

## Save the date: staff recognition event

Mark your calendar! This year's staff recognition event will take place in the Covenant Fine Arts Center (CFAC) auditorium on June 9. Though we can't reveal our theme just yet, we promise that another entertaining show is in the works. Don't miss this chance to honor long-time employees, retirees and share in some laughs.

## K-12 tuition grant

Our office will be sending out K-12 tuition grant forms to eligible faculty and staff members after spring break. These forms are automatically generated, but please let us know if you have a child entering a Christian school for the first time this year. More information about the K-12 tuition grant can be found [online](#).



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## From the desk of our director

As antsy students make it difficult to forget, spring break is right around the corner! This year's break starts next week on March 21. Working hours for the week of March 21-25 will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a half hour lunch break. Working hours in Calvin offices will return to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, March 28.

During spring break, many Calvin students as well as a handful of faculty and staff members will be embarking on [trips](#) sponsored by the service-learning center. The trips take place in various locations across the country, including Kentucky, Louisiana, West Virginia and Boston. Please keep all participants in your prayers as they go out to serve!

Things in our office are starting to gear up for the benefits fair and the following open enrollment period. This year's fair will take place in the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex on April 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by to meet our benefits vendors, ask questions and get more information about your health insurance and health care reform! Do you have a solid grasp on your benefits vocabulary? The fair's theme is "Benefits 101: Will you pass the course?" and will teach our employees the answers to some of the most commonly-asked questions about benefits and health care reform. Open enrollment will begin in May with all changes effective July 1, 2011.

This spring continues to be busy for training and development. The second "Plug In" video series session will take place this week on March 16 and we have added two more dates to accommodate the rest of the "[Trombone Player Wanted](#)" videos

by Marcus Buckingham. You are invited to pick one session or attend the whole series. We look forward to more discussion and great ideas about how we can utilize our personal strengths in our work and in our lives. Check out our [website](#) for session dates and times or to RSVP. You can also read all about the strengths movement in the [February 2011 issue](#) of *The Resource*.

Other upcoming training opportunities can be found on our [website](#) or by flipping to the events calendar on page four. Most notable is an [EAP session](#) on building positive relationships and two more [professional development days](#) for office assistants!

The renovated Covenant Fine Arts Center ([CFAC](#)) opened last fall and in addition to new spaces for departments such as English, music and art, the building boasts a 3,800 square-foot art gallery (double the size of the former gallery in the Spoelhof Center basement). Check out page two for an interview with Joel Zwart, director of exhibitions at Calvin. If you haven't had a chance to check out the new gallery, I highly recommend that you do so.

The days are getting longer and the spring is getting busier. I wish you all the best in the upcoming month! Check out *The Resource* in April for a lot more information about the benefits fair and benefits enrollment for 2011-12.

Todd Hubers  
director of human resources

## It's My Job: A chat with Joel Zwart

A staff member experiencing much greater visibility these days is Joel Zwart, director of exhibitions.



R: How long have you been at Calvin?

J: Since May of 2003—almost eight years.

R: What do you do?

J: Among other things, I develop ideas for and plan exhibitions, hang and set up pieces of art in the gallery, develop educational programs to accompany exhibitions and do public relations (writing press releases, designing materials for exhibitions, photography, the website).

R: What is your favorite part of this job?

J: I really enjoy picking the topic of an exhibition and pulling in all of the pieces to create a show. Equal to that is my love of physically hanging or setting up the pieces. It's like a puzzle; I can try to plan a space but really can only do so much before the physical pieces get here.

R: What makes you good at your job?

J: The collaboration I have with the art department and the exhibition committee. If I made all of the decisions, I think the gallery would inevitably be one note—based on what I like or what I'm comfortable with. The committee opens things up to show a variety of different works. We are always learning from and stretching each other.



## From hallways to the CFAC: the journey of the Center Art Gallery

A shiny new gallery space in a renovated building offers countless possibilities for art at Calvin.

Calvin's first official art gallery opened in 1976. Prior to this, the "galleries" on campus consisted of art hung in the upper hallways in the old Fine Arts Center.

