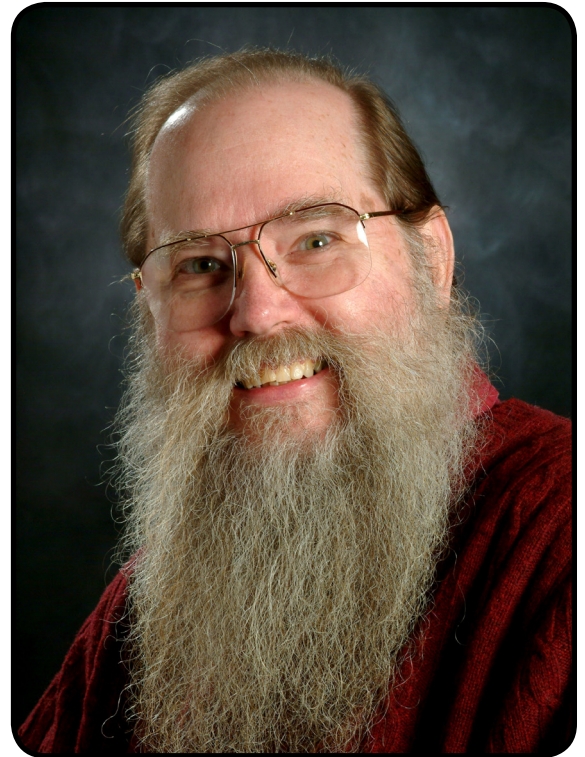




# Monsma Profile: Connecting Service to Study

Katie Van Zanen, 50th Anniversary Research and Projects Coordinator



“fulfill Calvin’s goal of teaching and learning for Christian service in God’s world.”

Service-learning was part of George’s teaching for more than ten years. Since 2006, it’s been central to his life in retirement. In addition to serving on the Jubilee Jobs board, he volunteers with the Micah Center. But learning, academic or otherwise, remains central to his life. George takes classes with the Calvin Academy of Lifelong Learning. And every year, he participates in StreetFest, so he can keep teaching students to serve and learn, and continue to serve and learn alongside them.

**Celebrating 50 Years on June 6th & 7th!**

Celebrate a legacy of serving & learning at the the S-LC’s 50th Anniversary event.

**To register visit:**  
[www.calvin.edu/slc/50th-anniversary.html](http://www.calvin.edu/slc/50th-anniversary.html)

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George Monsma has mentored a StreetFest group almost every year since the program began in 1993. Though he retired from Calvin’s economics department in 2006, he returns yearly to don a brightly colored shirt and welcome another class of Calvin students. Monsma’s involvement in StreetFest stems from a desire to connect classroom knowledge to the outside world. He appreciates the opportunity to connect students to the Grand Rapids community and establish a different relationship with them than is typical in a classroom setting. Together, he and his students serve and reflect—often at Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church, where Monsma and his wife attend, or elsewhere in the Baxter Neighborhood. George has served on the board of the Baxter Community Center, and currently serves on the board of Jubilee Jobs.

His involvement with Jubilee Jobs spans several decades. George has integrated academically-based service-learning (ABSL) into his classes since he served on a 1993 faculty committee that recommended its implementation at Calvin. His labor economics students often did their ABSL with Jubilee Jobs in conjunction with academic study of employment theory. Jubilee equips under-resourced young people with job skills and financial literacy. “Standard theories of unemployment didn’t really capture the situation of many people who were unemployed,” he says, citing barriers like addiction, criminal history, and family obligations. His students journaled about the ways in which the theories proved accurate or inadequate.

George notes that the students who pursued service-learning came to better understand the situations of a population with which they had little prior firsthand experience. Many of his students were business majors pursuing careers in management or human resources, and he hoped to cultivate “an awareness and concern for this population”—those with barriers to employment—that his students could take into their future careers. He found ABSL a helpful strategy to





# Mapping Routes, Revealing History

Anna Lindner, Partnership Development Coordinator



Matt Beukema and Anna Lindner scope out the area for GR Walks, "River Walk Tour."

