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The Department of

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CALVIN COLLEGE

Model United Nations Wins Three Outstanding Delegation Awards

Early in the fall of 2009, department chair, Amy Patterson began preparing her Model UN students to research relevant topics, to practice the art of compromising, to write resolutions and reports, and to clearly articulate their resolutions to other Model UN teams.

On November 20, 2009, various colleges and universities came together for a four-day Model United Nations conference. The conference was held in Chicago where 1,500 student participants addressed vital international concerns. The students wrote up resolutions and submitted them to the General Assembly for voting. The delegates had to reach a consensus, not just a majority vote, in order to pass resolutions. Students at Calvin were acknowledged for their ability to write resolutions that many other countries could be in agreement with.

Junior Emily Daher was on the World Food Programme Committee and believes

that the delegates had a unique opportunity to learn more about the world and how difficult it really is to reach a consensus “among member states with different priorities, cultures, and interests.” Daher’s teammate, Ben Verhulst says, “Model UN has given me a new respect for the amount of difficulty in negotiating compromises in a world where states necessarily go after their own interests.”

Five students walked away with Outstanding Delegation Awards: Juniors Ben Verhulst and Ana Stutler for their representation of the United Arab Republic on the Historical Security Council; Sophomores Caleb Eom and Rebecca Larson for their portrayal of Egypt on the Economic



Commission for Africa committee; Senior Rita Feikema for her representation on the International Court of Justice.

Model UN is offered every fall by the political science department for academic credit, but students from all majors and backgrounds are encouraged to participate. The course can be taken twice while at Calvin, and most students who participate one semester will return the next fall.



Alumni Spotlight: Keith Van Beek

Since graduating from Calvin College in 1993, Keith Van Beek has succeeded in putting his political science and criminal justice double major to very good use. The Deputy County Administrator was born and raised in the Holland area where his parents placed a strong emphasis on education for all their children.

Now almost 18 years later,

Van Beek has found himself back in the political science department, not as a student, but as a professor teaching Political Science 202: State and Local Government.

During Van Beek’s time at Calvin, he was involved in the JV Basketball team and held an internship with the Kent County Juvenile Court, where he did intensive surveillance of youth

in a probation program and monitored their progress at home, school, and work. While at Calvin, he also began working at Wedgewood Christian Services doing various programs.

Van Beek was appointed to the elected position of City

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Stevenson and Westra Teach 2010 Interim on War

During Interim 2010, Professor Stevenson and Professor Westra teamed up to teach “The Human Experience of War.”

The class focused on how war impacts individuals and societies that have first-hand experience with war. Stevenson and Westra wanted to focus on how war affects the individual, family, and political system.

The course was divided into three sections. The first covered the experience of war. Important questions were raised about the experience of combat, the role of history, and the impact of weapons.

The second section focused on the allure of combat. The class discussed the reasons behind warfare and organized combat, and gender and age differences among combatants.

The impact of combat was the third aspect of the class. The section focused



The Warriors: Reflections on Men in Battle, by J. Glenn Gray.

One of the four main texts that students read during the month-long course.

on how combat affects both the individuals fighting and their loved ones,

and how it shapes political and social systems.

Westra and Stevenson also brought in a panel of combat veterans to speak about their experiences in war and combat. This was a highlight of the course

“Our rationale for teaching the course,” said Westra, “was to combine insights from political theory and international relations, as well as other social sciences and the humanities, to supplement our existing curriculum by examining the experience of combat and its effects.”

Stevenson was also glad to have students from a variety of different backgrounds, especially students who were either going into the military or had family members that have been or are still in the military.

Westra plans to teach the class again during Interim 2011.

Penning and the Center for Social Research

Past the seminary and over Burton Street on Woodlawn Avenue is the Raybrook building, which is home to a few graduate programs, and the Center for Social Research (CSR). The CSR was created in the 1970s by the Department of Sociology in response to a growing need for research assistance among professors and faculty.

