

Promoting Scholarship

Civic Hospitality	2
Senior Research Fellows	2, 3
Evangelicals & Internationalism	3
Five Years of Civitas Lab	4-5
Symposium on Religion and Public Life	6
2019/20 Civitas Lab	12

Fostering Student Learning

Five Years of Civitas Lab	4-5
Rule of Law Lecture	7
Returning Citizens Project	7
Remembering John Lewis	8-9
Public & Non-Profit Leadership	9
Religion in the Public Square	10
Religious Freedom	10
Career Breakfasts	10
Politics, Philosophy & Economics	10
Washington D.C. Semester	11-12
2019/20 Civitas Lab	12

Engaging the Community

Civic Hospitality	2
Truth About Fresh Water	6
Symposium on Religion and Public Life	6
Rule of Law Lecture	7
Returning Citizens Project	7
Remembering John Lewis	8-9

Micah Watson, Director

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Seismic Shifts – and What Has Not Changed

In a year with many seismic shifts and challenges, I have been comforted by what has not changed. As the Psalmist reminds us about God, “Great is his steadfast love towards us, and his faithfulness endures forever.” And the author of Hebrews encouraged his readers to endure difficult times by reminding them that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” At Calvin, and at the Henry Institute, familiar words describe what hasn’t changed amidst all the uncertainty and upheaval in our political moment and in Christian higher education. At Calvin we follow God’s call to “equip students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world.” The Henry Institute contributes to that calling by fulfilling its mission to “promote serious reflection on the interplay between Christianity and public life.” Neither that calling nor that mission have changed despite the cataclysmic feel and reality of 2020. The Henry Institute will continue to pursue that mission in a number of ways, carrying on the legacy of our namesake and building on the foundational and invaluable work of the previous directors of the Institute, Corwin Smidt and Kevin den Dulk. I’m grateful that I can call on their wisdom and thrilled that I get to work with Ellen Hekman and senior research fellows Corwin and Rich Mouw as part of the Henry Institute team.

Those of us who did not have the privilege of knowing Paul Henry personally must do what we can with the testimony of those who did and with Henry’s writings and records. My colleague Doug Koopman’s edited book, *Serving the Claims of Justice*, is an invaluable resource. Three things stand out to me about Paul Henry that will continue to inform the mission of the Institute.

First, as a political theorist and as a public servant, Paul Henry defended politics as a vocation and in particular, the use of power to promote the common good. There is no politics without power, and despite the messiness and too-often nastiness of politics, power can be used for good purposes, from improving prisons to better protecting the environment. Henry defended the Christian calling of public servants as a legitimate and even crucial component of a flourishing society. The Henry Institute will continue to sponsor scholarly endeavors that not only critique the misuse of power but also foster the sort of research and activities that show how power, rightly used, can further the common good.

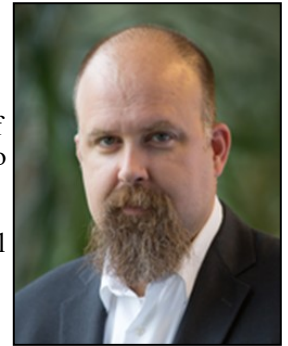
Second, Henry could be critical of his own

tradition, but he did so from inside that tradition. Before the term became so contested, Henry unapologetically described himself as an evangelical, while also affirming Reformed convictions. He could be critical not only of the evangelical left, but also of the then “new” religious right. While his criticism was robust, it reads as a call from the inside, not seeing Christians (evangelical or otherwise) as external subjects to be explained and perhaps condemned. His critiques came across less as “Look at *those* people!” and more as “Can’t we do better?”.

The Henry Institute will continue to work in this spirit, offering a platform for all sorts of voices to pursue scholarship about religion and public life, embodying the posture of a trusted partner to the Church, Reformed and universal, evangelical and mainline. We aspire to continue modeling what spirited and strong disagreement can look like when seasoned with grace and hospitality.

Third, Henry embodied a way of living as a principled, spirited, kind, and intellectually robust Christian professor and public servant. His responses to constituents show a consistent pattern of 1) finding and acknowledging common ground, 2) carefully and dispassionately articulating disagreement, 3) describing principled reasons for decisions and positions, and 4) remaining open to counter-arguments and new evidence. There is a reason Henry’s colleagues—from Calvin, the Michigan statehouse, and D.C.—praised him so strongly as a person with conviction and tact. We need more people like Paul Henry in public life, academia, and the church, and thus Henry Institute programming will continue to offer students the opportunity to think and act well with regard to the thorny, contested issues in the public square.

I invite you to keep up with, and take part in, what the Henry Institute is up to this coming year and beyond. We are excited about building on the outstanding work that has already been done while also exploring new ideas, initiatives, and partnerships. The particulars of how the Institute does its work will be a mix of continuity and innovation, but the mission remains the same as we work together and trust in our God who does not change. ~



*New Henry Institute
Director Micah Watson*

“In a year with many seismic shifts and challenges, I have been comforted by what has not changed.” —Micah Watson

In September of 2020, Dr. Richard Mouw will formally become a Senior Research Fellow with the Henry Institute, returning to the University where he began his five decade-long stellar career in academia in 1968. As a Calvin Philosophy professor, Mouw contributed greatly to the recognition of Calvin's Department of Philosophy as a legendary reservoir of Christian public thought.

Dr. Mouw subsequently taught at Fuller Theological Seminary, serving as President from 1993 through 2013 and then directing their Institute of Faith and Public Life until his retirement earlier this year. A graduate of Houghton College, he studied at Western Theological Seminary and has a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Alberta and a PhD in philosophy from the University of Chicago.

Mouw joins Corwin Smidt who is also a Senior Research Fellow for the Institute, as both continue their history of excellent work in the field of faith and public life. Mouw's research in Christian political thought fits clearly within the goals of the Henry Institute to promote serious reflection on the interplay between faith and public life. He has spent his career thinking about what it means to be faithful to Christianity while also giving politics its due.

Institute Director Micah Watson noted, "Dr. Mouw is a significant leader in thinking about how Christians can engage in politics with civility. In our current political and cultural season, this mission of the Henry Institute is clearly as important as it has ever been. Drawing on our history and rich tradition, we

"I look forward to being on the staff of a research center established to honor Paul's contributions to the Kingdom."

**—Richard Mouw
Henry Institute Senior Research Fellow**

need to continually wrestle with how to understand and apply what our citizenship in the kingdom of God means for our faithful witness as citizens of our earthly cities. I am convinced that Dr. Mouw's service as a Senior Research Fellow will contribute to that wrestling and understanding in profound ways."

The Foundations of Civic Hospitality

In late 2019, a grant for nearly \$190,000 was received from the Issachar Fund to strengthen civic formation in Christian schools. The award was given jointly to the Henry Institute and the Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning and will involve Institute Directors Micah Watson and David Smith, as well as Kevin den Dulk (former Henry Director and now Associate Provost of Calvin Global Campus), and Matthew Kaemingk (Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics and Associate Dean for Fuller Theological Seminary).

The work of the grant is based on the concept that faithful discipleship entails responsible citizenship, which requires Christian formation. The principle researchers will address the concept of hospitality as a virtue of faithful citizenship, crafting model pedagogical interventions that imbed hospitality and related Christian virtues into civic learning and make these interventions widely available to civics teachers.