The pre-spring sunlight filters through the clouds, warming the pavement. Wintery winds wend their way between our legs, picking up leaves and tousling our hair. The slowly melting snow creates rivulets over which we jump as we venture between buildings, peering around for history to uncover.

My fellow history students, Megan Meulink, Matt Beukema, and I scout out a potential walking tour route along the Grand River. This tour will join the existing tours of two Grand Rapids areas: Easttown, including East Hills, and Heritage Hill North. GR Walks is the brainchild of Josh Leo, an alumnus of Calvin College and local history enthusiast, who has partnered with the Service-Learning Center to design the GR Walks app. The app, which is currently available for download, guides the user around Grand Rapids while providing background information and snapshots of varying eras in the city's history.

The GR Walks app has been brought to the Calvin classroom this semester by professor Kristin Du Mez, who is facilitating the development of two new GR Walks tours in her HIST 356 class (Social and Cultural History of the United States). Five of the nine students in the class are conceptualizing a tour of the Riverfront, while the other four are designing a tour of Gaslight Village (once Ramona Park). We students are researching Grand Rapids local history and mapping out routes for the tours in our respective sections of the city.

Home to the Odawa people since 1700, the land surrounding the Grand River now contains several bridges, museums, and historical buildings. Grand Rapids' once magnificent rapids were tamed with the building of dams. Ramona Park was an amusement park that was razed in 1955. Gaslight Village, as it is known today, now contains retail shops and residential developments. From the story of individual ethnic groups to the evolution of transportation to changes in housing, each chapter of Grand Rapids' history has shaped our city. We in HIST 356 strive to preserve fact while interpreting historical lessons in our personal narratives. The story we present will, we hope, appropriately capture the complex identities of Grand Rapids citizens.

## 2014 Photo Contest

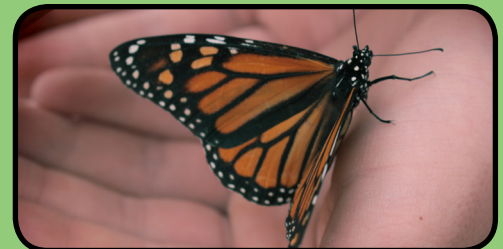


**"Blast From the Past"**

**Photo Contest Winner:**

**Jane Vanderploeg**

First Spring Break Service Project. Boston 1980



**People's Choice Contest Winner:**

**Ben DeVries**

"While we were at the thrift store we found this dying butterfly outside. Even though it had a broken wing it was still so beautiful and fragile.

I related this to the people down on Grand Isle, LA. Even though they have been hit with a lot of trouble, it is still a gorgeous place and the people live life beautifully on stilts."



**Staff Choice Photo Contest Winner:**

**Beth Wiersma, Knoxville, TN**

"We are women, empowering women slightly younger than ourselves to start again, feel valued, finish school, and see that they are just as capable as us."



# Calvin Students at Headstart

Marjorie Gunnoe, Psychology Professor

As part of Psychology 208 (*Developmental I: Child*), students spend 14 hours volunteering at Headstart, a preschool program for families who live below the poverty line. In addition to basic academic skills (colors, numbers, letters) Headstart children are taught social skills necessary to succeed in environments beyond their family and neighborhood. They are taught to pass food politely around the family-style lunch table and to *use your words, not your fists*.

I've been sending students to Headstart for 17 years. My primary objective is that students see real-life examples of the concepts taught in class and reflect on these concepts in a final paper. The partnership also benefits those at Headstart. The teachers are grateful for the extra help in the classroom; the children benefit from contact with Calvin students who work one-on-one with them, serve as good role models, and portray life choices that are foreign to some (but not all) of the children. (Almost every semester I have a Calvin student tell me that a child simply would not believe that the Calvin student was not yet a parent.)

And I personally learn so much, especially from students' reflections on the preschoolers' understanding of gender. Here are some things I've learned about gender over the years:

*Girls don't drive if boys are there. Boys always drive so that the girls can sit in the other seat and do their make-up and yell at the kids* (contributed by Laura Drost, class of '12).

One of the girls wanted to play in the tool workshop area. The boys told her that building was a boys' job and she had to make lunches for them *because that's what girls do for boys who build things* (contributed by Tyler VanderWal, class of '13).