Throughout its history, CSR's top priority has been to promote excellence in research, both on campus and in the community. Today, the CSR lends its services to all Calvin College faculty and students and to community partners such as the Christian Reformed Church and non-profit organizations.

Political Science Professor Jim Penning is in his second year as Director of the CSR. Penning's primary areas of research are religion and politics and American state and local politics, but he is also enjoying his work at the CSR for a variety of reasons. Penning loves working with the “great group of people” that are employed at the CSR. They are all diligent in their



work and willing to learn.

The Center recently completed a research study on congregational movements and new congregations in Kent County. By visiting each congregation in Kent County, student researchers were

able to take pictures of every building and record any changes in leadership, contact information, membership, and other relevant information. The survey provided a large data set for studying and learning more about our community.

Penning would like to encourage students (especially those in the political science department) to seriously consider working for the CSR to further refine their researching and analytical skills. “It is a great place for students going into graduate school and graduate work because they get amazing experience and you get paid to learn,” says Penning. The CSR looks for students who are diligent, hardworking, and thoughtful. Through its wide variety of projects, the CSR is an amazing resource that not many people know about.

To learn more about the CSR and its current projects, visit <http://www.calvin.edu/csr>.

THE PAUL HENRY INSTITUTE

Spring Lectures:



Independent scholar and writer **Lewis Daly** spoke at Calvin on Friday, February 19 at 3:30 p.m. His lecture was on "God and Government: Abraham Kuyper, Pope Leo XIII, and George W. Bush Confront the Social Question."

Daly studied religious ethics at Union Theological Seminary and is currently the Director and Senior Fellow of the Fellows Program at Demos, a non-partisan public policy research and advocacy organization founded in 2000 and located in New York City. He has authored numerous books, including *God's Economy: Faith-Based Initiatives and the Caring State*; *Unjust Desserts: How the Rich Are Taking Our Common Inheritance and Why We Should Take It Back*; and *God and the Welfare State*.

Michael Gerson gave the fourteenth annual Paul B. Henry Lecture on March 18, 2010, speaking on "Tensions at the Crossroads of Religion and Politics." Gerson is Senior Research Fellow in the Center on Faith & International Affairs at the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE), a faith-based, non-partisan think tank in Arlington, Virginia. His work at IGE focuses on human rights, global health, and conflict resolution.

Mr. Gerson is also a nationally syndicated columnist whose work regularly appears in *The Washington Post* and *Newsweek*. He is the author of the book *Heroic Conservatism* and serves on numerous boards. Gerson previously was with the Council on Foreign Relations and was a top aide to President George W. Bush from 1999 to 2006.



Summer Events:

June 3 - 9, 2010

The seventh "Pollsters and Parishioners: A Workshop on Survey Research and American Religion" will be held in June of 2010 at Calvin College. Interested graduate students and recent Ph.D. graduates in disciplines related to the field of study of the Henry Institute are invited to apply for the week-long seminar on survey research and American religion. Selection is competitive, with an anticipated enrollment of twelve participants.

June 15 - 17, 2010

In conjunction with the June 2010 meeting of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, Calvin College is sponsoring a conference designed to strengthen the contribution of Reformed Christian faith to the global influence of Christianity. The Henry Institute will sponsor the panel entitled "Christianity and Democracy: Emerging Lessons from the Southern Hemisphere." Panelists will include Paul Brink (Gordon College), Dan Brinks (University of Notre Dame) and Tracy Kuperus (Calvin College).

For more information, visit www.calvin.edu/scs/2010/conferences/rcc

Alumni Spotlight: Keith Van Beek

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Clerk for the city of Kentwood, then was promoted to Deputy Administrator, and for the last year has worked as Deputy County Administrator for Ottawa County. He emphasizes that the "highlight of my career has been to be involved on the 'ground-floor' of several initiatives in the greater Grand Rapids area to investigate, collaborate, and consolidation operations among Kentwood and the neighboring five cities: Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Walker, Grandville, and East Grand Rapids."