The project is intended to benefit high school teachers in the field of civics by developing a website that will include several teaching-and-learning sequences connected to multiple units and lessons, as well as supporting resources for teacher professional development and social-media content. Academic scholars will also be engaged, as they consider the contribution of Christian teaching and learning to virtuous participation in the public square. The findings will be presented at the Henry Institute's Symposium on Religion and Public Life and at the Kuyers

With his research including two main areas of focus, Mouw will be working on a Christian consideration of patriotism for an upcoming book, and on several research projects within the context of Calvinist political thought. The opportunity for students to learn from his thinking, writing, and lectures will be an added benefit for Calvin



University and the Institute, and Mouw will work with faculty and students on special projects and help to organize conferences and symposia. While continuing to live in California, he will be at Calvin for several one-week stays throughout the academic year.

"This new position has personal significance for me since I helped to recruit Paul Henry to Calvin's political science department in the early 1970s," noted Mouw. "We became good friends and worked together on several projects. After we both left Calvin, we stayed in touch over the years. Paul served with distinction in Congress until his untimely death. Now, I look forward to being on the staff of a research center established to honor his contributions to the Kingdom."

A philosopher and scholar, Dr. Mouw is the author of more than 20 books and has been an editor of the *Reformed Journal*. He served for many years as a panelist for the *Washington Post's* online forum "On Faith" and was the recipient of the Abraham Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2007. He has also participated on many councils and editorial boards, serving a term as president of the Association of Theological Schools, spending six years as co-chair of the official Reformed-Catholic Dialogue, and is a leader in interfaith theological conversations, particularly with Mormons and Jewish groups. ~

Institute's biennial conference, both currently scheduled for 2021.

"This work has special urgency in this time of eroding public trust, rising polarization, and widespread populist backlash against established institutions," noted den Dulk. "Christians have not been immune from these challenges to public life, and indeed people acting in the name of Christ have often seemed to sow seeds of distrust and social alienation. But Christian traditions also provide rich formative resources for addressing these challenges, including habits of patience and generosity that create public space for deliberation—what we call 'civic hospitality.'"

Additional information about the project can be found at the Henry Institute website. ~

<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/projects/civic-hospitality/>

"We see an opportunity at this key moment of political division to help civic educators draw from faith-based practices and to introduce those practices into their teaching of government, history, and other civics-oriented areas."

**—Kevin den Dulk
Associate Provost, Calvin Global Campus**

Since the late 1990s, when Dr. Corwin Smidt was serving as the Director of the Henry Institute, he has been engaged in research related to clergy engagement in civic and political life. In his current position as a Senior Research Fellow for the Institute, he is continuing work in this area. Smidt's first denominational clergy poll was conducted in 1989, and he has periodically conducted random surveys of American Protestant pastors ever since. The most recent examination of clergy across ten different denominations was completed in 2017, funded in part through a Louisville Institute grant and largely replicating the previous surveys he commissioned in 1989, 2001, and 2009. The results



have allowed Smidt to assess continuity and change among American Protestant clergy sociologically, theologically, and politically over nearly two decades, and he is known as an expert in this field of study.

Smidt's longtime interest in the impact of clergy on American public life stems from his belief that "members of the clergy are important leaders within

American spiritual and public life, working at the "grassroots" of religious experience to foster and sustain religious vitality among their congregants and among the American people. Their strategic and influential position results from the prevalence of religious houses of worship in the U.S., as well as the large number of Americans who claim affiliation with and are actively involved in a religious faith group. Pastors serve as central figures within church communities, and they play a significant role in the life of adult members and possess authority for congregants."

The past several decades have seen dramatic changes in the American religious and social environment. Church membership, religious affiliations, and cultural assimilation have all contributed to people's motivations for embracing religious faith and holding moral convictions over that time period, but the reasoning behind their motivation has altered over the survey years. In addition, changes within the make-up of the clergy and church structure has also impacted the ranks, thoughts, and behavior of church leaders, which inherently flows on to American churchgoers, who are also faced with ever-growing polarization in political life. All these factors combine to become facets of the impact of clergy on overall American public life.

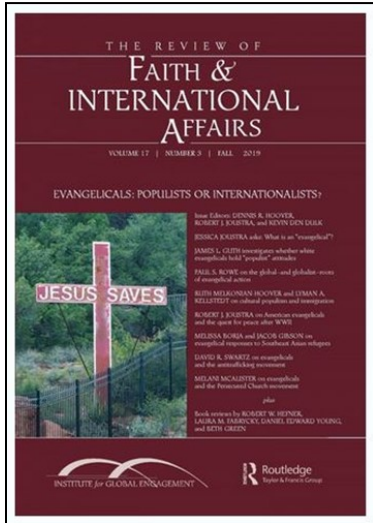
The data collected in Smidt's four surveys have been distributed to the American Religious Data Archive (ARDA.com) where the results are available for free public dissemination, thereby enabling other interested parties to analyze the surveys for their own purposes. ~

Smidt's Additional Activity in 2019-2020 included:

- Wrote "Re-Assessing the Concept and Measurement of Evangelicals: The Case for the RELTRAD Approach" for the December 2019 edition of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*
- Has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Review of Religious Research*, for 2020 and 2021
- Served on two panels for the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Presented papers at two conferences (European Political Science Association; Society for the Scientific Study of Religion)
- Reviewed seven manuscripts, five articles (one for an international publication) and two books (Columbia University Press and University of Michigan Press)
- Delivered lecture on "The Politics of American Evangelicals Today" at the Unitarian Universalist Church (Naples, Florida)

Evangelical Populism and Evangelical Internationalism

In the spring of 2018, the Henry Institute began a research grant tasked with providing empirical evidence to analyze the role of evangelical Protestant Christianity in American global engagement generally, and in U.S. foreign policy specifically. Kevin den Dulk, the Director of the Institute at that point, was joined by two other project leaders, Dennis Hoover (from Gordon College and editor of *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*) and Robert Jousra (from Redeemer University College and the Centre for Christian Scholarship).



The project was funded by the Henry Institute, along with grants from the Council on Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), and the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship (CCCS). Twelve academic researchers participated in the undertaking, exploring a number of different aspects surrounding evangelicals and internationalism. Their work was first presented at the 2019 Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life and was also published by the Center for Public Justice in their spring 2019 edition of *Public Justice Review*. The final research was included in a special edition of the Institute for Global Engagement's *Review of Faith and International Affairs* in Fall 2019. Links to these presentations and writing are included on the Henry Institute website. ~

<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/projects/populists-or-internationalists/>

The Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics

The Henry Institute is a research and civic engagement center that focuses on the interplay of faith and public life. Founded at Calvin University in 1997, the Institute is dedicated to convening scholars and practitioners, encouraging high-quality research and public commentary, and fostering citizen involvement through public outreach and education.

