March 2012

Dear Family and Friends of Engineering:

Hopefully you received our January letter about the Engineering Senior Projects Night. We asked your son or daughter to forward the information to you and we have posted it on our website at

http://www.calvin.edu/academic/engineering/senior-design/

We are excited about the 28th Annual Senior Projects Night on Saturday, May 5, 2012, and hope that you are able to join us. The evening is an opportunity to see the final results of a year of hard work by senior engineering students and to celebrate with them the completion of the engineering program. This letter is an attempt to answer any questions you might have.

What time does it start?

The evening's activities will begin at 4:00 p.m. with an Open House in the Vermeer Engineering Projects Center and Prince Engineering Design Center. You will be able to view the displays and prototypes developed by the design teams, ask them questions and meet their professors.  Dinner is in the Commons Dining Hall at 6:00 p.m. The Prototype Presentations of projects is from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in various lecture halls on campus.

When and where do I get tickets for the dinner?

Tickets go on sale at the Calvin Box Office on, Monday, March 12. You can buy them in person, by phone or on the web. Tickets purchased through April 16 are $17 each and include reserved seating at the dinner. Tickets purchased April 17 or later will be $20 and will be general seating. Please note: Tickets for the dinner must be purchased by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27. No exceptions. The phone number for the Box Office is (616) 526-6282. Tickets purchased by phone or on the web (http://www.calvin.edu/boxoffice) require a credit card and will be charged a small handling fee.

How many tickets can I buy? Do we need a ticket if we can’t stay for dinner?

You may invite as many guests as you would like. Many siblings and grandparents find this night to be as enjoyable as graduation. Please keep in mind that the dining hall has round tables that seat up to eight. For example families of four will be matched with other families of four; a family of 7 will be either have an extra seat or be filled with someone from the Calvin faculty or staff. Tickets are for the dinner portion of the evening only. No tickets are needed for the Open House at 4:00 p.m. or the Prototype Presentations at 7:30 p.m.
Do I need to buy a ticket for my child that is an engineering senior?

No you do not. He or she is required to attend and therefore will be provided a ticket at no cost.

When do I find out where we are sitting if I have purchased a ticket by April 16?

This is our first attempt in a number of years to provide this option for families. We will be relying on you and the seniors to provide our office with accurate information of who is coming. We really need you to send an e-mail to engineering@calvin.edu with the names of people in your party. The subject line of the e-mail should be: Banquet Reservations-student last name. ie, Banquet Reservations – Smith, Banquet Reservations – DeVries. Please, please send us the e-mail no later than April 18.

By sending us the information by e-mail we can then e-mail you back with a confirmation of your table number and have pre-printed name tags for you to pick at during the Open House. We apologize for the extra step but believe this is the best way to handle the process. We anticipate over 350 people at the dinner so there is a lot of double and triple checking that needs to happen by our office and the dining hall staff rather than the staff of the Box Office. If anyone in your party needs seating accommodations such as wheelchair, please let us know in that e-mail as well.

Can we bring children?

Yes you may. Many children from about the age of 9 or 10 on up especially enjoy the Open House. Please be aware that the dinner and the presentations after dinner do require a lot of sitting. The decision is up to you since you know the children in question the best.

What should I wear?

Most people will be comfortable in casual dress attire. The students will be dressed their best, as if they were interviewing for a job. Wear comfortable shoes and don’t stress about it. You’re going to have a wonderful time no matter what you wear.

We might need lodging. Where should we stay?

If you are in need of housing for the weekend you are encouraged to go the Calvin visitor page at http://www.calvin.edu/resource/lodging.htm. This page has information about local hotels as well as the Prince Conference Center.

We look forward to celebrating with you the hard work of these wonderful young people. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 616-526-6500 or e-mail me at engineering@calvin.edu.

On behalf of the Engineering Department,

Michelle Krul
Administrative Assistant