Message from the President

By Ken Bratt, CALL Board President
“Peer Instruction”

Happy New Year, and welcome to what we optimistically call the “Spring” semester of CALL programming! We had a wonderful Fall term that featured 60 courses, six lectures in the Noontime Series, two Passport films, a trip to Yellowstone & Glacier National Parks, and very successful member events for Art Prize, Dick Harms’ guided tour of Lansing, and “Christmas in October.”

Registrations for our classes reached an all-time high of 1,966 involving 860 participants, and just 25 of our 60 presenters were Calvin professors. The spring program is shaping up to be as varied and exciting.

One of the things I especially appreciate about CALL, both as a student and presenter, is how much we learn from each other. In academic publication, “peer review” is often a required step to ensure the quality of scholarly work by subjecting it to the scrutiny of professional peers. In a less formal way, teachers and students in CALL engage in peer instruction, sharing a depth of wisdom from life experience that undergraduates simply can’t match in the traditional college classroom.

Transitioning from 36 years of undergraduate teaching to CALL classes, I quickly learned that I had to pitch my delivery at a different level – not only because the people in the class were motivated by the sheer love of learning (not always true of undergraduates), but also because my “students” were now peers in age (or even older) and often knew more about the subject at hand. In leading discussions about Homeric Troy and a novel set in Turkey, I found that people in the class had lived there and knew the land and culture better than I did. On many occasions someone in the class has graciously corrected my facts, pronunciation of foreign words, or offered an insight I simply hadn’t thought of.

Our class rosters include former teachers in all kinds of subjects at all levels of instruction. Former history professors have been in my history classes, honors English teachers in discussions of classic texts; experts in art history have enriched classes I’ve taught in that field. My wife and I have also taken many classes with leaders who weren’t teachers by profession: an expert in technology helped us figure out our iPad; preachers helped us think about what makes a good sermon; a detective talked about solving “cold cases”, an expert “birder” brought us face-to-beak with a Kirtland’s warbler; a rabbi deepened our understanding of Judaism; a retired social worker shared his love of hiking and photography in the national parks. In a recent class on independent films, we were impressed by the sophistication of classmates who saw so much more than we did.

Did you know we currently have 29 members in their 90’s, 325 in their 80’s, and 569 in their 70’s? Our oldest member was born in 1917, and she’s taken 109 classes with CALL. What an amazing reservoir of talent and experience we have in one another! So let’s resolve in 2017 to keep on learning from our peers, asking each other more questions, sharing more of the wisdom God has given each of us. All this is part of the passion for lifelong learning that brought us to CALL in the first place -- and if you would like to lead a class in your area of expertise, we’d love to hear from you!
Join John Holod on this 2,000 mile RV journey as he explores classic drive-ins, gas stations and kitschy roadside attractions, all from the perspective of an RVer.

On March 29, we journey on a road not typically traveled in this film series, a story titled *Sudan: The Inside Story* with Karin Muller. Her accomplishments in weaving stories combined with her career in cinematography for National Geographic and PBS will surely provide a riveting look at one of the most complex countries in Africa.

Tickets are $6 each online at [www.calvin.edu/boxoffice](http://www.calvin.edu/boxoffice) or you can call the box office at 526-6282. Season tickets are no longer cost advantageous, so only individual tickets are available for purchase, and all seats are reserved.

A recent book has been dedicated to CALL by Karin Maag, a long-time and popular instructor for our program titled *Does the Reformation Still Matter?*. Part of the Calvin Shorts series, this book is 112 pages in length. The book offers a concise and highly-readable explanation of the dramatic changes that took place during the Reformation and helps readers understand the deeper impact of the Reformation beyond its own time period.