We are inspired in our work by the life and legacy of educator and public servant Paul B. Henry, who committed his life to seeking justice through his deeply held convictions and thoughtful practice. ~

Five Years of Civitas Lab:

Continuing a Long History of Student Research Opportunities

In 2015, the Henry Institute started the Civitas Lab, designed to foster student learning and promote scholarship. The Lab continues the Student Research Fellow initiatives started at the Institute in 2003, with 17 years dedicated to the dual goals of promoting scholarship and of encouraging student development and understanding of the interaction of faith and public life, in this case through sponsored research activities conducted by Calvin faculty and student researchers. Over these 17 years, more than 100 students have worked on projects funded through the Henry Institute. Some of our more recently graduated participants offered the following reflections on the value and formative influence of their experience.

Civitas Lab Projects Since 2015

Challenges for the Next President Lecture Series

U.S. School Choice Policy

The Church's Response to Religious Persecution

Faith and the Public Role of Churches

Visualizing Faith and Public Life

The Latino Congregations Study

Science and Society

Hillary Clinton and Religion

Returning Citizens

Transnational Adoption

Public Lands and Water

Rural Consciousness and Religion in the Rustbelt

Religious and Political Polarization in America

What is Good Food?

Water and Justice

Public Spaces in the New Urbanism

Measuring the Long-Term Effects of Service-learning on Calvin College Alumni

Communicating Virtuously Across Division in the Church

Racial Reconciliation in Foster Care

The Politics of Water

Evangelical Populism and Internationalism

Masculinity and Militarism in American Evangelicalism

Interfaith Photovoice

Converted Structures

Does Reading Literature Affect Character?

Trust, Media, and Democracy

The Moral Power of Stories

Critical Information Needs in Underserved Communities

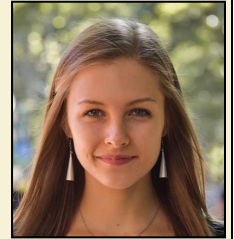
Formative Practices of Civic Hospitality

The Polarization of American Christianity

Charting the Future of Public Service Journalism

Elena Van Stee

Being part of the Civitas Lab was one of the highlights of my time at Calvin. It's also the aspect of my Calvin education that best prepared me for graduate school. As a junior, I joined the Lab to work on Prof. Mulder's *Rural Consciousness and Religion in the Rustbelt* project, and I continued in my senior year with Prof. Williams as a research assistant for the *Interfaith Photovoice* project. The Lab provided extraordinary opportunities to develop close relationships with faculty, engage in stimulating interdisciplinary conversations with other students, participate in data collection, travel to academic conferences, and contribute to analysis and writing in ways that are seldom available to undergraduates. As a current PhD student at Penn, I continue to benefit from the experiences that I gained and relationships that I developed through the Civitas Lab.



Benjamin Ridder



My semester with the Henry Institute, including my work with the *Challenges for the Next President Series*, continues to inform my life post-Calvin. The Series was my first experience conducting research, writing, and presenting for an audience absent a grade and away from the classroom. It challenged me to think critically about varied perspectives on given policy issues, and also to present those points of view to a wider audience in an objective, informative manner. Even now, three jobs later, I make a point of keeping the Henry Institute on my resume—speaking to the skills gained and opportunities provided by the experience. I find myself working on many of the same tasks today as a Capitol Hill staff member as I did with the Lab: analyzing policy positions, drafting issue memos, and briefing staff. Further, my time with the Institute helped connect me with a wide community of Calvin students, professors, and alumni.

Kathryn Post

Working with Kristin DuMez as part of the Civitas Lab laid the groundwork for my future career as a religion writer. As I worked with two fellow students researching the troubling history of toxic masculinity in evangelicalism, I learned valuable lessons about how to skim a book (or maybe two!) in a day, developed a skill for finding cultural patterns and providing quick analysis, and became intimately familiar with the evangelical landscape. All of this prepared me for religion journalism, as I discovered that writers are required to be able to both map out broader religious themes as well as to zoom in on a particular issue to breakdown what is really happening. I also found that the research disrupted my theological complacency and forced me to reckon with many of my own religious assumptions, paving the way for a more expansive faith going forward.



Jesse Brink

My semester working with Professor Holcomb through the Civitas Lab changed the way I saw the news and the media. As his student researcher, it was my responsibility to dive deeply into public surveys and articles to examine the current scholarship on how people consume and trust the media. I found it very rewarding to be involved in a professional academic project, especially on such a relevant topic. Today, I'm glad to have had the opportunity to study this issue so thoroughly—what I learned working for Professor Holcomb, as well as the skills I developed, have been extremely helpful in my post-Calvin professional life, and have also helped me in evaluating the media culture surrounding us today.



Annalane Miller

The Civitas lab was a valuable part of my Calvin experience. The fact that it was a "lab" with lots of different efforts coming together and the opportunity to talk about our projects over dinner as we shared successes and challenges was a key part of the experience. Returning citizens' services and access to social services were not topics I thought much about prior to my Civitas Lab research. However, through working on the *Returning Citizens* map and seeing service deserts appear as more resources were added to the map, I became more interested in issues of access, which led to my work in food deserts and increasing access to healthy affordable food. Professor den Dulk included me in different parts of the research process: from grant meetings with the Department of Corrections, to presenting information to parole officers, to thinking about how we could improve the map to make it more useful. Seeing the practical application of the map and the many ways to pursue justice in the breadth of organizations that were assisting returning citizens was rewarding. I also learned that sitting at a desk researching and compiling organizations can be a way of pursuing justice.



Taylor Hartson

Working on the *Converted Structures* project with Roman Williams through the Civitas Lab allowed me to cultivate valuable data management skills, engage in a vibrant academic community, and grow significantly as a collaborative scholar. The project gave me an opportunity to design, implement, and experiment with a novel research methodology, as well as to develop a fruitful relationship with a faculty mentor who has remained a close colleague after graduation from Calvin. Much of the work I conducted with the Civitas Lab has better equipped me to serve in my current role as a Research Specialist at Calvin's Center for Social Research, where I am continuing to manage databases, conduct spatial analyses, and produce interactive data visualizations and maps. As I finish up my term with CSR in the next year and look to a career and to graduate school, I am grateful for the time spent learning from and growing with other Civitas Scholars. On Sept. 3, *Christianity Today* included an article noting their research.



Joshua Parks

Joshua's comments are taken as excerpts from his July 8, 2020 the post Calvin Facebook site article "Jesus and John Piper: The Radicalization of a Research Assistant"



In 2017, I worked as a research assistant for Kristin Du Mez's project on evangelical masculinity and militarism. I learned a lot while working on the project... First, there's a specific kind of privilege that emotionally protects those of us (mostly men) who have not experienced sex-based discrimination or trauma. My colleagues on the project were all women, and they had very different emotional reactions to a lot of our findings. For those of us who have never been on the blunt edge of sexism (or racism, or ableism, etc.), things can look funny or tragic or intriguingly disgusting when they are actually evil.

Second, gender justice cannot be separated from racial justice. Thanks to many fantastic women in my life, gender justice *felt right* to me... [Du Mez's research] reveals that the evangelical defense of patriarchy has always been inextricably tied to whiteness. Patriarchal leaders build their authority by portraying non-white people as a threat. The gospel requires dismantling this racism just as strongly as it demands gender equality.

