From the CALL Vice-President

Now that I have completed a CALL course (on Globalization) I am reminded once again of the teaching excellence at Calvin College. As I think back to the 50's when I was in college at Calvin, I have to confess that I took good teaching pretty much for granted. My classmates and I acknowledged the great teaching performances of Timmerman, De Vries, Strikwerda, and others, but we were probably less generous with our evaluations of other teachers.

Later on in graduate school the realization hit me. To put it bluntly, there in grad school, I found out what poor teaching really was, since I was now learning from teachers chosen mainly for their research reputation and not for their pedagogical skills.

In 2005, back at Calvin taking CALL courses often taught by Calvin faculty but also gifted others, I am reminded of the skills of the teaching profession and their importance in our lives. The ability to make the complicated understandable and to emphasize significant facts over those less relevant is an admirable gift. Also impressive today is the masterful use by teachers of visual aids - compared to old-fashioned chalk and black board. Once again, thanks to teachers and their powerful role in our lives.

Peter VanVliet, Vice President of CALL

It explores various areas including technology, books and culture, health, money, recreation and volunteering. Over 600 discussion groups are available on a variety of topics, such as gardening, genealogy, politics and sports.

Scanning through the site itself is a learning experience. To facilitate easy searching for information, the site has its own search engine. Much of what SeniorNet offers on the website is free. However, they do recommend membership ($40 per year) for added benefits.

Would You Like to Play in a Band?
CALL members are invited to join the St. Cecilia Music Society's New Horizons Band if you'd like to learn how to play an instrument for the first time or want to get your previously played instrument tuned to praise again.

The band, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Summers-Meeusen, rehearses weekly from September through the first week in June. For more information about membership, contact Audrey VanVliet at 940-1949.

Elderhostel
We all know that CALL has many excellent educational programs, but for those of us who love learning and have the desire to travel, Elderhostel offers some pretty exciting programs.

Elderhostel is America's first and the world's largest educational and travel organization for seniors. With offerings of over 9,000 programs each year, there seems to be something for everyone who loves to learn and travel. As CALL is one of more than 300 Lifelong Learning Institutes affiliated with Elderhostel, we will from time to time bring to your attention some Elderhostel program offerings that may be of interest to you. You may also check out the Elderhostel website at www.elderhostel.org

Announcements

Community Involvement Opportunities

SeniorNet (www.seniornet.org), a nonprofit website run by seniors for seniors, provides resources such as online courses and discussion groups that offer many useful and practical tips. It offers a wealth of information on recent government and health issues pertaining to seniors.
Share Your Learning Experiences
Did you have, or are you having, positive learning or activity experiences with other groups that offer programs open to all seniors?
Would you like to recommend these programs to other CALL members? Call Ralph Dik, 452-9508, who will put together an announcement for CALL News.

Ralph Dik,
CALL Community Relations Coordinator

CALL Service and Community Relations Committee

Mentoring update:
As of Nov 1, there were eight CALL members mentoring (not tutoring) Calvin students. Mentors are: Ellen Schroder, Dave Radius, Loretta Visser, Kathleen Ritsema, Connie Gezon, Doris TeBos, Jessica Kuizema, Jim Jouppi, and Tom Weeda. You can join the crowd performing this service by contacting Lisa Jousma at Calvin.

WARNING: Lisa will be on maternity leave by the time you see this so contact Carol Rienstra (526-6175) to get the name of her temporary replacement.

Tom Weeda

Public Events (sponsored by CALL)

40th Annual Passport to Adventure Travel Series
All programs are presented in the Fine Arts Auditorium of Calvin College at 7:30 PM

Single tickets are $5.00 each.
Student Tickets: $2.50

Calvin Box Office is open 9 AM to 5 PM, Mon – Fri
Phone (616)-957-6282

Jan 19 [Thur] 7:30PM
In Search of Shangri-La with Buddy Hatton

Mar 16 [Thur] 7:30PM
The New Zealand Experience with Grant Foster

May 11 [Thur] 7:30PM
Alaska’s Inside Passage with John Holod

Calvin College Events

*Dec 1 [Thur] 7:30 PM at DeVos Performance Hall
Oratorio Society Handel's Messiah
Joel Navarro, Music Director
David Lockington, guest conductor

Dec 2 [Fri] 8PM at FAC Calvin Orchestra Concerto
Robert Nordling, conductor

*Dec 3 [Sat] 3PM at FAC Calvin Band Christmas Pops
Tiffany Engle, conductor

Dec 4 [Sun] 3PM and 6PM at LaGrave CRC
Campus Choir and Women's Chorale - Lessons and Carols

Dec 7 [Wed] 8PM at FAC
Jazz Band and Knollcrest Band Concert
Max Colley, Jr. and Tiffany Engle, conductors

Dec 9 [Fri] 8PM at Calvin Chapel
Capella Concert
Joel Navarro, conductor

*Jan 8 [Sun] 8PM at FAC
Alumni Choir Concert
"Choral Celebration of Christmas and Epiphany"
Pearl Shangkuan, conductor

* = requires tickets
Calvin Box Office is open 9 AM to 5 PM, Mon – Fri
Phone (616)-957-6282
CALL Member Events Page

January Series
Jan 24 [Tue] Bring a friend and join us for a luncheon and the January Series. Lunch will be at the Prince Center at 11:00 AM. Great Parking! A bus will take us to the FAC and will take us back to our cars after the lecture. We will have reserved seating at the FAC. We will hear James Peterson, author of “The Message”, who will be speaking on “Eat this Book”.

Lunch, bus to and from the lecture and reserved seating all for $15.00. Limited to 40 people. Send in your reservation form today.

Questions? Call Shirley Lautenbach, 698-9244.

“Travel on a John Deere”
Feb 14 [Wed] Enjoy a noon lunch and a winter afternoon by taking an armchair trip with Chaplain Dale Cooper on a John Deere tractor from Calvin College to Iowa. There is easy parking at the Prince Center. The delicious lunch, great fellowship and travel with Chaplain Cooper are all for a price of $15.00.

Make your reservation by sending in the enclosed reservation form.

Questions? Call Shirley Lautenbach 698-9244

Springfield Illinois Tour

Springfield Illinois Tour

Abraham Lincoln’s Legacy

Apr 18, 19, 20 [Tue-Thu] This is a “must-see” 3-day tour for CALL members. The Tour includes:

Abraham Lincoln Museum This state-of-the-art museum was opened in April of 2005. The museum was carefully designed with exciting historical detail to encourage an “experience” for all visitors. The amazingly well preserved artifacts tell the entire life story of our 16th president.

Lincoln House Enjoy a video presentation and a guided tour of Lincoln’s home as it appeared in 1860. He lived in this home from 1844-1861. We will walk the restored street and also visit the Arnold and Dean homes.

Lincoln’s Tomb Lincoln’s tomb is in the Oak Ridge cemetery, the second largest cemetery in the State of Illinois and the second most-visited cemetery in the United States.

New Salem History comes alive with the restoration of 25 buildings. Costumed interpreters take on the role of people who lived and worked here during Lincoln’s six-year stay, from 1831-1837.

Lincoln-Herndon Law Office Lincoln practiced law here from 1843-1852.

Plus Other historical sites in Springfield.

Lodging at the Comfort Suites – bring your swimsuit!

Cost: $249.00 per person (Deposit of $50 with reservation and balance by March 1)

Questions? Call Don Lautenbach 698-9244

Looking Ahead:

May 5, 6 [Fri-Sat] Midland trip “Dow Country” View the beautiful Dow Gardens, recapture the legacy and history of Dow Chemical, enjoy Bradley House, the Herbert H. Dow Historical Museum, the Hall of Ideas, and more. $185.00

May 17 [Wed] Muskegon trip “Lumber Queen of the World” Dr. Richard Harms wrote his doctoral dissertation on Charles Hackley later published as a book. He will lead the tour of Muskegon, Michigan, the largest lumber producing city during the nineteenth century. We will visit sites important in the lumbering history of Muskegon, reflect on the impact of lumbering, and stop for a visit of the Hackley and Hume houses and their shared carriage house – all finely preserved and restored examples of late Victorian architecture.

With his engaging style, Dr. Harms will describe the lumber industry, bring alive the people whose fortunes were made during the White Pine era, as well as review some of the steps taken to bring industry to the city once the trees of the Muskegon River basin had all been harvested. You will also learn of the large-scale shipping via sailing vessels on the Great Lakes, the log drives and the aftermath of the industry on this region. $45.00
Send to: CALL c/o Irene Bolthouse  
3201 Burton St SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49546

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