

The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, November 10, 2017

What My Father Passed Down to Me

When I came to campus in spring 2000 to interview with the Professional Status Committee for a faculty position in the Biology Department, my father gave me a book, written by Calvin chemistry professor John De Vries (namesake of De Vries Hall), titled *Beyond the Atom: An Appraisal of Our Christian Faith in This Age of Atomic Science* (Eerdmans, 1948). Professor De Vries was a proponent for the compatibility of science and faith and for the need for Christians to be involved in science. Among other ideas that could be controversial, he supported the idea that the earth was several billion years old. He was both stalwart in his faith and courageous in wrestling with the new possibilities revealed by scientific study.

I had the privilege of teaching several class periods of a biology class this fall; at one point, I read the class this quotation from that book. Even though it was written almost 70 years ago, at a time when the detonation of an atomic bomb was a reality and not just a possibility, the message is still relevant today:

Despite the apocalyptic warnings of our leaders, the nations are not making much progress towards securing international control of destructive forces, atomic or otherwise. Where must the postwar world seek for the new moral impetus which it so obviously needs? One of our larger universities is attempting to solve this problem by doubling the required science courses for liberal arts students and doubling required courses in the humanities for the science majors. The Christian churches are locked in a struggle with materialism which has been growing for one hundred fifty years. Will our physics textbooks give us the much needed answers to our problems? From which source will our victory come—from science or faith? This book is designed to show that the only source of power lies in God. It is addressed primarily to orthodox Christians in an attempt to strengthen their faith. . . . The study of the sciences challenges the youth of today. They will go where they can to obtain such knowledge. Where shall we send them? To schools where the instructors deny and ridicule God, or at best, just ignore him? . . . The Christian realizes that his Christianity must impregnate all of life. There is a crying need for Christian leadership in all fields of life.

As I begin a new role as academic dean, I am challenged by the Vision 2029 strategic planning process. Which aspects of the rich history of Calvin College do we keep? What new situations in contemporary culture are crying out for Christian leadership that we should address? The book my father gave to me prompts me to reflect on what he passed down to me. My father was born in 1926. He lived in homes without electricity and indoor plumbing but later felt the need to add a second bathroom to his home. After retirement, he took master-gardening and art courses to further develop his interests, and he used those skills to volunteer thousands of hours at Meijer Gardens. He learned to use a computer and Facebook. He passed down to me an example of faith in Jesus Christ, a delight in God's creation, a call to serve others, a respect for higher education, and a willingness to live looking forward. I see the Vision 2029 process optimistically, building on the rich traditions of a liberal arts and professional program education informed by Reformed Christianity, but also willing to look forward to newer studies and fields. As John De Vries wrote decades ago, these new fields of life also cry out for Christian leadership.

Arlene Hoogewerf, academic dean

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- David Benson (Chemistry and Biochemistry), “Protein Oxidation Involved in Cys-Tyr Post-translational Modification,” *Inorganic Biochemistry* 176 (2017): 168–174.
- Stacey Wieland (Communication Arts and Sciences), “[Work Socialization through Part-Time Work: Cultivating Self-Efficacy and Engagement through Care.](#)” *Journal of Applied Communication Research* 45, no.5 (October 4, 2017): 557–575.
- Matthew Lundberg (Religion), “[Gratitude and Lament: Remembering the Reformation after 500 Years.](#)” *Journey with Jesus* (October 8, 2017).

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, November 13

- Chapel. Kate Kooyman, “Old Testament Characters: Malachi.” 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Vision 2029 panel discussion. “What Will Be Distinctive about Calvin’s Purposes for and Approaches to Research and Scholarship?” 3:30 p.m., Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Tuesday, November 14

- Chapel. Taizé with Karen Saupe and Debra Rienstra. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- NetVUE webinar. Shirley Roels (host), “Vocation across the Academy.” Contact [Julie Yonker](#) to register. 1:00 p.m.
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280
- Henry Institute lecture. Hank Meijer, “The Legacies of Arthur Vandenberg: A Conversation about Politics and Consensus.” 7:30 p.m., Oak Room, Prince Conference Center

Wednesday, November 15

- Chapel. Hymn sing. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- History Colloquium. John Fea (Messiah College), “The Court Evangelicals: Who Are Trump’s Christian Advisers and Where Did They Come From?” 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall

Thursday, November 16

- Chapel. Sounds of Latino worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Vision 2029 Panel Discussion. “How Should a Reformed Theological Vision Shape the College’s Definition of Academic Excellence and Diversity?” 12:00 noon, Prince Conference Center, Willow Room
- Nursing seminar. Gail Zandee, Barbara Timmermans, Sarah Slotsema, “Listening to the Voice of Burton Heights Neighborhood.” 5:00 p.m., SB 110

Friday, November 17

- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- President’s Coffee. 12:30 p.m. (12:00 noon refreshments), CFAC recital hall

Welcome to New Faculty and Staff

We haven't had the opportunity in the past months to introduce many of the newer additions to the college, so please welcome the following:

Tim Bergsma comes to us from Hope College. He joins the Business department in a tenure-track position and will teach a variety of accounting courses in both the undergraduate program and the new Master of Accounting (MAcc) program. His research interests are in the blended fields of accounting and criminology. In the realm of research, he led a group called the West Michigan Anti-Fraud Research Collaboration, dedicated to fighting fraud through research. He is excited to get Calvin students involved with this group and with the practical elements of conducting research.