Third, "moderate" evangelicalism (which I define as any mainstream evangelical ministries that are theological and politically conservative while avoiding the explicit sexism and racism of fundamentalists) can be insidiously dangerous. These moderates are too often found defending the character, endorsing the books and hosting conferences [of the more extreme figures]. No longer do I think these "moderates" can be reliably trusted for their moral leadership... their failings need to be called out, not just ignored.

These changes in my thinking and feeling didn't happen instantly, but the research showed me that I needed to listen to a wider variety of voices, especially those of the marginalized, in order to understand the American church's fallenness.

<https://www.facebook.com/thepostcalvin/posts/2854802594628350>

Cassidy Dykstra

Working closely with Professor Williams to assist with his community engagement research was a really valuable experience as a student hoping to have a future in macro social work. I had the opportunity to learn more about the *PhotoVoice* project in several different contexts and explore ways this tool can be used to engage community members and to appreciate things that may otherwise be left unnoticed. This experience also allowed me to learn more about the other research topics that my peers and professors in the Civitas Lab were studying and to consider how all of our research would potentially make an impact outside Calvin's campus.



Overall, the Civitas Lab gave me the opportunity to take what I was learning in my sociology classes and put that learning into context for a well-rounded understanding of the impact of research outside of the classroom and in communities.

Abbie Schutte Vegter



Participating in the Civitas Lab changed how I viewed my then future career as a political science professor. I had known for a long time that I wanted to be in academia. More specifically, I knew that I wanted to teach at the college level. I saw research as a means to an end and teaching as my true calling. The Civitas Lab, however, exposed me to the impact that social science research can have. I learned to love the process of research, from initial development of meaningful research questions, to the collection of data, to the dissemination of findings. As my faculty mentor turned collaborator Kevin den Dulk aptly put it, 'I caught the research bug.'

I now understand that the relationship between research and teaching is reciprocal, with each informing and strengthening the other. The Civitas Lab and the participating faculty mentors taught me that as an image-bearer of God, I am made to be creative, inquisitive, and innovative, engaging in scholarship that explores every square-inch of His world. I will not forget that lesson. I am a better teacher and scholar because of my experience as a Civitas Lab participant.

The Truth about Fresh Water

The Henry Institute was a joint underwriter for the January Series presentation by Sandra Postel, the Director of the Global Water Policy Project and co-creator of *Change the Course*, a national water stewardship initiative. Her January 10, 2020 lecture was entitled *Replenish: The Virtuous Cycle of Water and Prosperity*, which is also the title of her most recent book.



Postel argued that the water cycle in our world is badly broken but that innovation and collaboration can help find solutions. She began by noting her optimism about the future, as she has seen solutions to the problems already being implemented at various places in the world to balance the availability and use of fresh water with increasing human population demands.

The available supply of water is impacted by droughts and floods, which have always been a natural variable. However, climate change has increased the probability and unpredictability of floods, droughts, wildfires, and other natural disasters, bringing us outside that zone of natural variability. There is no longer a level of confidence that allows us to plan for water security in the near or distant future.

Quoting Albert Einstein's "we can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them," Postel observed that in the 20th century, water was managed by applying the best engineering efforts to supply and control water in ways that benefitted the human economy and society, with the building of dams, field irrigation, and technological advances in agriculture. But to go forward, she asserts there is a definitive need to work in partnership with the natural world and build on services that nature can provide when it is allowed to do its work. Postel calls for

eco-engineering, using those best engineering efforts of the past century to work within the systems that are established by nature itself.

Postel noted two primary issues in the ongoing effort to provide water security for the rest of this century and beyond. The first is a significant need to look at both our personal and societal water footprint, to analyze it carefully and then

determine ways to live good lives but consume less water. Second, she sees it as imperative that we examine ways to repair and replenish the world's water cycle. To address both of those concerns, Postel was involved in creating a national water supply initiative called *Change the Course*. The effort brings the public, the business community, farmers, irrigators, ranchers, and the conservation community together to look for ways to support healthy economies, agriculture, and individual needs side-by-side with healthier rivers, wetlands, and ecological systems. She believes the collaboration is working and gave numerous examples from across the United States of human engineering complementing respect for nature.

Postel concluded the lecture by calling on every individual to be part of the solution to the problem of our finite supply of fresh water on the planet. She advocates thinking carefully about what you wear, what you eat, and advancing a societal water ethic that centers around stewardship. "We must provide all living things with enough water before some get more than enough," she noted. "Fundamentally, water is the basis of life. If we start from that point, we have an ethic of stewardship that we can build around." ~

Watch the lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u73uFemmPCM&feature=youtu.be>

Water Facts

- ◆ 2.5% of earth's water is fresh water, mostly in glaciers and icepack; less than 1% is available to use
- ◆ The amount of water required to make a cotton t-shirt: 700 gallons; a margherita pizza: 330 gallons
- ◆ 10% of today's food comes from areas where ground water reserves are being depleted
- ◆ Since 1970, the average abundance of freshwater vertebrate population worldwide has declined by 83%
- ◆ Up to 50% of the world's wetlands are gone
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2015, U.S. domestic water use per person dropped by 18%, resulting in 9 billion less gallons of water used every day
- ◆ The average U.S. citizen uses 2000 gallons of water daily

Henry Institute Affiliated Work on Water Issues

The Henry Institute has supported other water research projects as well as this January Series lecture, including former Institute Director Kevin den Dulk's work on a research project entitled *The Politics of Water*, exploring the appropriate role of government in addressing problems involving availability, stewardship, and economic justice issues that surround the distribution of water as a matter of public justice. The research project has been part of the Institute's Civitas Lab since 2017. A planned summer interim course, *Water in the West*, to be led by den Dulk and Calvin Environmental Studies Professor James Skillen was postponed due to the COVID pandemic.

For more information: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/projects/the-politics-of-water/index.html>

Symposium on Religion and Public Life Coming in April 2021

The Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics will hold its eleventh biennial Symposium on Religion and Public Life from April 28 through May 1, 2021 at the Prince Conference Center on the Calvin University campus in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The call for papers will be issued in late fall 2020. Tentative plans for the Symposium include:

- a focus on the Institute's namesake, Paul Henry and his public service and thoughts on natural law
- sessions on racial disparity and issues, and on Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE)
- a panel presenting final results of the Evangelical Responses to Globalization grant (see page 3)
- work that has been produced as a result of the Formations of Civic Hospitality grant (see page 2)
- traditional panels of scholarly paper presentations on a wide variety of topics and academic fields related to faith and public life

The annual Paul Henry Lecture will also be held during the Symposium, featuring a still-to-be-determined guest who will personally speak to Christianity and the exercise of faith in public life. Registration for the Symposium will open in early 2021, with announcements about the Symposium included on the Henry Institute website.

<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/programs/symposium/index.html>



In December 2019, the Henry Institute co-sponsored *Path to Justice: A Conversation on Criminal Justice Reform* as its annual presentation related to the concept of Rule of Law. The Institute's ongoing connection to the *Serving Returning Citizens* project led directly to involvement in the event, co-sponsored by a number of other organizations, including Forgive Everyone, The Remedy Network, The Calvin Prison Initiative, Calvin Student Senate, and the Calvin University student Republican and Democrat groups.

