The Academic Bulletin
from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College
Friday, March 1, 2019

Research Opportunities for Students in Heritage Hall

As the newly appointed interim curator of Heritage Hall, I’ve been getting to know the staff and volunteers there and exploring the various collections.

Heritage Hall—located on the main floor of the Hekman Library—includes the archives of the college, seminary, and CRC. It also has a manuscript collection of material from people and organizations associated with the three institutions and (more broadly) the religious, social, and cultural life of West Michigan, the nation, and the wider world, notably Canada and the Netherlands. The collection is especially deep in records related to Dutch immigrants and their impact in North America.

I’ve long encouraged students looking for research topics to go to Heritage Hall to find inspiration and hands-on sources for their projects. Archives may not be as convenient as Google and JSTOR, but they offer a unique, high-impact experience. In my Native American history course, for example, I’ve pointed students to collections on CRC missions among the Navajo and Hopi. There is similar material on CRC missions overseas. These are engaging sources for research on religion, race, gender, and politics.

I’m now learning about the diverse collections waiting for student research in many disciplines, whether individual or class projects. Here are some examples.

- I’ve been working on a project on refugees with alumni and faculty from the college and seminary. I remembered my church in Canada sponsoring Vietnamese refugees in the 1970s and 1980s, so I thought I’d see what Heritage Hall has. Records in the CRCNA collection related to refugees could be the basis for projects in history, sociology, social work, and political science courses, notably on Cuban, Hungarian, and Vietnamese refugees during the Cold War.

- We are processing a collection of hundreds of Dutch/American letters and papers from Willem van de Wall and his family. Born in Amsterdam in 1887, he emigrated to New York at 22 and served as a harpist in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and New York Symphony. He also was choral director of the Washington Opera Company, a college professor, and a pioneer in music therapy. The letters are mostly in Dutch and seem mostly related to family life. His writings on music therapy are in English. I can imagine research projects for Dutch majors and for students interested in music and psychology.

- The manuscript collection includes institutional records and individual papers related to local health organizations and institutions in other parts of the US and in Canada, including the Bethesda Sanatorium in Denver and Rehoboth Christian Hospital in New Mexico. This material might be the basis for research in the health sciences, social work, sociology, and cultural history.

Feel free to contact me or the archives by email, or drop by the Heritage Hall to learn more about what we might have for your students, your classes, or your own work. We’re open for business.

Will Katerberg, associate dean for programs and partnerships

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Jaclynn Lubbers (Nursing), Excellence in Nursing Practice Award for 2018 by Kappa Epsilon At-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.
- John Walcott (Education), “Educational Inequality and Christian Education” (lecture, Christian Educators Association Convention, South Bend, IN, October 25, 2018).

Be sure to fill out your Faculty Activity Reports regularly. If you have questions, see the FAQ page.

**Faculty Teaching Award Nominations Are Due March 18**

Nominations are now being accepted for the various faculty awards:

- Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching
- *FEN* Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Innovative Teaching Award
- Advising and Mentoring Award
- Student-Faculty Research Award
- Community-Based Teaching Award
- Collaborative Change Award
- Teaching Excellence Award for Affiliated and Adjunct Faculty

Descriptions of the awards are available online. The site also includes a link to a short and simple nomination form. Deadline for nominations is **Monday, March 18, 2019**. These awards allow the college to recognize the variety of contributions that faculty make to the Calvin College learning community. In addition to honor and recognition, all award recipients will receive a cash gift.

**Coming Up on Campus (Check the campus calendar for a full list of events)**

**Monday, March 4**

- Chapel. Trevor Rubingh (New City Kids). 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Cultural Competency Professional Development activity. “Building Cultural Competency 101.” 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall

**Tuesday, March 5**

- Chapel. Joella Ranaivoson: Transcendence. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- The 4:04 Gathering. Won Lee (Religion). 4:04 p.m., Hekman Library, third floor

**Wednesday, March 6**

- Chapel. Ash Wednesday with Cornelius Plantinga. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**Thursday, March 7**

- Chapel. Drum circle with Eric Nykamp. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**Friday, March 8**

- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel