campus Programs

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The Off-Campus Programs Office invites faculty to apply to direct one of the following programs: Britain (spring 2020), Ghana (spring 2020), Hungary (fall 2020), and Washington, DC (spring 2019 or spring 2020). Additional information about directing a semester program as well as the application procedure are available [online](#) or by contacting [Don DeGraaf](#), director of off-campus programs. Applications are due Friday, October 6, 2017.

## Lunch & Learn about Diversity: America Divided Documentary Series

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Join us on Wednesday, September 20, from noon to 1:30 for the first of three “Lunch & Learn about Diversity” sessions offered this semester. We will meet in the Knollcrest dining hall conference room. Each of the three sessions include a viewing of an episode of the America Divided documentary series and a time for discussion. Bring your lunch or grab something from the Knollcrest dining hall. We will begin at noon. On September 20, we will watch the second episode of the 2016 season “[A House Divided](#)”. This event counts as cultural competency professional development activity.

## Kuyers Conference 2017

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The Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning will host its [2017 conference](#), “Christian Teaching and Learning: Pathways and Possibilities” on October 5–7 at the Prince Conference Center. Over fifty papers will be presented by scholars from around the world on topics such as technology in the classroom, cultivating intellectual virtues, reports on empirical research, and other issues relating to education from pre-K to adult.

## From the Faculty Activity Reports

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- Carolyn Anderson (Chemistry and Biochemistry), “Synthesis of Isoquinoline Alkaloid Derivatives” (poster presentation, American Chemical Society—National Organic Symposium, Davis, CA, June 24, 2017).
- Jonathan Hill (Sociology), *The Quest for Purpose: The Collegiate Search for a Meaningful Life* (New York: State University of New York Press, 2017).
- Brian Kreisman (SPAUD) “Equivalence and Test-Retest Reproducibility of Conventional and Extended-High-Frequency Audiometric Thresholds Obtained Using Pure-Tone and Narrow-Band-Noise Stimuli.” *International Journal of Audiology* 56, no. 9 (2017): 635–642.

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](mailto:diversity@calvin.edu) if you have questions.

## Coming Up on Campus

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### Monday, September 18

- Chapel. Scott Hoezee, “Old Testament Characters: Jacob.” 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Henry Institute debate. “Is DACA Constitutional? Constitutional Structures and the Limits of Presidential Authority.” 3:30 p.m., DeVos lobby
- Nursing Department seminar. Jesse Moes, “Mental Engagement in the Classroom.” 5:00 p.m., SB 110

### Tuesday, September 19

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

### Wednesday, September 20

- Chapel. Faith storytelling with Pastor Mary. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Lunch and Learn about Diversity: America Divided documentary series. 12:00 noon, Knollcrest Dining Hall conference room
- History Colloquium. Wayne Te Brake, “Making Religious Peace: A Historical Perspective.” 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall

### Thursday, September 21

- Chapel. Sounds of Latino worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Nagel Institute lecture. Sanyu Mojola (U of Michigan), “Love, Money, and HIV: Becoming a Modern African Woman in the Age of AIDS.” 3:30 p.m., Prince Conference Center Board Room

### Friday, September 22

- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Biology seminar. Brandon Jacob (Career Center), “Ready for Work.” 1:30 p.m., SB 010
- Heritage Network event. Todd Cioffi, “Corner of the Campus.” Please register [here](#). 10:00 a.m., Prince Conference Center Willow Room