23 million individuals are currently incarcerated in the United States, equivalent to 25% of the total number of people incarcerated globally.

The keynote speaker at the event was Aaron Kinzel, Director of the Youth Justice Fund and a professor at the University of Michigan—Dearborn. Kinzel, who was formerly incarcerated, emphasized a theme heard throughout the evening, noting that we need to humanize “justice-involved” individuals; the moment of committing a crime is a snapshot in time and shouldn't define a person for the rest of their life. Using his personal story as an example, Kinzel also talked about the trauma and violence which has surrounded

and shaped many justice-involved individuals, impacting their actions and choices.

Following the address, a panel of participants involved in criminal justice in various ways considered incarceration and the need for reform. Todd Cioffi, Director of the Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI) was the panel moderator. Michael Duthler and Nick Nichols, former students in the Calvin Prison Initiative while incarcerated at Handlon Correctional Facility (who are now employed with CPI), talked about the importance of strong relationships and providing community contact for those who are imprisoned. Ben Rosa, the Director of 70x7 (resource and advocacy organization for formerly incarcerated persons), shared specific examples of the potential for change and future success when released individuals are given opportunities. Crissa Blankenburg, from the Office of Offender Success for the Michigan Department of Corrections, drew

on her work with paroled individuals to discuss methods being used

to enhance successful re-entry into the community for individuals who have completed their sentence.

Before and after the panel discussion, a networking and information fair was held which included various organizations involved in criminal justice reform. Event participants were encouraged to spend time networking with others who are concerned about the issue and to share their views, experiences, and opportunities to change injustices in the current system.

The Calvin event was one program in a series of *Path to Justice* programs which will be held across the country, sponsored by Forgive Everyone and The Remedy Network. The first program was in New York City, and events are scheduled for Wheaton College in Illinois and in Seattle, with the goal of continuing to raise awareness of the need for criminal justice reform. ~

Watch the event: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3L_9wUCEvTc&feature=youtu.be

“One of the contributing factors to mass incarceration is the public image given to those who are incarcerated. We know that started decades ago... so what can we do? Change the narrative at the very least. Deny that narrative. It's not real. It's not true, and it is dehumanizing... Tell the truth on this issue: that these are human beings with hopes and dreams just like everyone else. Nobody wants to be known for the worst thing they've ever done. People do indeed change – we all do. We have the power to re-educate, re-narrate that for our society. Once we begin to re-envision, other changes begin to follow along.

—Todd Cioffi

Calvin Prison Initiative Director



Serving Returning Citizens Work Continues

The Henry Institute's work to address the chronic issue of fragmented information available to individuals after incarceration started in 2015, with the inception of the *Serving Returning Citizens* project. While initially funded by the Institute, the project has now become self-supporting through grants received from the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC).

In 2017, MDOC awarded a \$20,000 contract to the Henry Institute to support its ongoing efforts to identify resources across the state and to disseminate those results in a user-friendly format through an interactive, intuitive web-based map. MDOC expanded its support last year and has now committed \$105,000 to the effort, funding which will take the project into 2021. Much of this work will now take place under the leadership of Calvin's Global Campus.

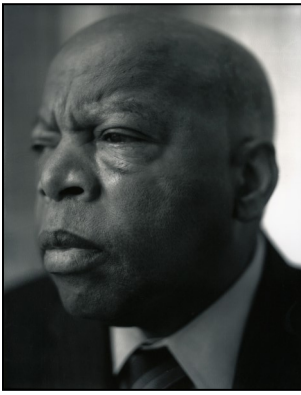
The 2019 Henry Institute newsletter focused extensively on the project; since then, six students have continued work during the 2019/20 academic year to identify additional resources that will make the map more comprehensive, verify options already included, and expand geographical boundaries to include 12 additional counties. From the initial work focusing solely on Kent County, the project has grown dramatically, expanding to include major population centers in Michigan such as Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Muskegon, the Detroit Metro area, and Lansing.

This past year has seen the addition of approximately 500 more organizations, spread across Ottawa, Kalamazoo, Barry, Eaton, Ionia, Livingston, Berrien, Genesee, Saginaw, Bay, Midland, and Calhoun counties, with the map now including nearly all of the lower and middle portions

of the lower peninsula of the state.

Jason Entingh, one of the student researchers involved in the mapping project for the past two years, noted, “This year has found us collecting data in more rural areas, a process that has provided its own unique set of challenges. Information on reentry-friendly organizations is a bit harder to come by, and these counties require extra “digging” in order to get the information that we need. Additionally, with expansion into new counties, we've connected with more organizations that are key players in the dialogue about prisoner reentry, and it's exciting to think about how this map will add to that conversation as we continue to expand.” ~

2019 Henry Institute newsletter: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/files/Summer%202019%20newsletter.pdf>



from his Henry Lecture in 2000 to an unforgettable internship in 2020

In 2000, Congressman John Lewis delivered the 4th annual Paul B. Henry Lecture at Calvin College to an overflow crowd, speaking on “Struggling Toward the *Beloved Community*” as he shared his story and a vision for a national and international society and culture based on justice and equality for everyone, without the scourges of racism and discrimination.

Lewis knew the Institute’s namesake, Paul Henry, as a fellow member of Congress and testified to Henry’s Christian character and commitment. The two shared a common faith and an understanding of the power of political policy and democratic voting rights in reaching goals to bring the country away from the history of racism and injustice. Their work toward what Lewis and his fellow civil rights advocates called the beloved community was ultimately based on their view that all people are created in the image of God.

Links to Congressman Lewis’ April 2000 lecture, as well as two interviews with Calvin Professors Doug Koopman, Garth Pauley, and Randall Jelks, are available on the Henry Institute website.

Watch the lecture and interviews: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/files/remembering-john-lewis>

Dr. Doug Koopman, Professor of Political Science at Calvin University and former program director for the Henry Institute clearly recalls Lewis’ visit to Calvin.

“The Henry Lecture brings a prominent Christian political practitioner to campus to address some aspect of the interplay between religion and politics, inspiring Calvin participants and the broader community to actively integrate a Christian worldview and practical politics. In 2000, Representative Lewis was the first sitting politician, the first active U.S. House member, and the first African-American to deliver a Henry Lecture, in that fourth year of the Institute’s existence.

As a young college student and civil rights activist during the 1960’s, John Lewis led a series of sit-in demonstrations at segregated lunch counters in the South, headed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and helped organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in August of 1963. At that civil demonstration, Lewis gave one of the keynote addresses, a speech that propelled him to the front of the civil rights leadership. As a prominent figure in the civil rights movement, Lewis was a regular target of law enforcement officers, and he was arrested at least 45 times and attacked by police on numerous occasions. Most publicized of those incidents was his beating while kneeling to pray on the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965.

At that Henry Lecture in 2000, I remember Lewis clearly infusing personal faith into his talk, as he stated that Christians must be present in the public square, strongly drawing on their faith commitments. Lewis believed that Christians needed to expand the original meaning of the civil rights activists’ “beloved community” beyond racial considerations, to include a range of other issues including



“We must do what the Spirit says to do. As long as it’s orderly, peaceful and nonviolent, there’s nothing more powerful [than protest actions against injustice]. There is a time when you have to put yourself in the way. Christians shouldn’t be afraid to get in trouble as long as it’s good trouble, necessary trouble.”