"We've experienced a lot of changes in the past 30 years," said Joel Zwart, director of exhibitions. "Artwork used to be used primarily as aesthetic accents in hallways or offices, but now we have a beautiful new space to house our permanent collection as well as temporary exhibitions."

With the renovation of the Covenant Fine Arts Center (CFAC) in October of 2010, the [Center Art Gallery](#) was granted a new 3,800 square-foot home on the main floor. The larger space as well as the prime location brought some big changes.

"In our old space I think it was harder for people to find us," said Zwart. "The Spoelhof Café used to be on the same floor and people would 'happen upon' the gallery, but once the café moved upstairs, traffic really went down."

"Now," he grinned, "we are in a well-traveled location and it's really paying off. The gallery moved here in October and by mid-December had already welcomed 5,000 people—the total number of the previous year's attendance! Since October, 10,000 people have come through the gallery and the higher numbers seem to be here to

stay."

One of the galleries in the new space is dedicated to Calvin's permanent collection. There are currently more than 1,500 pieces in this collection and, according to Zwart, approximately a third of these pieces are on display around campus.

"I'm happy that we've been able to display artwork all across campus throughout the years," he said, "but previously there was no central location to showcase what the college owned, particularly pieces that were of high value or had to be kept in controlled environments. Now we can display a much greater percentage of Calvin's collection."

Around the time the new gallery opened, Zwart collaborated with Larry Gerbens, a regional gift officer in the development office, to launch Calvin Art Partners: a giving society for art lovers.

The society was structured to mimic "friends-of" societies in museums. "Museums are a network supported by volunteers and donors," said Zwart in a November 2010 [interview](#) with Calvin News & Stories. "[This is] a model that's easily adaptable to a college museum."

Calvin Art Partners allows students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to financially support Calvin's art collection and exhibition program. The society will help Calvin grow its

permanent collection, conserve that collection and bring in new exhibitions.

"I think there is an untapped market of Calvin friends who are passionate about art but up until now haven't found ways to tie this back to Calvin," mused Zwart. "Our work with major gift officers such as Larry Gerbens has helped us to create some great partnerships with donors interested in art at Calvin."

Zwart sees the new gallery as the culmination of his work at Calvin over the past eight years.

"It was my goal from day one to move the gallery to a better location," he said. "We were so fortunate to find a donor for the CFAC who was interested in art. This new space will change the face of what we can do with art at Calvin. We always wanted to serve the wider Calvin community, now we have the location to do so."

Zwart's goals for the future are to grow the permanent collection, to cull a more substantial, meaningful and diverse collection and more fully integrate the gallery into the college.

"I want every Calvin person to feel like this is their gallery," he said. "I want the greater Calvin community to feel a sense of ownership when they walk in this place."



## Benefits 101: Will you pass the course?

All right, are you ready for a benefits pop quiz?

What is an EAP? What is a co-pay? Do you know your deductible? What is a flexible spending account? Can you name your dental provider? How will health care reform affect your benefits? What is an SRA? What is open enrollment?

Pencils down. How did you do? Do you feel like you fully understand your benefits and know everything you need to know about your benefits package? This year's benefits fair is a great place to find answers. And, because this isn't technically a real test, we'll even give you a cheat sheet!

Open enrollment is your

annual opportunity to make changes to your benefits elections and it is coming in May. At the benefits fair, you will also be introduced to the *online* open enrollment process.

Mark your calendars. This year's benefits fair will take place on Wednesday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex. Come join us at any time during the day to meet our benefits vendors, attend seminars, ask questions, gather information about the upcoming year and eat free food! Look for your invitation to the benefits fair via intercampus mail (ICM) in early April.

We look forward to seeing you

there! Please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

Vendors who will be present at the fair:

- [Priority Health](#) – health insurance
- [Delta Dental](#) – dental
- [BASIC](#) – flexible spending administrator
- [UNUM Provident](#) – life insurance and disability
- [TIAA-CREF](#) – retirement
- Legacy Services – long-term care
- [Buiten & Associates](#) – benefits partner
- [Pine Rest](#) – employee assistance program
- [Healthy Habits](#) – wellness incentive program

## Celebrating women in Calvin's history

Women's History Month came into existence in 1987 when Congress declared that the month of March should be dedicated to

recognizing and celebrating the achievements of women.



