The Secret of Knowing How Is Remembering Why

Back in graduate school I (Don) came across this short quote: “The secret of knowing how is remembering why.” While I really like this quote, I often forget its importance as I make new commitments at the start of each academic year. There are so many good things to commit to, yet my time is limited. Despite this dilemma, we do commit to such things as mentoring a StreetFest group, adding service-learning as a part of our classes, engaging our communities through our churches or other nonprofits, teaching an off-campus interim... the list could go on. If you are like me, by the end of September you step back and begin to wonder, Have I overcommitted? We can’t answer this question for you, but we can say THANK YOU for your willingness to engage our students, our communities, and our world in partnership with the Center for Community Engagement and Global Learning (CCEGL). We also can provide a bit of perspective and remind you of the why. Although most of us understand the why in terms of “living wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world,” sometimes we forget the way God can use our small contributions in big ways. Consider the following encouraging examples that were recently shared with the CCEGL office:

- From one of our community partners on StreetFest day, 5:00 p.m.: “Dear S-LC Staff, Just wanted to share with you... [that] our students took a walking tour of Creston and then delivered door hanger-fliers about Creston events this fall. We got 500 fliers out today! It would have cost us hundreds of dollars to have sent those out by mail or for our staff to have done it themselves.”
- On a recent visit to the semester program in Hungary, Jeff Bouman met with the English teachers at the Aquincum bilingual English-Hungarian primary school in Budapest and learned that in addition to hosting students in service-learning placements while they study abroad, this school has hosted six Calvin alumni since 2011 who have returned to Budapest to spend at least a year teaching in the program. These teachers—and many others—now see Calvin as a partner in their efforts and are grateful.
- From a faculty member at Wayne State: “Thank you for the time you took to meet with me and show me around. I learned a great deal that will be invaluable as we figure out how to start and manage our native plant/sustainability projects here at Wayne State. The Plaster Creek Stewards and Calvin College are tremendous role models for us to emulate!”

So THANK YOU for all the things you do around here and in our community. It is much appreciated.

Jeff Bouman, Don DeGraaf, Kristen Dufty, Andrew Haggerty, Gail Heffner
Center for Community Engagement and Global Learning (CCEGL)

Congratulations

On September 11, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural affairs awarded Calvin $22,500 in support of Create.Unite.Renew coordinated arts programming that focuses on issues of race, gender, and body image. This grant will support workshops and performances on these themes on both the main campus and at Handlon Correctional Facility. The Create.Unite.Renew web page will provide information on how you can participate in these events. Thanks to Paula Manni, Heather Rodgers, Todd Buchta, and all the arts faculty who contributed to this successful grant.

The Computer Science Department received a $173,463 grant from the National Science Foundation to help create teaching tools that let students control the number of CPU cores a program is utilizing and then see or hear differences in a program’s behavior as different numbers of cores are used to solve a problem.
The basic idea is to allow an instructor to annotate a parallel program with simple calls so that visual or auditory learners will be able to see or hear the program's parallel behavior. Thank you to Joel Adams for securing this grant.

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Gayle Ermer (Engineering), “What Does It Mean to Offer a Distinctively Christian Engineering Program?” (lecture, American Scientific Affiliation annual meeting, Boston, MA, July 29, 2018).

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, September 24
- Chapel. Mark Charles, “I AM: The Light of the World (John 8:12).” 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood drive, 12:00 noon–8:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Nagel fellowship hour. Working with Chinese Partners. 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center Lecture Hall
- Nursing seminar. Kristin Vanderwell, “Improving Adolescent Risk Assessment in a Primary Care Setting.” 5:00 p.m., SB 110

Tuesday, September 25
- Chapel. Matt Postma, “Liturgy for an Ordinary Radical.” 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood drive, 12:00 noon–8:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280

Wednesday, September 26
- Chapel. Sing a new song with Sharon Pani. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood drive, 12:00 noon–8:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Engineering seminar. 3:30 p.m., SB 010

Thursday, September 27
- Chapel. Sounds of American folk worship with Luke Enders. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- CALL Noontime Lecture series. Doug Koopman (Political Science) and Emily Helder (Psychology), “On the Ballot: Gerrymandering.” 12:00 noon, Chapel Narthex
- Education Program Forum series. Abraham Ceballos (Spanish), “Voices from Outside the School: Emerging Pedagogies in a Yucatán Village.” 3:30 p.m., Van Noord 235
- Mathematics and Statistics colloquium. Erin Campbell Wagner. 3:40 p.m., SB 110

Friday, September 28
- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Biology seminar. Steve Bouma-Prediger (Hope), “From Stewardship to Earthkeeping: Why We Should Move beyond Stewardship.” 1:30 p.m., SB 010