A boy and a girl decided that they were going to get married. They said, *Look at our new baby*. (This baby had no hair.) *I asked, is it a boy or a girl?* to which they responded, *We aren't sure, we have to wait a few days until its hair grows out. If the hair is short, then it's a boy; if it is long, then it's a girl* (contributed by Jenn LaFrenier, class of '06).

Psychology 208 is geared toward Psychology majors and anyone who wants to learn about kids (pre-requisite Psyc 151). Many students use the Headstart "mini-internship" to ascertain whether they should pursue a career with children. Student responses vary. Most students find the experience valuable and enjoyable, some seek employment at Headstart, and some appropriately discern that they should be doing something else. One student told me, *Prof. Gunnoe, I owe you so much. I was sure I wanted to work with young children and after this semester I know that I do not!* This student subsequently got a job working with violent teens (which sounded even more challenging to me) ... but at least he's not a bum. As another student explained in her final paper *When I told one of the preschoolers that I didn't have a job because I had to quit to focus on school ... she declared, "then you're a bum ain't you ...yes you is."*



Calvin student Steven Lewis reads a book about "Pete The Cat" to students at Adams Headstart.

## Giving to the Service-Learning Center

The programs and services that the S-LC provides are funded by the general college budget. Any gifts given to Calvin College and designated specifically to the Service-Learning Center allow us to offer financial assistance for students who participate in the annual spring break service-learning trips ([www.calvin.edu/go/springbreaktrips](http://www.calvin.edu/go/springbreaktrips)).

Additionally, donations designated to the S-LC Gift account allow us to continue long-standing programs like StreetFest, and to occasionally fund student transportation to conferences or other professional development opportunities ([www.calvin.edu/support](http://www.calvin.edu/support)).

Thanks for your continued support!



# Spring Break Trip Connections

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary we wanted to highlight long lasting relationships between host organizations and previous or current Calvin service-learners. The S-LC's Communications Coordinator, Kelsey Stark, interviewed these four spring break trip participants who have developed extended relationships with their partner organizations.

## Thad Winkle

Thad Winkle first began serving at the Spencer Perkins Center as a Jubilee Fellow, working in youth development while also doing some writing and traveling with Dr. John M. Perkins. After returning from that summer, Thad went on to lead a Service-Learning Center spring break trip to a sister ministry in Mendenhall, Mississippi, continuing to serve and explore Dr. Perkins' vision. Thad now works full time for the Perkins Center. He will soon be leaving this job to attend seminary, and will be replaced by Sarah Stripp, another Calvin graduate.

### S-LC: When did your service begin at the Perkins Center?

Thad: I started in the summer of 2011. I was a part of the Jubilee Fellows Program, and I came down to Jackson for that fellowship. When I got back from the summer, one of my fellow Jubilee Fellows said, "Hey, did you see that there was a spring break trip going down to Mississippi?" I went and applied, did the interview, and ended up becoming the leader.



Thad (center) with staff from the Spencer Perkins Center.

### Read more at:

[www.calvin.edu/go/thad-winkle](http://www.calvin.edu/go/thad-winkle)

## Sarah Stripp

Sarah was first introduced to CCDA (Christian Community Development Association) and the vision of John Perkins through a Service-Learning Center spring break trip to Baltimore. She went on to serve at the Perkins Center for her Jubilee Fellowship, where she was the Chaplain at the Perkins Center's summer youth camp, as well as a teacher and role model to 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Her continued partnership with the Perkins Center includes being the leader of this year's spring break trip to the Perkins Center and going on to work there full time this summer.

### S-LC: When did your service with the Perkins Center begin?

Sarah: I was a Jubilee Fellow in 2013, and once Nate Bradford over in campus ministries found out, he told me that he would set me up with something in CCDA. I told him that I did not want to do anything with CCDA, but he kept telling me I needed to! I realized I was very scared to enter into this community... I was kind of living under my own fears. Then Thad Winkle, who is down there right now, sent an email up to Nate and a couple other people saying, "Hey, we really want a Jubilee Fellow to come down and work with Dr. Perkins." Nate forwarded that email to me and said, "You need to do this..."



