Pulling on the Oars

Last week, Cheryl recapped advice and encouragement from Patricia Killen, Gerald Pillay, Greg Jones, and our own Michael LeRoy, who shared a memory from a summer white-water rafting trip to remind us that in the rapids, everyone in the raft needs to paddle in sync. As I talk with faculty and staff around campus, I am impressed by and grateful for the many people who have their oars in the water and are pulling hard. Here are just a few examples:

- Staff who go out of their way to care for the students around them.
- Faculty who are teaching new courses or trying new pedagogies to help students learn better.
- Colleagues who are serving on the university’s regular high-intensity committees like EPC, PSC, PPC, and Faculty Senate.
- Colleagues who are serving on intense ad hoc groups like building renovation committees, online program teams, the University Structure committee, the committee shaping a new core, and the Envisioners who are helping the campus think in new ways about core.

The work of some colleagues is highly visible; the work of others is not. All of these colleagues deserve our thanks and encouragement. As you encounter colleagues across campus, would you take a moment to ask what they’re up to and to thank them for their good work?

Elizabeth Vander Lei, academic dean

Wanted: Directors of Off-Campus Programs

The Off-Campus Programs office is currently accepting applications for directors of the following programs: Hungary (FA 2021), Peru (FA 2021), Ghana (SP 2021), and Washington DC (SP 2021). The application and related information can be found here. If you have questions or want to discuss this opportunity more, please contact Cynthia Slagter, director of Off-Campus Programs (off-campus@calvin.edu). The application deadline is October 1, 2019.

Sabbatical and CRF applications due soon

Faculty who are eligible and planning to apply for a sabbatical or Calvin Research Fellowship (CRF) during the 2020-2021 academic year can access the forms and all current information online. Please note that sabbatical applications are due by September 20, and CRF applications are due by October 1.

Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship (CCCS) Major Grants

CCCS is accepting applications for Major Grants. The deadline for applications is October 1.

New: Academic Scholarships guaranteed for renewal

Beginning with this year’s incoming class (19FA), academic scholarships are guaranteed for renewal for a second year unless a student is not making satisfactory academic progress (basically a 2.0 GPA). The previous measure was 3.0 for renewal. This does not include transfer or readmitted students and note that the 18FA class is not included. Following are the primary reasons for guaranteed renewal:

- Stabilize financial aid for students in their first two years
- Reduce stress for students who have large financial resources tied to academic performance
• GPAs from students have steadily risen over the past years making this change financially feasible within the FA budget
• Open up opportunities for awarding aid to returning students sooner than June/July
• Likely retention improvement

It is possible that “guaranteed” renewal may have an unintended consequence of removing pressure in the first year to do well academically; therefore, the policy retains the minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA requirement measured after a student’s third semester in order for the scholarship to renew for the junior year. This gives the student and the Center for Student Success additional time to make GPA improvements. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paul Witte (prw3@calvin.edu) in Financial Aid.

From the Faculty Activity Reports

• **Maria Lam** (Business), “Review and Renew Trusting Relationships between American and Chinese Business Negotiators” (lecture, 11th International Academy for Intercultural Research, Shanghai, China, July 8, 2019).


• **Dwight TenHuisen** (Spanish), “Antonio de la Calancha (1584–1654) and His Translators as Readers of Las Casas” (lecture, The Second International Conference on Bartolomé de las Casas, Providence, Rhode Island, July 15, 2019).

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 16**
- Chapel. Sounds of hip-hop worship with leadership from The Edge church. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Let's do Lunch. 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Commons Knollcrest Room (CM 302)
- Cultural Competency Professional Development Lunch and Learn with TED, “What the Gay Rights Movement Learned from the Civil Rights Movement.” [RSVP here](#). 12:00 noon, President’s Conference Room (SC 382)

**Tuesday, September 17**
- Chapel. Worship in German. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280

**Wednesday, September 18**
- Chapel. The Greatest of These: 1 Corinthians 13:4 with Scott Hoezee. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

**Thursday, September 19**
- Chapel. Ugandan children’s choir. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Let’s do Lunch. 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Commons Knollcrest Room (CM 302)
- CALL lecture. Tim Mroz, “Potholes and Possibilities: Insights on West Michigan’s Economic Horizon.” 3:00 p.m., CFAC Recital Hall

**Friday, September 20**
- Chapel. Campus Choir with student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel