President’s Message

It has been quite a year—especially in politics and with weather issues in the east. We’re glad we came through that. And … the sun rises every day, we bathe in the richness of Christ’s love for us, and we continue to thank God for blessings every day. I trust you talked about these truths as you spent time with family and friends during the Thanksgiving season.

And now we look forward to the Christmas season—to each of you and your family—from your Board of Directors—a most blessed Christmas.

CALL continues to experience growth in both membership and participation in classes. Marjo, our new membership coordinator, reports that membership stands now at 1,336 compared to last year’s 1,114 a 20% increase, while registrations for classes this Fall are 1,645 compared to 1,407 last year at this time—a 17% increase! This provides a challenge for CALL because despite this growth, not all members are participating in the many events—classes, public events and member events—that we offer. We’ll have to figure out why some members do not participate much.

Fall classes have come to an end, and Uko Zylstra and his curriculum committee promise another stellar line-up of Spring courses! Some will be repeats of FALL courses, but many will be new. Watch your email and mail for the Spring catalog which will be published in January, 2013. Remember to sign up on-line for courses if you are able. This saves the office lots of time instead of using regular mail.

Other actions your board took at its November meeting … it …

- approved a request from the development office to send a letter to all CALL members
- explaining the college’s relationship with CALL and to ask us all to consider its annual fund drive in our giving decisions.
- heard reports that the “live streaming” of noontime events and some classes to the Holland Home were well received, but need some fine tuning.
- recognized Thad Balivet and Shannon Zoerhof of Calvin’s Advancement office for all their work in streamlining our technology (see separate tribute to them in this Newsletter)
- approved the new CALL logo and bright look of future publications.
- reviewed the many member events and noontime series planned for next year.
- approved two service grants to Carol and Rich Rienstra for their “Sea-to-Sea bike ride next summer to fight poverty.
- discussed many trips and classes being developed for next summer and next year.

Thank you to all for promoting CALL to your friends, giving us feedback in how to achieve excellent results, and participating in our many wonderful activities.

Ray Vander Weele, President
INTRODUCING …

Whether you are new to CALL or have been involved for many years, you have probably seen and experienced the wonderful relationship between CALL and Calvin. We have use of this beautiful campus and its facilities—including parking, classrooms, special venues, and technical support. We also receive amazing behind-the-scene support and services that often go unnoticed by our members. We would like to highlight two people who provide such help and support. Many of you may never meet them, but they have been instrumental in the internal workings and on-line capabilities of CALL over the past year.

Thad Balivet
There is talk of creating a Thaddeus Balivet Fan Club! Thad makes our lives so much easier as he figures out how computer databases can best serve the users. What a blessing he has been to CALL, especially in the past year as he integrated an older computer system into a new structure. “Thad has been a great help to the CALL program,” says Irene Bolthouse who has been in the middle of this transition. She recognizes the easy access to the consolidated information. “He has done a wonderful job.” From tallying course registrations and room capacities to counting potential cups of coffee needed during the breaks, Thad thinks things through. He helps us figure out how to record your preference on receiving this very newsletter by mail or electronically (e-mail call@calvin.edu) if you would prefer the electronic version). He also creates the code that provides an e-mail confirmation with all the information regarding a member event or a course registration; for us in the CALL office, it’s just a click of the mouse. Wow, does he make us look good!

As a computer trainer, Thad instructed staff, faculty and students at Baker College before joining Calvin College in 2006 in the position of Business Information Analyst. Born in Vermont, teenage years spent in Alaska, Thad settled in the Midwest with his wife Wendy and two elementary-age daughters (with beautiful French names). On weekends you’ll find Thad teaching a church preschool class, hiking and biking when a foot injury allows, or playing piano. Since beginning piano lessons at age five, Thad can pull out of the ivories classical, worship and jazz—another reason to join the Thaddeus Balivet Fan Club!

Shannon Zoerhof
Advancement Service and Events Assistant at Calvin.

A 2009 graduate of Calvin, Shannon first worked at the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids and has been at Calvin for the past year and a half. If you renewed your membership or registered for classes on-line, Shannon is the one who made that system possible. Because this was a new process for all of us, Shannon proved to be a wonderful source of experience, knowledge and ideas for how to organize and format the on-line applications. She created the template for all 44 of our fall classes and typed in each one! In the beginning it seemed we had daily, sometimes numerous, text changes or additions in an effort to make sure the process was clear and simple. Each time she responded quickly, cheerfully, and with a helpful spirit. As classes rapidly filled this fall, Shannon was quick on the job to keep the on-line registration link updated. Shannon played an integral part in making this new process run smoothly. Each day she assisted us with patience, kindness, helpfulness, and a warm and friendly smile.

When she isn’t working with us or the Advancement department at Calvin with the creation of I-modules pages and registrations, Shannon can be found running with her dogs or tackling a new home improvement project with her husband. Although disappointed with the overall outcome, Shannon is also a big Detroit Tigers fan and was thrilled to be able to attend some of the World Series games.

CALL wanted to introduce these special people to you. Join us in thanking God for them, for Calvin, and for the many blessings our organization is able to give and receive.

Public Events Committee
Henry Baron, Chair

Come and travel the world with us! Join us for the last three presentations of this year’s Passport to Adventure Film Series. See, experience, wonder, learn and explore a variety of places, landscapes, histories, and peoples from the comfort of your auditorium chair. These films are a great experience for young and old alike. Invite others to take a trip with you! Contact the Calvin Box Office (526-6282) for tickets. A great travel bargain of only $5/adult, $2/student.

Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 7:00 PM
Israel: Stories From the Holy Land with Sandy Mortimer

Along with a cultural past that includes Phoenician, Roman, Crusader and Turk influence, Israel offers a 5,000-year-old tradition of rich storytelling-accounts of love, hate, cruelty and compassion. In addition to visiting the sites of many Old Testament stories and following in the steps of Jesus, we experience the customs of unforgettable and obscure cultures and visit a modern-day kibbutz to experience this unique Israeli lifestyle. Sandy Mortimer, whose career has ranged from politics to television production, created and narrates this travel experience.
Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 7:00 PM
Around the World - One Man's Journey with Doug Jones
Through this retrospective of forty years of travel on six continents and in 60 countries, Doug Jones, professional entertainer, radio announcer, European tour guide, art dealer, theatrical producer and airline pilot, shows stark changes in the work and in photography. Highlights of his very personal memoir include the Taj Mahal, the Kamakura Buddha, the Pyramids, the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, the Berlin Wall, Machu Picchu, Carnival in Rio, the Great Wall of China, Alaskan glaciers, and destinations as diverse as Hollywood to Hong Kong, Moscow to Brunei, and Tokyo to the Amazon.

Monday, April 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM
Majestic Montana with Steve Gonser

Member Events Committee
Don and Shirley Lautenbach

Wednesday, December 19, 12 noon
"A Noel in Brass".
Invite a friend and join your CALL friends for a special Christmas get together. The CALL Brass Ensemble will present "A Noel in Brass," a program of Christmas music, some familiar and some not so familiar. There will be interesting and stirring arrangements, remarkable stories about the carols and a sing along. The lunch and the program will be in the Calvin Commons Lecture Hall. Cost $16.00. Mail your reservation and check to the CALL office. Questions - call Shirley Lautenbach - 698-9244.

January 8, 2013, 9:30 a.m. January Series Brunch.
"Welcoming The Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate."
Speaker, Jenny Yang.
Jenny is the Director of Advocacy and Policy for the Refuge and Immigration at World Relief. In this position, she works with members of Congress, their staffers and the administration to improve refugee and immigration policy. She is an articulate speaker. Join us to learn more about this timely subject.
Your morning includes the brunch buffet and speaker, bus service to and from the Covenant Fine Arts Center and reserved seating. Cost - $16.00 per person.
Questions - Call. Shirley Lautenbach-698-9244

May 7, 2013. Purdue Varsity Men's Glee Club
Theater at the Center. - Munster, Indiana
We have added the Purdue Varsity Men's Glee Club to our schedule by request of several of our CALL members. The glee club is a widely acclaimed musical group that has inspired audiences on nine European tours and has performed at five presidential inaugurations. This dynamic musical troupe employs a versatile repertoire including gospel, classical choral selections, familiar opera choruses and much more. They utilize small groups and outstanding soloists to further enhance their performance. We will have lunch at the center, where a glee club member will be at each table to talk about the history and rules of the glee club.
Join us for this outstanding musical performance. We have 50 places for this sold out concert. The cost is $95.00 and includes deluxe motor coach, coffee and rolls enroute, boneless chicken breast lunch and the concert. A $30.00 deposit will confirm your reservation
This is a musical must! Make your reservation today! Questions - call Shirley Lautenbach, 698-9244 or cell phone 299-3584.

Member Events / Interest Group Registration
Send completed form to: CALL Youngsma Center 3201 Burton St. SE Grand Rapids MI 49546
Event fees are per person:

- December 19 [Wed] 12 Noon – A Noel in Brass $16
- January 8 [Tues] January Series Brunch $16
- May 7 [Tues] Purdue Varsity Men's Glee Club $95 ($30 Deposit)

Name(s) ___________________________________________ ___________________________________________
Phone __________________________ e-mail ____________________________

Your check must accompany your reservation. Make check payable to CALL.
Confirmation will be sent. If an event is already filled you will be notified.
I would like to join an interest group (no charge):
☐ Knitting ☐ Birding ☐ Yoga ☐ Brass Ensemble
Extended Trips Committee

John Apol, Chair

For 2013, there are three CALL-sponsored travel opportunities available, in partnership with the Calvin Alumni Association. The Israel pilgrimage for March 2013 is sold out, but we will offer it again in March 2014. The itinerary for 2013 will give you a good idea of this experience, viewable at www.calvin.edu/alumni/travel/2013/israel.

If you have an interest for 2014, leave your name and contact information with the alumni office at 526-6142 or alumni@calvin.edu.

North European Art Tour (May 21-30, 2013): Join Calvin art professor Henry Luttikhuizen for a twelve-day journey to explore the great art museums of London, Paris, Bruges and Amsterdam. In addition to visiting the British Museum in London, the Musée du Louvre in Paris and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, there will be opportunities to visit Gothic cathedrals and other architectural gems. Most days will include free time for independent activities. See www.calvin.edu/alumni/travel/2013/europe for details; get the brochure mailed to you by calling or contacting the alumni office (see above).

The Canadian Rockies (Sept. 21-30, 2013): Join CALL travel expert John Apol for a look at the grandeur of the Canadian Rockies. See Calgary, Banff, Takakkaw Falls, the Columbia Ice Fields, Jasper and Edmonton. Many breathtaking sights to behold! See www.calvin.edu/alumni/travel/2013/canadian for details; get the brochure mailed to you by calling or contacting the alumni office (see above).

Noontime Series Fall 2012

Our fall session is completed, but you can still view the recordings of some of our engaging lectures on the CALL website under the Noontime tab: (www.calvin.edu/academic/call).

Watch for information about our Spring line-up of lectures coming soon.

We will see you at the Chapel in February!

CALL
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546-4388
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Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning

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