Sarah (center) leading kids in chapel at the Perkins Center summer youth camp.

### Read more at:

[www.calvin.edu/go/sarah-stripp](http://www.calvin.edu/go/sarah-stripp)



## Talor Musil

Talor first experienced The Pittsburgh Project on a Service-Learning Center spring break trip in 2013 during her first year at Calvin. On that trip the group put a new roof on a local woman's house. Talor's specific job throughout the week was painting a hallway. Upon reflection Talor states she, "...went from painting a hallway to changing [her] vocation!" While on that spring break trip, Talor felt called to return, and applied for a job. As a summer "Work-site Liaison for Homeowner Services," Talor was in charge of organizing the tools used by groups at The Pittsburgh Project and facilitating the relationships between those being served and those serving. Talor then went on to lead the 2014 spring break trip to The Pittsburgh Project and plans to return to the organization again in summer 2014.

### S-LC: When did your service with The Pittsburgh Project begin?

Talor: I went there as a freshman on a spring break service-learning trip, and actually, Pittsburgh was my third choice. Just a couple of weeks ago my friend and I found the piece of paper where we had written down all the places we wanted to go before Pittsburgh and we just laughed about it... because now I love it...



Talor (center) with the summer 2013 Pittsburgh Project staff, sitting outside the church sanctuary on campus.

### Read more at:

[www.calvin.edu/go/talor-musil](http://www.calvin.edu/go/talor-musil)

## Ian Noyes

Ian's first encounter with the Big Laurel Learning Center happened his freshmen year on a Service-Learning Center spring break trip. On this trip the group had a variety of experiences, from helping the nuns who run the center restock their firewood, to serving in the local K-8 school, and exploring the effects of mountain top removal coal mining on local communities and the environment. Feeling called to involvement at Big Laurel, Ian went on to work with the organization that summer, working alongside a Habitat for Humanity group and helping the two sisters run ecology education summer camps. Ian then became a board member of the James A. Sheppard Memorial Ecological Preserve, the land trust associated with the Big Laurel Learning Center, and has now led the Service-Learning Center's spring break trip there for the past two years!

### S-LC: When did your service begin with The Big Laurel Learning Center?

Ian: I forget how I got hooked up with a Service-Learning Center spring break trip. I was kind of interested in coal and mountain top removal, which was the theme of the trip. It was an interest in what the organization was doing, but not really much else. This year was my second time leading the trip...



Ian (seated) with Sister Gretchen, Sister Cathy and the rest of Calvin's spring break trip 2014 participants.

### Read more at:

[www.calvin.edu/go/ian-noyes](http://www.calvin.edu/go/ian-noyes)



# Spotlight: Long-term Service-Learners



Anneke service-learning at W.E.B. tutoring.

“I started W.E.B. Tutoring when I was a freshman in high school, so nearly eight years ago. It quickly became such an integral part of my life that imagining my life in Grand Rapids without it is nearly impossible. The kids at the program, specifically the girl that I tutor, have shown me incredible perseverance over these years: home life is often difficult, and they don’t get enough educational support at home or at school. But these kids keep coming back every Thursday, determined to work out algebra problems, write essays, and study for history tests. It’s a beautiful thing to witness.”  
 - Anneke Walhout

“Spring of my freshman year I first met my Nepali refugee family. I was supposed to meet with them an hour a week to help them practice their English, learn about Grand Rapids, and to simply have a friend. I took the bus an hour each way to get to their house. We drank tea and many times just sat quietly and watched Hindi Youtube videos. Now as a junior, they are my family. I spend every weekend at their house and they have been the biggest blessing for me here at Calvin. I never would have thought that those first few awkward meetings would lead to a lasting friendship that I will cherish forever.” -Ali Carpenter



Ali celebrating the Diwali festival with her Nepali Family.



Joel, and his friend Neil Gilbert, net stream-bottom dwelling insects to assess the health of Plaster Creek.