Abraham Ceballos is from Yucatan, Mexico. After working as a teacher in his hometown (Merida), he moved to Grand Rapids to complete an MEd from Calvin College and then pursued a doctoral degree in curriculum, instruction, and teacher education at MSU. During his time at MSU, Abraham worked with prospective language teachers and with students learning Spanish. Some of his areas of interest include foreign-language pedagogy and philosophy of education. He is excited to be part of the Spanish Department in an affiliated faculty position, where he can merge his teaching and research interests.

Kai Ton Chau joined the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship as a part-time resource development specialist in June 2017 after being a visiting scholar for over two years; he also is an adjunct instructor with the Business Department at Calvin College. In this new role with CICW, he serves as a liaison to Chinese congregations across North America and as associate editor for the *Reformed Worship* magazine. Kai Ton has a doctorate in worship studies and lived in China, Hong Kong, Kansas City, and Canada before coming to Grand Rapids in 2009. He teaches at other area colleges and universities as well.

Liam Coussens joined the Provost's Office in August as administrative coordinator. He is originally from Mt. Prospect, a northwest suburb of Chicago. He studied Jazz at DePaul University and political science at the University of Illinois–Springfield. He enjoys camping, woodworking, and soccer.

Kristen Dufty is the new program coordinator for the Off-Campus Programs Office. She is originally from the greater Mt. Pleasant area. She received her BA in international studies with a focus on the Middle East from Hope College in 2011. She studied abroad in Morocco while at Hope and moved back shortly after graduation. She has spent the rest of her time back in the US in international education, specifically international student recruitment and retention. Kristen is currently pursuing her MA in organizational leadership and global systems at Gonzaga University. In her spare time, she enjoys learning languages, specifically French and Arabic, and learning about different cultures.

Denice Fett is the new director of the archives. She holds a doctorate in early modern European history, earned from Ohio State University in 2010. She was as an assistant professor of history at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville before accepting the position at Calvin. Her area of research focuses on information and communications networks in Reformation Europe. She originally is from west Michigan and completed her BA at Grand Valley in 2004. As the director of the archives and denominational historian for the CRCNA, she hopes to broaden the archive's reach to different communities.

Nicole Karl is from Riverview, MI. She graduated from Calvin in May with a double major in psychology and business. She also was a member of the swim team. She currently works as a research specialist at the Center for Social Research, where she was a research assistant for two years as a student.

Gerone Lockhart has been confirmed by the Professional Status Committee as a theological librarian in the Hekman Library, after serving in an interim position since last year.

Laura Martzke joins the Nursing Department in an affiliated faculty position. She has taught community-based and community-focused nursing in the Burton Heights neighborhood of Grand Rapids. She has

been a nurse for 40 years—the last 20 at Grand Rapids Public Schools, first as a school nurse and then for four years as the nursing supervisor. Her special interests are community health and pediatric nursing.

Tim Mohnkern grew up outside of St. Louis in a small town in southern Illinois. He graduated with a BS in history education from Greenville College and a master's degree in special education from DePaul University. For the last three years he taught special education in the Kentwood Public Schools. Tim is a disability coordinator in Academic Services.

Erika Purcell-Williams is the new administrative assistant in the Biology and the Chemistry and Biochemistry Departments. She is from Grand Rapids and graduated from U of M in 2007 with a BA in African and Afro-American studies and biological anthropology. She received the Master of Public Health from George Washington University. Her most recent position was project assistant with the TriO Upward Bound program at Grand Rapids Community College. She loves sports and is currently a football coach for a local rocket football team.

Satrina Reid moved to Grand Rapids in July from Louisville, KY. She is a program coordinator at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. She serves as a coordinator for web-related projects, team member in the Vital Worship Grants program, and assists in various research projects, consultations, and events sponsored by the Institute. Satrina has a professional background in accounting/finance, nonprofit management, and ministry experience in teaching and worship leadership. She holds an MA in Christian education and biblical studies from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Before starting her position at the Center for Faith and Writing, **Amanda Smartt** worked at Calvin Seminary in admissions and communications. She attended Wake Forest University, NC, and majored in English literature. She is originally from southwest Virginia and grew up on a dairy farm. She is married to CAS professor Sam Smartt, and they are expecting their second child, a baby boy named Baxter, in November.

Noel Snyder is the new program manager for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. He studied at Hope College and has a BA in music and philosophy, as well as an MDiv and PhD in preaching from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and most recently served as chaplain and director of spiritual life at Alma College.

Christopher Sullivan was born and raised in Grand Rapids. He studied English at Oakland University and was a five-time NCAA Division I All-American. He started coaching NCAA Division III swimming in 2007 at Colorado College before joining Calvin as an assistant coach/aquatics director in the Kinesiology Department this fall.

Sara Vander Bie graduated with a bachelor's degree from Calvin and completed her master's at GVSU. She has taught both overseas and in the States, where she has worked at WMU, Hope, and the ELS Language Center. She's participated with refugee tutoring and workplace ESL programs as well. Sara joins the Center for Student Success as an ESL instructor and academic counselor.

Sandy Williams started as an administrative assistant for the Master of Accounting program this past June. She has a legal administrative background and is new to the academic world. She lives in Middleville with her husband Brad, 7-year-old daughter Clara, a cranky cat named Mittens, and a fluffy cockapoo puppy named Star. Her hobbies are playing volleyball, biking, and cooking.

Jevon Willis joins the Department of Sociology and Social Work as an affiliated faculty member. He most recently worked as the associate director of Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders, with a focus on indigenous community leadership. He also is a leader with Madison Square's multicultural living director, focused on leadership development within Madison's POC group. He did his graduate work in social work at Western Michigan University.