—Congressman John Lewis from his Henry Lecture in 2000

economic justice—both domestically and worldwide. For Lewis, the underlying principle of his vision for this effective and faithful Christian social action was always nonviolence.

Congressman Lewis’s very personal and honest message at the Lecture, and through all his years of public service, was rooted in his belief that Christians in our country can and will make a difference against the injustices that surround us. He called on all of us to answer that call.” ~

Dr. Garth Pauley of Calvin’s Communication Department has written about efforts for civil rights in the United States, including Congressman Lewis’s ongoing contributions and his dedication to that struggle. He offered the following thoughts at his passing:

“Four years ago, I had the privilege of preaching on Matthew 10:34-39, a biblical passage in which Jesus tells his disciples: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The first person who came to mind when meditating on this passage was John Lewis. Few, if any, figures in American politics have responded to Jesus’ call to discipleship more boldly than Lewis. During his formative years, Lewis came to understand the problem of racial discrimination through the lens of Christianity and dedicated the rest of his life to pursuing the kingdom of heaven—to making our world a place that reflected God’s passion for justice. As a result, his life was characterized by the trials Jesus described. For instance, his discipleship created strife within his family, as his parents believed that “‘decent’ black folks stayed out of trouble,” while Lewis got into what he called “good trouble” for the cause of racial justice. Moreover, he put himself at risk of dying a “shameful” death through his involvement in the sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and Selma voting rights campaign.

When I had the good fortune to meet Lewis twenty years ago, I found him to be unassuming and unpretentious. It was easy to imagine him shocking fellow civil rights workers—as he did, after being harassed and assaulted—by baldly saying, “Is this all they can do to us?” But Lewis didn’t say things like this because he was cavalier or arrogant. Rather, his words and actions flowed from his Christian character as a proud disciple of Jesus Christ who was emancipated and empowered by his dogged pursuit of God’s justice.

After reflection on Matthew 10:34-39 and the lives of those who have heeded its message, I have come to see the following as the core meaning of this biblical text: Jesus calls his disciples (both then and now) to lives of unsettling discipleship—to become disciples who are willing to disrupt the status quo for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. John Lewis modeled this type of discipleship. In memoriam to Lewis, I hope Christians will look for him in the “great cloud of witnesses” and be inspired by his example.” ~

Anu Teodorescu interned in John Lewis’s Washington D.C. office during this spring’s 2020 Semester in Washington D.C. Program and offers these thoughts on her time working for the Congressman:

“Just inside the door of the late Congressman John Lewis’ personal office hung a painting. Unlike the black and white photographs it was displayed beside, this picture was a simple one, though it captured a sentiment no less important than the snapshots of historic figures and nameless individuals frozen in their fight for freedom. Painted in primary colors, the picture showed a young black boy reading aloud from a book that he held in his hands. At his feet stood a row of chickens, looking up at him in earnest, mesmerized.

I spent much of my time interning in Congressman Lewis’ office looking at this picture; I spent more time feeling like one of those chickens. Not because I felt helpless or afraid or wildly out of my league as one might *imagine* a Calvin student interning for such a man would feel, but rather because each time he came into the office—which was not often after his December 29 cancer diagnosis—I was mesmerized by his presence, his energy, his voice. I found myself soaking up every word and idea, internalizing as much as I possibly could in the brief moments I got to spend with him.

The conviction with which he spoke on issues of inequality, the humility he emanated even as a 17-term congressman, the history he helped shape—all of it was indicative of his inherent eloquence, sincerity, and resolve. One of my first internship projects involved sifting through and organizing short video clips of his time on the Ways & Means Committee. Likely a project too tedious and time-consuming for his staffers, I considered the task both fascinating and informative; listening to him deliver speeches, question witnesses, and voice his beliefs on everything from maternal mortality to IRS tax code was a task I thoroughly enjoyed.

I spent a large portion of my time speaking with constituents from Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District. I worked on various projects for staffers, researching everything from parking reform to issues affecting women in poverty. I opened thousands of letters from people all over the country and the world, each one expressing their love and admiration for the Congressman. I prepared his binders for Ways & Means hearings and laid out his newspapers. I attended briefings, and I wrote memos for staffers and letters to constituents. I helped draft bits and pieces of H.R. 7546, a bill focused on helping medically underserved communities access resources in the face of COVID-19. And one of my final tasks as an intern involved poster board, balloons, cake, and half of Capitol Hill.

In honor of his 80th birthday, our office threw a surprise party. I was one of the many who wished him happiness and health that day, but even so, I felt a deep and genuine connection with a man who spent every day of his life preaching love and working to see it reflected in the laws of our country. While it was surreal to be surrounded by so many influential members of Congress, it was also bittersweet, as it turned out to be the last chance I’d ever have to speak with Congressman Lewis.



The awe never went away, and even now, months after the end of my internship and just a few weeks after his passing, I reread the words he wrote in *Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement* and feel like a chicken all over again.

‘I preached to my birds just about every night. I would get them all into the henhouse, settle them onto their roosts, and then stand in the doorway and speak to them, reciting pieces of the Bible, the same verses I memorized for Sunday school. They would sit very quietly, some slightly moving their heads back and forth, mesmerized, I guess, by the sound of my voice. I could imagine that they were my congregation. And me, I was a preacher.’” ~

Public and Non-Profit Leadership Series Enhances Classroom Experience

During the fall semester, the Institute sponsored a new series in conjunction with the “Public and Non-Profit Administration” course offered on campus. As part of the *Henry Institute Series in Public and Non-Profit Leadership*, eight speakers were brought to campus, sharing information about their various roles in non-profit administration and personal insights about their work.

The public administration course introduces students to the theoretical and technical dimensions of working in the government and non-profit sectors, as well as considering how to exercise leadership in these organizations. Having individuals who are actually working in the field offer insight and personal observations greatly enhanced the course experience for the students. The guest speaker sessions were open to any individuals from Calvin who were interested in attending.

According to Abigail Vegter, who taught the class, “When asked about the course as a whole, nearly every student referenced the guest lecture series as being one of the highlights of the semester. The students were

clearly impacted by hearing real stories from leaders in these fields. One student’s weekly reflection mentioned that the public sector speakers inspired him to consider a career in public administration—something he had previously assumed would be a ‘boring’ choice of a career. Another individual considered the opportunity to interact with the speakers to be a privilege, sharing the following: ‘I really enjoy the guest speakers I have had the privilege of hearing over the past couple of months. I have never been in a class that has had this opportunity before, and I feel it is very beneficial. Being able to see concrete examples of how the things that we are learning can be enacted in a career has been very interesting.’”

“Bringing these speakers into the classroom experience is just one of the many ways the Institute is working to enhance learning, vocation, and public citizen involvement for students,” noted Henry Institute Director Micah Watson. “The students’ reactions clearly noted the value of the *Leadership Series*.”