Here on Calvin's campus, the News & Stories team is celebrating Women's History Month by looking at women who have set significant milestones in the history of the college, from the first female faculty member to the first female graduate.

Check out the full cadre of articles [online](#).

## Getting to know NEW STAFF

We want to take this opportunity to welcome the staff members (new or transitioned) who have started a new job at Calvin this month. Let's all strive to make them feel welcome.

**Aaron Einfeld**, program manager for dual enrollment in pre-college programs

**Lee Swafford**, patrol supervisor for campus safety

## Calvin Perks DID YOU KNOW

**DID YOU KNOW** that Calvin's campus store has more than just textbooks? The store offers everything from Calvin neckties to Frisbees, golf balls to toothbrushes and fair trade jewelry to the latest bestselling novels. Visit the campus store [website](#) to access a full list of available products. You can even shop online! All proceeds are returned to the college and help support the work we do here.

Another helpful feature of the campus store is the [mail](#) and [printing services](#) station located at the back of the store near the entrance to Johnny's. At this desk you can buy stamps, send outgoing or IntraCampus Mail or even overnight a package.

Additionally, all staff members receive a 15% discount at the campus store (on all non-textbook and food items) when they show their ID card. Can you afford *not* to show your Calvin spirit?

## What are you reading?

We at Calvin are a culture of education and self-improvement. What better way to encourage our colleagues in their lifelong learning than to ask that revealing question—"what are you reading?"

Want to submit a book review?  
Email [humanresources@calvin.edu](mailto:humanresources@calvin.edu)

This month we're deviating from our literary tendencies and featuring a book review by service-learning's **Noah Kruis** about landscaping. Curious, you say? Read on.

### **Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn** by Fritz Haeg



An unexpected sewer backup this winter resulted in a giant hole in our front yard. Rather than simply re-seed the lawn, I thought I'd explore some other options for

landscaping the front yard and avoid the need to push the mower up the incline this season. Among other books I particularly enjoyed Fritz Haeg's "Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn."

Edible Estates is part art project, part social experiment, part environmental activism. Haeg embarked on the endeavor of transforming front yards from expanses of grass into productive vegetable gardens. This book documents his project in three prototype gardens in varying U.S. hardiness zones in photographs, e-mail excerpts,

diagrams, and blog posts.

The book opens with a series of essays ranging from the history of the American Lawn (think Jefferson's Monticello) to front lawn gardening with children. Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore's Dilemma* and *In Defense of Food*), contributes his thoughts on his conversion from mowing that began with apple, peach, cherry and plum trees.

Haeg is quick to point out the irony of spreading fertilizer and pesticide and dousing it with clean water in order to grow green grass only to cut it to within 1/2 inch of death and do it all over again, all the while contaminating the water sources and emitting carbon at preposterous rates.

Contrary to Haeg's expectation that neighbors might complain about yards that don't conform to the standard acceptable norm, the *Edible Estates* drew people together, provoking conversation and developing community.

I'd encourage you to pick up the book and give it a look. You might be surprised by what you find. While our front yard isn't likely to feed our family for the year, perhaps if you stroll along Graceland St. NE sometime this summer we can enjoy each other's company over fresh strawberries at the front stoop.

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## Upcoming Events

### **EAP training sessions**

Pine Rest, the facilitator of Calvin's employee assistance program, will be offering one more training session this spring. The seminar will take place in the Commons Annex alumni board room from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

April 12: Building positive relationships

\*More information available [online](#); please [RSVP](#) to HR

### **Plug In: Leading, Learning and Connecting video series**

Join Razel Jones, training and orientation coordinator, for these sessions to watch and discuss the "Trombone Player Wanted" video series created by author, researcher and motivational speaker [Marcus Buckingham](#). All sessions are from 12-1:15 p.m.

March 16

April 13

May 11

June 17

\*[RSVP](#) to HR

### **Professional development days**

This spring, we will be offering two half day trainings for office assistants. Both sessions include lunch and are from 12-5 p.m. *More information is coming soon!*

April 20

April 26

### **2011 Benefits Fair**

This year's benefits fair will be on April 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Spoolhof Fieldhouse Complex.



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