Planned Happenstance

Kathleen Mitchell, Al Levin, and John Krumboltz introduced their theory of planned happenstance in 1999, arguing for “the creating and transforming of unplanned events into opportunities for learning.” People, they argued, should develop skills of curiosity, persistence, flexibility, optimism, and risk taking in order to recognize, create, and use chance as an opportunity for development. In the life of the Center for Community Engagement and Global Learning, we find ourselves nearly every day in chance encounters that lead to personal growth, meaningful relationships, and a sense of wonder.

In December a close community partner asked whether we could help a group of fifth-grade students from River City Scholars to attend Leland Melvin’s inspiring January Series lecture. Our office reserved transportation and secured drivers, Event Services reserved seats in the auditorium, Oakdale Neighbors coordinated with the school, and their teacher rounded up all of their students to brave a snowy, blustery drive to campus. Two weeks after the event, their teacher shared with us how her students were still buzzing about Leland. “Since our trip,” she said, “the students have begun researching African American scientists. . . . They had never heard of Leland before we began planning for the trip. His story has motivated them and made them curious to learn more about him and others. They now realize that there is a world of amazing people out there that they may not have heard about. It has really opened their eyes and minds.”

In January the Artists Collaborative spent their interim in Northern Ireland learning about truth, peace-building, and reconciliation in light of the Northern Ireland conflict. One day, the class visited a Catholic cemetery where “Catholic Irish nationalist heroes” are buried, and they happened upon a former IRA fighter, who shared stories about his experiences and those buried in the cemetery. Just two days later, the class visited a Protestant neighborhood, where a man coming from the store stopped them, introduced himself as a neighborhood tour guide, dropped off his groceries, and then proceeded to give them a free tour of the neighborhood, sharing the story of the conflict from a Protestant perspective. Afterward, all were left ruminating on the brutality of conflict, a shared history but not a shared memory of The Troubles, the power of reconciliation, and the complex nature of the stories of history.

Where we spend our time matters, in a decade-old relationship that leads to an inspiring experience for over 20 fifth-graders, or in a cemetery and a neighborhood where we run into strangers whose stories transform our thinking. So we stay present, we stay attentive, and we say yes more quickly than we say no, all to embrace the power of chance.

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

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Biology and the Chemistry and Biochemistry departments, along with Doug Vander Griend, the author of the proposal, for being named part of a $1.7 million dollar grant from the Beckman Scholars Program for 2019. Calvin College was selected following a rigorous application process that included a two-part review led by a panel of scientific experts, along with other impressive institutions.

Doug Vander Griend and Kevin den Dulk have been named Lilly Faculty Fellows, a highly competitive program that includes four conferences and $10,000 in start-up funds to inaugurate a Lilly Faculty Fellows Program at our campus.
CARE Team Information

Are you concerned about a student in your class, bothered that your student worker has been acting differently, or unsure about a student’s behavior but not sure who to talk to? Calvin has established a CARE (Calvin Assessment, Response and Evaluation) Team to identify students who may be in crisis and benefit from intervention. The purpose of this team is to prevent small problems from becoming larger and to connect pieces of information that may indicate a larger pattern of troubling behaviors. To submit a concern for a student, please go here. For questions and more information see this web page.

From the Faculty Activity Reports


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, February 18**
- Chapel. Hymn sing. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**Tuesday, February 19**
- Chapel. Scott Hoezee: Wisdom. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**Wednesday, February 20**
- Chapel. Sounds of Korean Worship with Joe Bae. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Science and Religion Forum (SCARF) lecture. Deborah Haarsma. 4:00 p.m., SB 110

**Thursday, February 21**
- Title IX workshop for faculty and staff. 8:00 a.m. (7:30 check-in), Prince Conference Center
- Fulbright Scholar Program. Peter Raucci. 9:00 a.m., Commons Annex lecture hall
- Chapel. Lectio Divina with Bob Crow and Joella Ranaivoson. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Fulbright Student Program. Peter Raucci. 11:00 a.m., Commons Annex lecture hall
- Black History Month. Black Inventors Museum Exhibit. 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Hekman Library lobby
- The 4:04 Gathering. Christina Van Dyke. 4:04 p.m., Hekman Library, third floor

**Friday, February 22**
- Title IX workshop for faculty and staff. 8:00 a.m. (7:30 check-in), Prince Conference Center
- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Biology seminar. Nurya Love Parish, “Health for All Creation: Practical Theology and Land Stewardship.” 1:30 p.m., DeVries Hall 010