Featured speakers for the Public and Non-Profit Leadership Series included:

- Crissa Blankenburg**
Michigan Department of Corrections
- William Byl**
Kent County Drain Commission
- Ron Gorman**
Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Pam Hoekwater**
Legal Aid of West Michigan
- Bob Ottenhoff**
Center for Disaster Philanthropy
(Formerly) Public Broadcasting Service
- Jill Stoltzfus**
Association for a More Just Society
- Ryan VerWys**
Inner City Christian Federation
- Ellen Zwarenstin**
Michigan Center for Civic Education

Fostering Student Learning by Providing Unique Opportunities

The Henry Institute's three goals involve promoting scholarship, engaging the community, and fostering student learning. During the 2019/20 academic year, a number of projects and programs provided distinctive learning experiences related to faith and public life, providing opportunities for students to expand their knowledge, enhance their awareness, and consider ways to participate as citizens. ~

Exploring Vocations

During this fifth year of the Career Breakfast program, the Henry Institute sponsored four events including small groups of students who shared a meal and conversation as they considered vocations in international relations and democracy development with Becky Buursma (BroderickHaight Consulting), diplomacy and foreign affairs with Dan Holtrop (U.S. State Department), and local political office with Emily Post Brieve (Kent County Commissioner). A workshop on preparing graduate school applications was also held.

A spring session on global human rights was postponed due to the campus closing with the pandemic, but will be rescheduled at a later date. ~



County commissioner Emily Post Brieve shares breakfast and career information with students



Students meet with Becky Buursma to explore international relations career options

Forming Public Policy

In February, the Institute sponsored four Calvin students to attend the Wheatley Institution's annual Student Conference on Religion in the Public Sphere (SCRIPS) at Brigham Young University in Utah. The four-day event includes college students from around the country, working together in a roundtable setting to analyze various contemporary topics and offer policy proposals that provide solutions.

Students chose a working group from six different subjects related to the 2020 conference topic of *Faith and Place: Religion, Ecology, and Conflict in Contested Spaces*. Former Henry Director Kevin den Dulk has been a facilitator at the conference for several years, working with students to analyze one of the chosen subtopics. For the 2020 session, Prof. den Dulk's group explored policy issues related to his recent research examining "Justice and the Politics of Water."

According to Rebekah Baas, "The SCRIPS conference was an incredible experience—it completely exceeded all my expectations! We were able to work with fellow students from around the nation on projects in a way that allowed us to really take initiative but still utilize the support and experience of the amazing leaders we were assigned with. I daily find myself drawing on the skills that I developed and reflecting on what a blessing the conference and the people involved were."

Ben VanderWindt, another Calvin participant reflected, "The SCRIPS Conference was a week focused on learning to work collaboratively across ideological lines, to think strategically, and to form friendships with faculty, students, and staff from widely diverse backgrounds. I was really impressed by the focus on a long-term commitment to help the conference attendees, by all the participating students and by the organizers." ~

Considering Religious Freedom

In January, Calvin University student Emerson Silvernail attended *Statesmanship and Religious Freedom* in Washington D.C., supported in part by a Henry Institute travel award. The 3-day program, co-sponsored by the Religious Freedom Institute and the Museum of the Bible, included 30 selected students from various institutions, backgrounds, and perspectives. The event was designed to explore the role of religious freedom in protecting human dignity, ensuring that people of faith are able to participate fully in American public life, and in promoting flourishing communities. The sessions included lectures by religious freedom scholars and government policy makers, along with exhibits at the Museum of the Bible and field visits to Capitol Hill, the Holocaust Museum and various other government and non-government agencies. Silvernail noted, "I am incredibly appreciative that the Henry Institute helped me to attend the SaRF seminar on religious freedom. As the sole Calvin attendee, I was able to interact with speakers and students from various religious backgrounds while touring and studying at the Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. Our sessions spanned from the historical context of the Bible, to the current work of USAID that protects those around the world who are suffering religious persecution, and ended at the United States Holocaust Museum, considering the paramount systematic destruction of religious liberties." ~



Calvin's New *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics* Major

The newest major at Calvin University is closely related to the Henry Institute's scope of examining religion and public life. Politics, Philosophy and Economics (or PPE) encompasses three disciplines that are critically involved in public life and provides the opportunity to seriously consider the role of faith within these aspects of human endeavors. Institute Director Micah Watson will lead the PPE program at Calvin, and while some of the events and activities originally planned for the upcoming academic year may have to be re-designed due to ongoing pandemic safety practices, we are looking forward to the involvement of students in this area of study. We are grateful for two grants from the Acton Institute to support co-curricular programs for the PPE Program, allowing the University to provide some unique experiences for students as part of the new major. ~

The Henry Institute Semester in Washington D.C. program marked its 20th year this spring with an extremely unusual student experience, as COVID-19 settled in around the U.S. With 17 participants living and interning in Washington, the University was forced to make a decision about the off-campus program, and determined the most prudent course to be ending Calvin's formal sponsorship off-site, while encouraging students to complete their internships and the two classes taken during the semester remotely. All the participants were able to pivot to remote internship work, with three moving from their original work site to instead conduct research online for the Congressional Management Foundation, exploring Congressional and state policies and decisions regarding the pandemic to form the basis of "best practices" for dealing with COVID-19.

In mid-March, eight students returned to their homes and nine remained living at Greystone House in D.C., sheltering in place for the final six weeks of the semester. The lowered number of students in the house made physical distancing easier, and those who stayed in the city felt that they were able to form a strong community atmosphere that was a positive part of the semester, with their interactions and support for each other enhancing their learning and life experience.

Professor Doug Koopman taught the two remaining classes online after mid-March, with the *Faith and Public Life* course focused on applying early semester on-site experiences to concepts of pluralism and civic responsibility, and to considering lessons

learned as they lived together in Washington D.C.. The *President and Congress* course continued remotely.

"While it is regrettable that they were not able to experience an entire typical semester in D.C., the students adjusted very well to uncertainties, disruption, and change," noted Ellen Hekman, the Program Coordinator. "I'm pleased they were all able to earn full academic credit for the Program, and I'm very proud of the resilience and flexibility they showed in the face of difficult issues." ~



Semester students on the Speaker's Balcony at the U.S. Capitol

Sarah Vroegop noted, "I learned and grew during the semester, but definitely not in the areas I thought I was going to. My biggest takeaway from the semester involved the power of collective experience. The 17 of us living in Greystone had to navigate the cancellation of our lives in D.C. together, and our initial fears over getting sick or our family members being vulnerable, followed by learning to quarantine together. We each tried to make room for each other and to build pieces of happiness and community back into the weeks together. I continue to be really thankful for how we shaped our collective experience. We were all stressed and sad, but in the midst of that, we tried to support and respect each other. The grace I saw and received from friends—those I knew before the semester, and people I had little interaction with before moving into Greystone with them—will remain very particular to that semester in D.C. for me."

"My internship with InterAction exceeded my expectations for the D.C. semester," said **Luke Sturgis**. "My supervisor was adamant about making the experience valuable for me and not just giving busy work, even when we were only able to work remotely from home. Her attitude was definitely reflective of an organization that really cares about their interns."

Claire Murashima reported that "Even though the semester did not go as planned, I still had a great experience. Professor Koopman was able to help several of us find another internship to complete our hours. Quarantine with our group was actually one of the highlights of my time in D.C. We started playing board games, doing watercolors, and baking together as a house. Even though we were unable to leave our house for the most part, I consider myself one of the lucky ones to be able to spend the first part of quarantine with some of my best friends, who I had only met a few months before."