Here is the dedication from page 7: “This work is dedicated with respect and admiration to the senior citizens who have attended my classes in the Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning over the past sixteen years— their enquiring minds, thoughtful questions, and ongoing interest in finding out more about the Reformation have motivated me to write this book.” – Karin Maag

Available at the Calvin Bookstore or Barnes and Noble for $7.99 or as an e-book for $2.99.
The 2017 Spring Noontime Series is free and open to the public. These in-depth and thought-provoking lectures are one hour in length from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm.

Most lectures are video recorded, and links to watch at home on your computer can be found on the main page of our website under the Noontime tab.

The first lecture is Thursday, February 9, with Ana Jose speaking on *Who are the Refugees in our Midst and What are their Needs?*

Each year, thousands of people arrive in the United States as refugees or immigrants, including children as unaccompanied minors. Their stories are often heartbreaking; this presentation will include a refugee telling his own story.

In partnership with local churches and community agencies, Bethany Christian Services welcomes refugees and immigrant families and helps them adjust to a new life in the United States with the help of many.

The second lecture for the month is on Thursday, February 23, with Pamela Alderman titled *Healing in Art: A Pathway to Flourishing.*

Art has the unique potential to touch deep places within the human spirit. ArtPrize artist Pamela Alderman seeks just that: “to enter into the hearts of the wounded” through unique and compelling interactive art that move people to identify their struggles and release their hurts.

Alderman's presentation will include highlights from her eight-year ArtPrize journey and a short video filmed in Phoenix during the 2015 Super Bowl at her sex trafficking art installation. Alderman's art invites transformation and hope. This lecture complements a separate and different presentation with Pamela at the CALL Member Event on Wednesday, March 29.

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### Noontime Series

**by Henry Baron, Chair**

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<td>Ana Jose</td>
<td>Who are the Refugees in our Midst and What are their Needs?</td>
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<td>Pamela Alderman</td>
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<td>Randy Bytwerk</td>
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<td>Steve Timmermans &amp; Peter Borgdorff</td>
<td>A Season of Challenges: Facing the Times In and Beyond the CRC</td>
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<td>Apr 20</td>
<td>Micah Watson</td>
<td>Is there Life after Trump? The First 100 Days</td>
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Use Caution
The staff would like to remind students to use caution in traveling to campus if conditions are hazardous. Classes will remain as scheduled unless the Calvin College campus is closed. Watch your local news for closings or check the main web page from Calvin College at www.calvin.edu.

Spring Courses
Registration is open for all 54 spring CALL courses!

The lineup includes many new exercise courses, the return of many favorite instructors, a repeat of the highly successful “Fridays at the Movies” course last fall, and subjects never taught before.

For those new to the program, popular classes in either session may fill by February 1. In anticipation of high interest, we are fortunate to schedule some of our courses in Science Building 110 or the Bytwerk Theatre to accommodate the most numbers of students.

Announcements
by Sonja DeJong

Here are just a few course titles and instructors to pique your interest:

Do You Know Grand Rapids? - Dick Harms
Albert Einstein: Life and Times - Arie Leegwater
Two Biblical Histories - Won Lee
Understanding Dementia - multiple instructors
The Mystics - Father Lally
360 Degrees of Opera - multiple instructors
Gender in Arab World - Adel Abadeer
Barefoot - Sharon Brown
Smart Investing - Grace Roossien
WWI: The War to End All Wars - Fred Johnson
Luther’s Church & Communists - Wally Bratt

Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Save the date for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Thursday, May 25. Signup information will be published in the next newsletter.

This event is open to all CALL members at a minimal cost and includes a superb lunch at the Prince Conference Center and a special performance by Half-N-Half Quartet who is known for close harmonies, and audience pleasing antics.

Service Grants
Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning is committed to supporting individuals involved in service projects. Each year the program provides funds up to $200 to any CALL member who volunteers for a charitable organization. Few restrictions exist on the types of projects which can be funded. Go to the CALL website under the “Service Grants” tab to learn more.

If you volunteer for a non-profit and they are in need of something specific for their work, submit the form on our website.