While talking with several of his colleagues in the local government management profession who were teaching, Van Beek became interested in the idea of teaching and began looking into options at various institutions. Right around this time, the political science department at Calvin was in need someone to teach Professor Penning's State and Local Politics class for the Spring 2010 due to Penning's time on sabbatical. Van Beek felt that it was a "great opportunity as I had taken that class from Professor Penning myself, and it was a topic I felt I

could bring a practitioner perspective to."

He is enjoying the time he is spending at Calvin and is coming to a greater appreciation for the work and quality of the professors here at Calvin College.

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Editor: Stephanie Brinks

www.calvin.edu/academic/pols/

Patterson Wins College Advising and Mentoring Award

Department chair Amy Patterson was awarded Calvin College's Advising and Mentoring Award this spring.

The process for choosing a recipient begins every year by gathering letters of nominations from students, individual faculty members, department chairs, and the coordinator of academic advising. Academic deans then review faculty activity reports and state of the department reports, and based on their findings, they make their own nominations. Eventually, the Professional Status Committee is presented with three nominees, and they ultimately choose the award recipient.

Although all Calvin College faculty are expected to mentor and advise students in a productive and fruitful

manner, the Advising and Mentoring Award recognizes individuals who exert a strong commitment to students and whose efforts extend well beyond expectations.

Calvin Alumna Libby Howell was happy to hear that Patterson won the award. "Dr. Patterson is a truly compassionate professor. She is always in touch with the needs of her students, whether they are carsick in the backseat of a Ghanaian tro-tro or confused about what makes an election free and fair. Her enthusiasm for what she teaches is always evident, causing students to want to learn more and invest in the material. Dr. Patterson challenges students to ask questions instead of settling for easy answers."

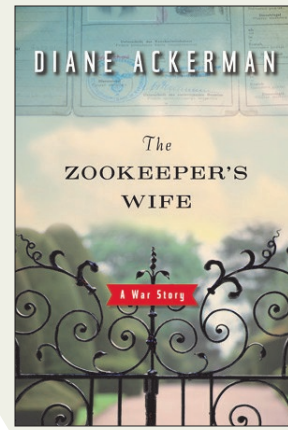
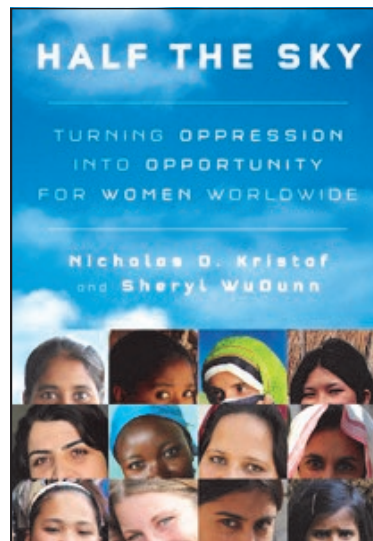
Half the Sky: A Book Discussion Group

Starting February 4 for ten weeks, a student-led group met to read and discuss *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. The book deals with major abuses suffered by women in many countries.

It tackles issues such as sex trafficking, forced prostitution, gender-based violence (including honor killings and mass rape), and maternal mortality, which needlessly claims one woman a minute.

Despite focusing on a very disheartening subject, the book is uplifting since it demonstrates how a multi-

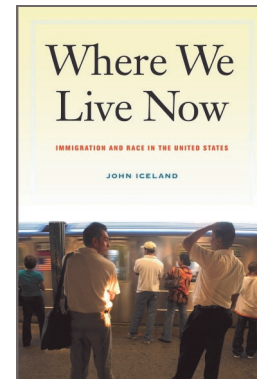
tude of organizations and individuals are seeking to work on these problems globally.



