

# The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, December 1, 2017

## Excellence in Teacher Education

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Celebrate with us encouraging news for the education program (comprising more than 35 faculty and staff and over 500 students across the campus): On the heels of our recent accreditation site-visit—which affirmed the excellence of our faculty, students, and partners—we received news that Calvin’s education program received the highest performance score rating of all comprehensive educator preparation institutions (EPIs) in Michigan.

Since the inception of the annual Michigan’s EPI performance scores, Calvin has always received a high rating, including being the second-highest-ranked education program in the state for the past three years. This year Calvin received the highest score among all the comprehensive programs across Michigan. The EPI performance scoring system has evolved and added new data over the years and now has three components: (1) MTTC pass rates, (2) surveys, and (3) educator effectiveness ratings.

The first component, MTTC pass rates, is a calculation of how many students pass their subject area tests, such as K–12 art, kinesiology, secondary social studies, elementary education, and more than 20 other majors and minors. Thanks to the strong teaching of faculty across the campus, Calvin students do very well on the MTTC and leave Calvin with a firm grasp of disciplinary content and pedagogical knowledge.

The second rating comes from surveys developed and administered by the Michigan Department of Education. These are completed by Calvin candidates following their student teaching semester as well as by college supervisors who visit the candidates six times during student teaching. It is heartening to know that Calvin teaching candidates strongly affirm that their program provided good preparation for teaching.

The third area, educator effectiveness rating, is based on the ratings that our graduates receive from their principals in their first three years of teaching. When principals across Michigan observe and evaluate the teaching of recent Calvin graduates, they affirm the graduates’ successful service in the classroom and school community.

While it is wonderful to have experienced a very successful accreditation visit and to have received the top EPI performance score ranking this year (and to observe the trend of many of our graduates being offered teaching positions early and often), these external markers do not capture the breadth and depth of what we are working toward in the Calvin education program. Our confidence in our program and joy in our work come from more important sources: hearing first-hand graduates’ stories of service; feedback from local schools and teacher partners who work with students in their multiple internships; our students’ perceptive and insightful writing about their commitment to justice in education; the feedback from principals who speak so highly about the contributions of Calvin graduates in their schools; and the regular sharing, collaboration, and innovation of the program faculty that deepens our students’ understanding and ability to live into this call to teach.

*Jim Rooks, dean of education*

## From the Faculty Activity Reports

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- Debra Freeberg (Communication Arts and Sciences), “Arabian Nights” (interview, Shelley Irwin Show, WGTV Broadcasting Studio, Grand Rapids, MI, October 1, 2017).
- Matt Heun (Engineering), “From Theory to Econometrics to Energy Policy: Cautionary Tales for Policymaking Using Aggregate Production Functions” (lecture, Energy Symposium, Austin, TX, November 9, 2017).
- Kevin den Dulk and Michael Pelz (Political Science), “Looking Within or Reaching Out? The Effects of Religion on Private School Enrollments in an Era of School Choice,” [Politics and Religion](#) (November 9, 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](mailto:diversity@calvin.edu) if you have questions.

## Welcome to New Staff

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**Emily Champion** joins the SPAUD department as a speech pathologist. She lives in Caledonia with her three-month old son, five-year old daughter, and husband. She attended MSU for her bachelor's degree and Western Michigan for her master's. She was employed by Mary Free Bed for the last five years as a team leader in the home and community department. She has experience working in a variety of settings with adult and pediatric patients, including schools, outpatient, inpatient, and home-based care.

**Jennifer Howell** is the very first land manager for Calvin's Ecosystem Preserve. She is a 2000 Calvin grad who studied biology and environmental studies. In 2003, she earned an MS in fisheries and wildlife from MSU. She has spent the last 14 years employed as the stewardship manager of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, a biological field station south of Hastings.

## Congratulations

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Calvin's Rehabilitation Services (CCRS) received a \$433,394 Michigan Health Endowment Fund Healthy Aging award for a collaborative interprofessional fall-prevention program. Speech Pathology, Nursing, Social Work, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy (WMU), the Area Agency on Agency of West Michigan, and the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired will contribute to the development of a fall-prevention model that identifies older adults' mobility issues and connects them to services that meet their specific needs. For more information on the Health Fund program, visit [this site](#) or [email](#) the SPAUD department.

## Coming Up on Campus

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### Monday, December 4

- Chapel. Laura de Jong. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Political Science lecture. Virginia Beard (Hope College), "They Are My People: Understanding Operationalized Ethnicity in Kenya." 3:30 p.m., DeVos 160

### Tuesday, December 5

- Chapel. Taizé with Karen Saupe and Debra Rienstra. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- End-of-semester diversity update. 12:30 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280

### Wednesday, December 6

- Chapel. Jazz prayers with Calvin Jazz Combo. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

### Thursday, December 7

- Chapel. *Messiah* sing with Calvin Orchestra. 10:00 a.m., Calvin Fine Arts Center
- First-Year Research in Earth Sciences (FYRES) student research presentations. 2:00 p.m., NH 078
- Calvin Environmental Assessment Program (CEAP) lecture. Mitchell Thomashow, "Nine Elements of a Sustainable Campus." 4:00 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall
- CEAP poster session. 4:45 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Henry Institute lecture. Jamie Smith (Philosophy), "Awaiting the King: The Politics of Hope in an Age of Fear." 7:30 p.m., Chapel

### Friday, December 8

- Chapel. Christmas-carol sing with Calvin Wind Ensemble. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Biology seminar. William Miller, "Conservation in the Age of the Genome: Applications of Molecular Genetics to Wildlife Ecology, Management, and Epidemiology." 1:30 p.m., SB 010