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Dept. Classical Languages

Project Title Research assistant for 16th and 17th century theological Latin translation work, and resident assistant and counselor for Tvscvlvm Michiganiense 2018.

Project Abstract The contours of this project are twofold. First, the chosen student would help with my ongoing research and translation portfolio on the works of multiple authors from the 16th and 17th centuries. Presently, I have contracted work on members of the Westminster Assembly in a very large project that includes the talents of multiple scholars, and will be published by RHB. I also have contracted work on the Puritan John Owen with Crossway publishers. That work is progressing apace and will need additional bibliographical and other kinds of research assistance. Third, I am preparing a proposal to translate John Calvin's sermons on I Samuel from Latin to English, and will receive a contract God willing from Banner of Truth Trust. Together with Dr. Joseph Tipton, I will be translating elements from Calvin's controversy with Servetus. These will be submitted to Baker Academic. In the course of this work the selected student's abilities in Latin will be greatly augmented and sharpened. During the fifth of the eight weeks, the student's ability in Latin would be tested and grown remarkably by assisting me and my colleague Dr. Patrick Owens at the Tvscvlvm Michiganiense, which will be held at Waltman Lake and is co-sponsored by the Enrollment Division. For this portion of the student's service, he or she will serve as a camp counselor who makes use almost exclusively of spoken Latin. This is a very unique and demanding position, and last year Matt Walhout suggested that I combine the two positions into one for that very reason. During the course of the week, the student would help lead spoken Latin activities and games, and serve as a general resident assistant.

Project Outcome Much of this has been covered in previous boxes, but in addition to helping with the Tvscvlvm, the student's work will become part of published translations on theological Latin. In the past, both undergrad Latin majors Lia Gelder and Chris Sanicola translated writings that were then added to work I had published on Franciscus Junius and Theodore Beza respectively. It is my intention to afford the student that same opportunity, i.e. to publish an original work with my oversight and help. The broader value of these projects should be obvious: for the faculty member, I will gain invaluable time with research assistance, as well as help at our camp. For the discipline, the student assistant will help to bring seminal works of Reformed theology and history to an audience that knows little Latin. The college will continue to gain prominence as an institution that values historical research and is eager to reach young people in the humanities and liberal arts, specifically the classical languages. The community of public, private, and homeschool students will receive tremendous benefit by having access to the only immersive Latin language in North America designed specifically for them and hosted by Calvin College.