The Academic Bulletin
from the Office of the Provost of Calvin University
Friday, September 27, 2019

Do I Belong?

Research shows that a first-year college student’s “most critical transition period occurs during the first two to six weeks” of school (Levitz & Noel, 1989). During this time period, students are acclimating to new environments while simultaneously dealing with the stresses of leaving home, increased academic pressures, finding friends, and more generally searching for “belonging.” Students who find a sense of belonging at Calvin are much more likely to flourish. New students who feel that they do not belong socially or academically (in the classroom) are significantly more likely to leave the university and ultimately not earn a degree.

You can play a key role in helping students feel that they matter here! Use their name, ask how they are doing, and let them know that they do belong. As you reflect on the first-year students whom you advise or encounter in your classes, please take a few moments at this critical time in the semester to let us know about those who might be uncertain about their place at Calvin by using this form: www.calvin.edu/go/concern.

To that end, please don’t hesitate to register concerns for any student related to advising, academic performance, behavior, class attendance, or wellness. These concerns are carefully reviewed by the Student Success staff and provide the team with key information needed for tailoring individual interventions and support. Furthermore, this form is a key component of our cross-divisional Coordinated Care Program, which enables multiple campus partners to collaborate well to ensure that we are supporting students in the most appropriate and comprehensive ways.

As always, we are grateful to the Calvin faculty for their overwhelming support of this and many other college retention efforts.

Todd Dornbos and the Center for Student Success Team

Interfaith Engagement in Research and Practice: Staff and Faculty Workshop

All staff and faculty are invited to a workshop with Kevin Singer, co-director of Neighborly Faith and IDEALS research assistant at NC State University, on interfaith engagement in research and practice. Kevin will be sharing relevant findings from his research and his experiences, with a particular emphasis on good practices for engaging diverse Christians in interfaith work on college and university campuses. Please join us in the Meeter Center Lecture Hall on Wednesday, October 2, 9:20-10:30 a.m. Email Andrew Haggerty with any questions.

Kuyers Institute/INCHE Conference 2019

The Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning will co-host with INCHE (the International Network for Christian Higher Education) the 2019 conference, “Shaping Christian Learning,” October 3–5 at the Prince Conference Center. This conference will focus on what happens when we think about Christian learning as something shaped by our designs for learning.

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- **Mark Mulder** (Sociology), “Why Don’t All Latinx Americans Vote Blue?” Faith and Leadership (July 8, 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 30**
- Chapel. Sounds of American folk worship with Luke Enders. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- *Let’s do Lunch*. 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Knollcrest Dining Hall Conference Room (KD 119)
- Blood drive. 12:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft

**Tuesday, October 1**
- Chapel. Worship in French. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood drive. 12:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280
- Lecture. “Fight the New Drug,” 7:00 p.m., CFAC Auditorium

**Wednesday, October 2**
- Chapel. The Greatest of These: 1 Corinthians 13:5 with Mary Hulst. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Interfaith Engagement in Research and Practice Workshop. Kevin Singer. 9:20 a.m., Meeter Center Lecture Hall
- Blood drive. 12:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Diversity and Inclusion Story Table event. RSVP here. 7:45 p.m., Meeter Center Lecture Hall

**Thursday, October 3**
- [Kuyers Institute Conference](#), 8:00 a.m., Prince Conference Center
- Chapel. Jesus Questions with Tanner Smith. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- *Let’s do Lunch*. 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Knollcrest Dining Hall Conference Room (KD 119)
- Chemistry department seminar. Student presentations. 11:30 a.m., SB 010
- Education Program forum. Marilee Bylsma, “Urban Education; My Journey.” 3:30 p.m., Van Noord 235
- Education Program reception and informal conversations with Ms. Bylsma. 4:30 p.m., Van Noord 235

**Friday, October 4**
- [Kuyers Institute Conference](#), 8:00 a.m., Prince Conference Center
- Chapel. Student worship team with Debra Perry and James Lee. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Henry Institute lecture. Bob Ottenhoff. 10:30 a.m., DC 170
- Biology department seminar. Steve Tongue, “Healing Waters: Restoring a River to Improve Healthcare.” 1:30 p.m., SB 010
- Don Vermeer lecture on geographical change. David Ley (U. of British Columbia), “The Great Wall of Capital: Or Why is Vancouver Housing the Most Unaffordable in North America?” 3:30 p.m., NH 078