CALL Service Grants have been applied to offsetting costs to many items in the past such as a cash register, a vacuum cleaner, teaching materials, level books in elementary schools, nursing supplies, funds towards a small tractor, and much more. Ask your non-profit what they need and allow us to support your efforts!
Member Events
by Shirley Lautenbach

Lincoln Legacy Trip, Springfield Illinois, Wednesday-Friday. April 5, 6, and 7.

We need 11 additional guests to travel on our Lincoln Legacy trip in April. This will be our fourth trip to Lincoln land. Previous participants identify this trip as the best event the Member Events committee has ever offered.

When it comes to historic Lincoln sites, Springfield is clearly the epicenter. Here, Lincoln steps off his marble pedestal and sheds some of his mystical aura. Around town, his memory stays fresh, thanks to preservationists and interested townspeople. Roam around downtown, and it appears that Lincoln just closed his kitchen door, stepped away from his law office, or wrapped up a case in court.

In 1863, President Lincoln acknowledged this city when he wrote, "Springfield is my home, and here, more than elsewhere, are my life-long friends." Local residents still take pride in their famous townsman and make visitors welcome, even the umpteenth tourist or busload of kids.

The U.S. has a lot of places named for Lincoln, but only Lincoln, Illinois was named for him during his lifetime. At the 1853 christening, Lincoln saw no champagne on hand, so he broke open a watermelon to do the deed – thus the crude watermelon sculpture by the tiny Amtrak station.

The places we will visit include: The Lincoln Museum, New Salem Village with Lincoln's only home he owned, Lincoln tomb which features a 117-foot monument that serves as the final resting place for Lincoln, Mary, and three of their four sons, the railroad station where Lincoln gave his farewell speech, the Capitol Building and the church the Lincoln family attended. The three-day trip will begin Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 am and will conclude on Friday, April 7, around 9:00 pm.

This trip is open to CALL members and their friends. Cost: $399.00 per person (double occupancy). Single room supplement $100.00 ($50 per night). A payment of $200.00 is at registration with the balance due March 1.

Cost includes: deluxe bus, lodging (double occupancy), meals (one dinner on your own) and all admission fees.

Questions - Call Don Lautenbach - 901-2170.

Spring Luncheon, Wednesday, March 29

An ArtPrize Artist's Journey
Artist Pamela Alderman

ArtPrize has opened surprising doors for artist Pamela Alderman. Over the past eight years, her interactive exhibits have touched thousands of visitors with the message of hope and healing. Pamela creates unique exhibits that focus on the viewers and their needs. Every year visitors express appreciation for the sacred space to talk about their stories. Alderman's presentation will include an inside look of creating her 2016 ArtPrize installation called Color Me Orange—Color Me Kind where visitors tied 100,000 orange ribbons as a promise to be kind in addition to a live demonstration of painting with her hands.

Cost - $19.00.
Questions - Call Shirley 299-3584.
The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum, Wednesday-Friday, May 3, 4, 5

We will travel to Kentucky to visit the Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter. The state of the art Creation Museum allows you to venture through Biblical history, stunning exhibits, botanical gardens and much more. The 75,000 square - foot museum brings the pages of the Bible to life through its 160 exhibits. We will also experience the high - definition digital technology of the Stargazer’s Planetarium. Enjoy an incredible journey through space.

Experience the life size Noah’s Ark - 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high. The ark only recently opened and is one of only three full size Noah's Ark replicas in the world and is the largest of the three. The Ark Encounter is a one-of-a-kind, historical event centered on Noah's Ark as recorded in the Bible.

This exciting trip includes bus transportation, lodging, coffee and rolls, one lunch, and three dinners.

Cost - $499 per person (double occupancy). A single room supplement is $100 ($50 per night).
Questions - Call Shirley - 299-3584.

Save the date, Thursday, June 29, 1:00 pm - the Detroit Tigers vs Kansas City Royals. This trip is open to CALL members, their friends and grandchildren. Details coming soon...