The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman

The Zookeeper's Wife is about a Polish family who hides Jews during World War II and participates in the Polish resistance movement. Before the war, the family had run the Warsaw zoo, an experience which both gives them the opportunity to make numerous connections that help in their resistance efforts and provides them rich insight into animal (and human) behavior. The book enlightens the reader about the Nazi regime's environmental objectives, particularly the drive to protect particular plant and animal species and to destroy others. The book also provides rich descriptions of the Polish resistance movement.

-Amy Patterson
Department Chair



Where We Live Now by John Iceland

The book examines the influence of the incoming Hispanic and Asian immigrants on racial residential segregation in the United States. It moves beyond the black/white framework of race relations by focusing on ethnic diversity within neighborhoods and it analyzes what the presence of Asian and Hispanic immigrants means for metropolitan areas over time. The author concentrates on the importance of racial diversity within residential patterns.

-Kay Varela
Political Science Student Assistant

Graduating Class of 2010

Political Science and International Relations Majors

Out of the 34 graduating seniors of 2010, 22 of the following have after-graduation plans.

Elisabeth Arendt	Plans to attend law school to focus on intellectual property in the fall of 2010.	Alex Mayer	Will begin training in the summer of 2010 in the U.S. Army 18X program. The next 2 years will consist of U.S. Army SF Green Beret training, which will begin at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the fall of 2010.
Rebecca Bouman	Plans to move to Indonesia and pursue a job in a political science related field.		
Rachael Bright	Plans to attend law school focusing on criminal law in the fall of 2010.	Caitlin McGill	Plans to attend Texas A & M Bush School of Government and Public Service where she will be studying International Affairs with an emphasis on national security.
Stephanie Brinks	Will be working with at-risk kids in after-school programs for Camp Fire USA West Michigan Council and hopes to attend graduate school for guidance counseling in the fall of 2011.		
Kelly DeVries	Plans to pursue French immersion opportunities and hopes to work for an international aid organization in the future.	Shannon Moselle	Will be doing field research in eastern China for the summer as an intern with the International Center for Media Studies. Hopes to find a job with a non-profit in the fall of 2010, or possibly go to school and get credentials to teach history or social sciences internationally.
John Eison	Plans to postpone graduation for one semester to spend time in Tianjin, China, learning what he didn't in four years of college. While there, he plans to take part-time language classes and work.		
Paul Hartge	Plans to do volunteer work after graduation, then find a job in Washington D.C. or Chicago. Hopes to eventually attend graduate school.	Julia Riddel	Plans to work either with the Peace Corps or the Mennonite Central Committee SALT program.
Joshua Herr	Plans to attend law school.	Ben Shoemaker	Plans to do an internship abroad in the fall of 2010 and then in the spring of 2011 plans to study at a Spanish university. Hopes to attend law school in the future.
Kari Holmgren	Plans to move to El Paso, Texas after graduation and hopes to have a part-time job with Court Appointed Social Advocates for Children. Also plans to attend law school in the fall of 2011.	Jeffrey Snyder	Started working on the Ken Yonker for State Representative campaign in spring of 2010. Yonker is running as a Republican in the 72nd Michigan State House district.
Elizabeth Howell	Currently employed by Calvin as an Administrative Assistant in Academic Services, but plans to attend law school at either Minnesota or Illinois in the fall of 2010.	Matthew Sowash	Started managing Lori Wiersma's campaign for the Michigan State Senate in Spring of 2010. Wiersma is running as a Republican for the 29nd State Senate district.
Krista Johnson	Plans to attend Michigan State College of Law in the fall of 2010 and plans to pursue a joint degree in international diplomacy.	Kayla Sulzer	Plans to work in the realm of media and politics or possibly with Republican campaign efforts.
Ki Peum Lee	Started International Law School in Handong, Korea in February 2010.	Timothy Vermeer	Will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.
		James Zandstra	Plans to attend Seton Hall University as a presidential scholar in The Whitehead School of Diplomacy & International Relations for a dual-degree – Juris Doctorate and Masters in international relations.

The Political Science Department would like to congratulate all the graduating seniors and wish them the best!