

# The Academic Bulletin

from the Provost's Office of Calvin College  
Friday, February 22, 2008

## ***From the Provost***

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My in-laws, Nicholas Henry and Gertrude Beversluis, were passionate advocates of Christian education. Among Gertrude's papers I recently found a page torn from an article by William Harry Jellema (reference anyone?). His challenge to the Calvin of the 1960's is worth repeating:

What this Calvinistic philosophy of education means, other than in general phrases, it is precisely and primarily the business of Calvin's staff and of the Calvinistic academic community continuously to rediscover, to make concrete, to make relevant to the subject-matter taught, not by external juxtaposition but from the inside. And this is not an easy task. Its performance of course calls for personal Christian faith and commitment to the Reformed confessions ... it calls for continuous study, creative reflection, intellectual initiative, and courage, imagination ....

And such qualities are indispensable because the temptation is always strong to substitute for the spiritual impact of a living Calvinism, a sterile and mummified system of propositions labeled Calvinistic – creationism\*, predestination, glorification of God, total depravity. From this system one can then, as occasion demands, readily extract a proposition and bring it into external contact with the subject matter under discussion. Living, dynamic Christian faith, meanwhile, is then increasingly related to a sphere of its own, and if at all present in the classroom is present only in the same way it is in a Christian Reformed Sunday-school.

Rather, the Calvinistic aim of Christian education is scientifically, academically, to develop and to teach the meaning of the fact that as Christian believers we are citizens of the *civitas Dei*; is, in accord with scientific and academic standards ... to develop and to teach what recognition of Christ as Lord implies for all aspects of human life in all its inclusiveness.

The aim of Calvin expresses the conviction that a continuous, vital, creative interpretation of this tradition is in any day the best answer to the question, What makes a Christian college?

\* Note: not the current meaning of the term

## ***FREE publicity photos for faculty***

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If you know that you will be needing a photo for an upcoming conference, book jacket cover, or other publicity, or if you simply want to update your photo on file, come to the Gezon lobby Tuesday or Wednesday (February 26 or 27), between 2:30 and 5:00 p.m. for a brief photography session. No appointment necessary and no fee charged. Questions? Contact Lynn Rosendale, Communications and Marketing, 6-6861 or [rosenda@calvin.edu](mailto:rosenda@calvin.edu). (Please note, this will NOT update your *Names and Faces* photo.)

## Welcome new faculty

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Dr. Youngkhill Lee will join the HPERDS faculty in a tenure track position next fall. Prof. Lee earned his Ph.D. in from the University of Oregon with an emphasis on leisure behavior for people with disabilities. Prof. Lee comes to Calvin with more than fifteen years teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate levels, most recently at Indiana University. Prof. Lee is an accomplished scholar and researcher with over 90 publications and 70 presentations related to therapeutic recreation. In addition, he has written numerous grants related to working with people with disabilities. Please take a moment to send a welcome message to Prof. Lee: 1425 Elliston Drive, Bloomington, IN 47401 or [ylee@indiana.edu](mailto:ylee@indiana.edu).

## NEW Faculty Development Opportunities: Off Campus

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From Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky: Nominations are now being accepted for faculty members to participate in Transylvania University's annual seminar **Twenty-first Century Liberal Education: A Contested Concept** to be held July 24-28, 2008. Transylvania's Center for Liberal Education conducts these seminars for faculty to discuss the role and nature of liberal education. Participants will receive accommodations and a travel stipend. Nominations are due March 17. Please let Heidi Rienstra ([hrienstr@calvin.edu](mailto:hrienstr@calvin.edu)) know of your interest by March 8. More information is available at [www.transy.edu/le\\_seminar](http://www.transy.edu/le_seminar).

The Lilly Fellows National Research Conference, **Convivencia: Religious Identities in the New World**, is offering subsidies for people to attend the conference March 27-29 in Los Angeles. To apply, email the conference administrator, Sheryle Bush ([convivencia@lmu.edu](mailto:convivencia@lmu.edu)). The conference website is <http://www.lmu.edu/pagefactory.aspx?PageID=41106>.

FEN opportunity: A Lilly Network Exchange featuring **Returning to the Roots of Civil Rights**, June 3-15. This four-day civil rights seminar at Geneva College will be followed by an eight-day bus tour of key sites with opportunities to meet with participants of the Civil Rights Movement. Application deadline is March 14. See <http://www.geneva.edu/object/crbt> for details and registration.

## This Week on Campus: Lectures (Check the campus calendar for more information)

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### Monday, February 25

- State Representative Robert Dean. Brief update on his work and then questions and concerns. 12:30 p.m., Fish House.

### Wednesday, February 27

- Paula Booke, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Chicago's Department of Political Science. The Politics of Rapture: The Social Network of Premillennialist Websites. 3:30 p.m., Commons Lecture Hall.

### Friday, February 29

- Patrick Bailey (Computer Science). Where is the "C" in Developing E-Type Systems? 3:30 p.m., SB-110.