"Calvin's D.C. semester offers an exceptional introduction to the daily life of a working professional in the nation's capital," said **Carson Ellis**. "While in D.C. I was introduced to Calvin's strong alumni network along with the chance to meet experts in my field of interest. The positive experience with Calvin's Program kept me from wanting to leave, and making the decision to finish the semester out on-site, rather than returning home. It also fueled my hope to one day work in Washington."

According to **Heather Seignious**, "The week of the shutdown was such a strange week, my family was visiting in D.C. At the beginning of the week, I was going to my internship as normal and my family was seeing museums—but by Friday, I no longer had an internship at the House of Representatives and their tour of the National Cathedral had been cancelled. As Calvin officially ended the off-site semester, my parents encouraged me to stay in the city. I had to take a step back and realize that my internship and my D.C. Semester ending were far from the only things affected. There was much more happening in the world, and I had to adjust and do my part like others. I was very grateful for Professor Koopman's leadership during this time as he adjusted to the new technology to conduct the last half of our classes online and assisted some of us with a remote internship, enabling us to meet the academic requirements.

The semester was not the launching pad into the real world that we anticipated. The second half of the semester was a rollercoaster of anxiety and boredom, with very little structure, but I learned so much about myself in this time. I found ways to create some stability for myself, and discovered reasons to be grateful for having friends to live and hang out with in quarantine. Overall, the experience taught me about flexibility, selflessness, and caring for others around me. I am very thankful for the semester, Professor Koopman, and Ellen Hekman, despite the chaos and uncertainty.

Anu Teodorescu reflected, "Spending the 2020 spring semester in D.C. was an exercise in patience, humility, faith, and laughter. As we negotiated 17 different personalities, sleep schedules, diets, and tv show preferences, we had a lot on our plates, even before COVID-19 shook up our world. Fortunately for us, we had managed to create an incredibly cohesive and thoroughly enjoyable group living experience from day one—and the camaraderie we shared saw us through the uncertainty of the semester.

Ask any one of us, and we'll tell you that none of the ideas we had for ourselves and for our futures went according to plan...but I believe each of us grew in ways we never thought we needed this spring, and that we've walked away from the semester stronger, more hopeful, and, perhaps, a bit more prepared to engage in and contribute to the 'real world.'"

The Henry Institute's Civitas Lab program supports student research fellows and Calvin faculty mentors working on collaborative scholarly efforts. The 2019/20 academic year found seven professors working on 10 distinct projects with 14 students. While the projects varied broadly, all had a common theme of integrating faith and public life. Students work primarily in one area with the professor exploring that topic. The Lab brings the entire group together regularly to discuss their work, develop community, brainstorm ideas, and share project insights. "Providing research opportunities for faculty and students has a long and valuable place within the Institute, with 17 years of student research fellow work," noted Institute Director Micah Watson. "These efforts will continue to be a key priority for us into the future." ~



Critical Information Needs in Underserved Communities: Exploring how communities of color stay informed about schools and education and the role of media in sharing education-related information to them
 Professor: **Jesse Holcomb** (English; Communication)
 Student Research Assistant: **Daniela Ampuero Castilla**

Interfaith Photovoice Initiative: Analyzing data from a multi-site project exploring the effectiveness of an arts-based research technique as a strategy for interfaith engagement



Professor: **Roman Williams** (Sociology)
 Student Research Assistant: **McKinley Anderson**

The Politics of Water: Investigating the appropriate role of government in addressing problems involving availability, stewardship and economic equity that surround the distribution of water as a matter of public justice



Professor: **Kevin den Dulk** (Political Science)
 Student Research Assistant: **Jonathan Winkle**

Charting the Future of Public Service Journalism: Research using the INN index (survey of U.S. nonprofit news publishers) to measure community engagement, business sustainability, and journalistic impact trends
 Professor: **Jesse Holcomb** (English; Communication)



Student Research Assistant: **Ivanna Rodriguez Lobo**

Civic Education: Working with a number of partner civic organizations to enhance interaction, communication and educational efforts.



Professor: **Kevin den Dulk** (Political Science)
 Student Research Assistant: **Yejae Kim**

Formative Practices of Civic Hospitality: Developing the concept of hospitality as a virtue of faithful citizenship that will produce model pedagogical interventions that embed hospitality and related Christian virtues into civic learning, with those interventions widely available to civics teachers (see article on page 2)



Professor: **Kevin den Dulk** (Political Science)
 Student Research Assistant: **Alaina Kwiatkowski**



The Polarization of American Christianity: Examining the current state of

polarization within American Christianity, and how the career and legacy of Hillary Clinton may be understood in the context of that polarization

Professor: **Kristin DuMez** (History)
 Student Research Assistant: **Elias Jesus**

Rustbelt Religion: Studying fieldwork and interviews from central Wisconsin to explain how religion shapes the politics of rural white voters

Professor: **Mark Mulder** (Sociology)
 Student Research Assistant: **Elias Jesus**



Mapping Applications for Re-entry: User-friendly intuitive map of facilities and organizations available to new parolees and returning citizens



Professor: **Kevin den Dulk** (Political Science) and **Jason VanHorn** (Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies)
 Student Research Assistants: **Liam Ferraby, Jason Entingh, Amen Gabre, Debora Haede, Grace Lunger, Jennifer Randall**

The Moral Power of Stories: A Meta-Analysis: Exploring the power of stories to develop a readers' moral character, as themes and narratives can inspire moral change, as well as influence moral beliefs, motivation, and behavior



Professor: **Peter Meindl** (Psychology)
 Student Research Assistant: **Allyson Fea**

2020 Semester in Washington D.C. Program (continued from page 11)

Andrea Jordan Arroyo noted, "I struggled financially to participate in the D.C. Semester, but I'm really thankful for all the people who helped me and glad I had the opportunity to be in the program! Interning for the Smithsonian was one of the best things that has ever happened to me. It was frustrating that COVID-19 stopped me from finishing my internship as planned—I had to miss so many experiences and relationships. But, in a time of so many racial disparities and tensions, and while dealing with the changes and uncertainty the pandemic brought, I am grateful for the opportunity I had to learn alongside great professors, classmates, and coworkers who stand up against injustice and try to be better humans as they care and support others in many different ways."

2020 Student Internships

Carleigh Cronkright
 Embassy of Rwanda
Carson Ellis
 Human Rights Campaign
Micah Isaac
 Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Andrea Jordan Arroyo
 National Museum of African American History & Culture
William Larzelere
 Congressman Jim Banks
Anya ZhouZhou McKean
 Global Strategy Group
Claire Murashima
 American Enterprise Institute
Abigail Perecki
 International Rescue Committee

Jennifer Randall
 Sojourners
Blake Rose
 National Center on Sexual Exploitation
Kate Rylaarsdam
 Mary's Center
Heather Seignious
 Congressman Dan Kildee
Luke Sturgis
 InterAction
Anu Teodorescu
 Congressman John Lewis
Kieran Valk
 The Climate Institute
Lucas Verran
 STG
Sarah Vroegop
 Congressman Dan Kildee