Contact Shirley with questions: 299-3584 or lautenshirley@gmail.com

The cancellation policy is posted on the CALL website

Member Events Registration

Two ways to register:

1. Online: www.calvin.edu/CALL > Member Events
2. Complete this form (make checks payable to CALL) and send to CALL, Youngsma Center, 3201 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Event fees are per person. CALL will notify you if an event has filled.

☐ Mar 29  Spring Luncheon with Pamela Alderman  $19
☐ Apr 5-7  Lincoln Legacy payment, full payment  $399
☐ Apr 5-7  Lincoln Legacy payment, Jan payment  $200
☐ Apr 5-7  Lincoln Legacy payment, March 1 payment  $149
☐ Apr 5-7  Lincoln Legacy payment, single-room supplement  $100
☐ May 3-5  The Ark Encounter and Creation  $499
☐ May 3-5  The Ark Encounter and Creation-single-room supplement  $100

Name: ________________________________
Phone: _______________________________
Email: Confirm by email? ☐ Yes ☐ No, I don’t use email
Extended Trips

by John Apol

Of the previously advertised extended trips, the Israel and Iceland trips are each full. Email us if you wish to be on the waitlist for either trip. Three trips remain open for registration:

Cuba

Fourteen persons have registered thus far for this May destination. The colonial architecture will impress you, the music will stir you, and the people will inspire you on your Cuba tour. Pulsing rhythms of the salsa bands performing in the restaurants across Havana will touch your soul. Pastel colored homes accentuate the variety of blue hues layering the Caribbean Sea. Powerful stone fortresses continue to guard the shoreline amidst the sweet aroma of sugar cane juice pressed before your eyes. And yes, they still drive the now-vintage American cars!

American Southwest

A newly advertised trip, the American Southwest tour with John Apol has seen quick and eager signups of 15 travelers. American Southwest is a 12-day exploration marveling in the complexity and breathtaking beauty of the United States. Over one-third of our national parks are located in the Southwest. The grandeur of the National Parks in the southwest of the United States has to be seen to be appreciated. The skies in the southwest of the United States are unusually clear and incredibly blue. The sunrises and sunsets always appear tinged with reds, pinks and colors you may not have noticed before.

If you desire to experience breathtaking landscapes in areas of mournful beauty amid desolate vistas, the American Southwest is waiting for you. If you are excited by unusual landscapes, mountains, valleys, canyons, buttes, deserts and unusual geological formations, it is hard to imagine anywhere else with so much diversity within as beautiful an environment. We should note the tour pace is rated as moderate.

In the Footsteps of the Reformers

To date we have had 13 register for the September 12-22 trip to cities and sites in Germany and Switzerland in addition to celebrating the 500th anniversary of The Reformation. The tour leaders are Karin Maag and Paul Fields.

Experience the fascinating history and modern-day significance of the German and Swiss Reformation while retracing the steps of Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin. Tour highlights include Wittenberg, Erfurt, Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Zurich and Geneva. Lectures by Dr. Maag will add to our enjoyment and provide enlightening insights into the Reformation.

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<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
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<td>American SW</td>
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<td>Reformation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stratford Festival</td>
<td>A repeat from 2016- details soon</td>
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Sightseeing Highlights:
- Numerous evening lectures
- Berlin and remnants of the Berlin Wall
- Heidelberg Castle
- Strasbourg Parliament tour
- Ascending Uetliberg Mountain in Zurich
- Lake Zurich boat excursion
- The preserved medieval city of Bern
- The Reformation Museum in Geneva
- And an evening cruise on Lake Geneva

Stratford Festival (Canada)
Potential travelers may place their names on an interest list for the Stratford Festival 2017 trip not yet open for registration with the CALL office or the Calvin Alumni office at call@calvin.edu. See our website for more information about all of these trips.