“My time with Plaster Creek Stewards began with Biology 250, a class in stream research. I have become more involved this year with my home Church, Alger Park. As a fly-fisherman growing up, I always loved streams and now hope to pursue stream restoration after Calvin. Being with Plaster Creek Stewards has helped me learn how my love for streams and my passions for the environment and community development could be brought together. It has allowed me to work in the watershed, community, and church in which I was raised, and to work to make an impact through offering my new knowledge from classes and other experiences while at Calvin. I am very thankful for the opportunity to help with a unique organization like PCS!” – Joel Betts






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“I began participating in Urban Family Ministry’s teen girls’ Bible study to learn about the lives of girls growing up in the Baxter neighborhood, an experience far different from my small-town, country life upbringing. Now we are truly a unique community of women from entirely different walks of life who come together for a weekly respite of laughter and reminder of God’s love. There’s our beloved Linda, who creatively shares her gift for cooking, with whom we’ve rejoiced at the birth of two grand-children, our committed ministry leaders from Cornerstone, demonstrating faithfulness to the teens as they themselves navigate post-grad life, our lively, wise, insightful teen girls from public schools all around the county, and Cath and I from Calvin, all smushed up on couches or seated around a meal. We’ve seen each other through different seasons of life, asked new questions about our faith each year and encouraged one another’s spirits and honored one another’s dreams. We learn how to love together. I need these women in my life.” – Gabrielle Price

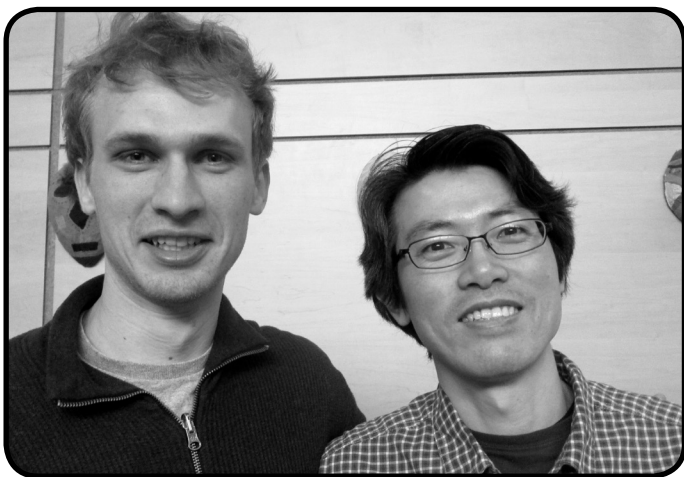


Gabrielle, Catherine, and the rest of the participants in UFM’s girls’ bible study.

“I love getting to spend time with the teen girls at Urban Family Ministries because they aren’t afraid to ask tough questions. Their curiosity about Jesus and life beyond their own experiences has been a source of encouragement over the past three years. It is a wonderful to have a place where we can share and be challenged in our faith together.”

– Catherine Kramer

“I have very much enjoyed my tutoring experience at Woodlawn ESL. The experience, which involves one on one interaction with the student, gave me a chance to discover other cultures in a personal way. Through the program I formed close relationships with my students and was greatly blessed through the experience.” – Ethan Kinney



Ethan and Dung Jun, the student he is currently tutoring at Woodlawn ESL.

“I remember being a lonely freshman desperately wanting to feel connected somewhere - anywhere. When my dorm advertised for Supper House, it seemed like a great way to plug in. Supper House has provided me a community and a chance for leadership for the past three years - I am forever changed by the people and love of the Creston neighborhood.” – Rachel Weaver



The 2012-2013 team of Community Partnership Coordinators. Rachel (first row, second from left) helped connect students to Supper House.



**2013-2014 Blood Drive Results!**

This year’s donations = 603 pints



Calvin College  
Service-Learning Center  
1765 Knollcrest Circle, SE  
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## Meet Maaike, the 2014 StreetFest Coordinator!

Maaike Mudde is a first-year student double majoring in geography and sociology. She is originally from Grand Rapids. Maaike is very excited to coordinate StreetFest this year and is looking forward to learning about and working alongside organizations in this great city!

StreetFest will take place on Thursday, August 28th. If your organization is interested in participating in StreetFest, please email Maaike at [slc@calvin.edu](mailto:slc@calvin.edu)



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