A Christmas Essay

As we grade our papers (only 63 to go!), make our holiday travel plans, attend Christmas pageants, keep grading papers (only 20 more!), finish our reports, shop for a few gifts, grade some more papers (thanks to late papers, there are now 26...), plan interims, write our exams, and continue to grade our papers (32?! How are they multiplying?), I feel somewhat confident that no one has time to read my opening introduction of the Academic Bulletin. Therefore, I have great freedom in knowing I can say virtually anything, with no one ever being the wiser. In that spirit, I will share some of my more controversial views about the Christmas season:

- I kind of like that Christmas song by Wham! .... “Last Christmas”
- DieHard movies are indeed Christmas movies, with DieHard 2 being the best
- Randy Quaid not being nominated for an Oscar for his role in Christmas Vacation is a travesty of justice.
- The rendition of “Jingle Bells” performed by barking dogs always makes me laugh until I cry...

Perhaps a less controversial view is that I am an absolute sap for Christmas movies, especially the ones created for children. I love the bright innocence of the plots... The Grinch steals the Christmas presents, but Christmas still comes! The drummer boy plays for baby Jesus and his bitter heart is cleansed and his pet lamb is healed! Linus and Charlie love a tiny branch and it becomes the most beautiful tree ever! As writers attempt to explain Christmas to children, the wonder of the best news in the world pours out: God himself became a tiny child so that He could save us and draw us to Himself. And He will stay by our cradles until morning is night. May we all experience all the magic and joy of Christmas.

“It is good to be a child, and never more than at Christmas, when its mighty founder was a child Himself” – Charles Dickens

Laura DeHaan, dean for academic administration

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- **Jaclynn Lubbers** (Nursing), “Psychopharmacology in your Classroom” (lecture, Christian Educator’s Association (CEA) Conference, South Bend, Indiana, October 24, 2019).

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

Welcome Calvin’s New Staff

Please welcome the following staff who have joined Calvin recently. We are grateful for the expertise and energy this trio brings to bolster the arts at Calvin.

- **Lisa Funk, community arts coordinator, Music Department**
  Lisa is from the Grand Rapids area and studied educational ministry at Cornerstone University. Her background is in church ministry and non-profits. She was most recently employed by the Salvation Army as the special events coordinator.
• Lisa Meyer, operations coordinator for the Calvin Theatre Company (CTC), Communication Department
Lisa was born and raised in the Midland area. Her professional background is in business administration, and she has spent 20 years involved in musical theatre.

• Kristen Pearson, administrative manager for the arts, Music Department
Kristen is a Grand Rapids native. She studied communications, theatre, and English at Grand Valley State University and is a lifelong lover of the arts.

McGregor Fellows Summer Program for 2020

The 2020 McGregor Fellows Program is now accepting faculty applications through February 4, 2020. This summer program has funded collaborative student-faculty research for twenty years and continues to attract Calvin’s “best and brightest” students and faculty to collaborative research projects. Don’t let this opportunity to fund your research project slip away, the application process is not lengthy or difficult. Details about the program—including application, program guidelines, and mentor/fellow expectations and responsibilities, are available online.

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

Monday, December 9
• Wednesday class Schedule in effect (no night classes).
• Chapel. Christmas Carol-Sing. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
• Let’s do Lunch. 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Commons Knollcrest Room (CM 302). Note: this will be the last lunch until Spring semester.
• CMS 151 poster session. 3:30 p.m., Hekman Library lobby

Tuesday, December 10
• No Chapel due to reading recess.
• Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280

Wednesday–Friday, December 11–13, and Monday–Tuesday, December 16–17
• Final Exams, 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 19
• President’s open house for faculty and staff at DeWit Manor. Optional schedule (to balance the flow of guest):
  Last names H–Q: 2:00 p.m.
  Last names A–G: 3:00 p.m.
  Last names R–Z: 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24–Wednesday, January 2, 2020
• Campus closed for Christmas break

Thursday, December 26
• Fall semester grades due, 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 2
• Campus reopens to staff and faculty

Tuesday, January 7
• Campus reopens to students

Wednesday, January 8
• Interim term begins; January Series begins. 12:30 p.m., CFAC Auditorium