

The Academic Bulletin

from the Provost's Office of Calvin College
Monday, March 17, 2008

Welcome New Faculty

After a one-year deferral of his appointment in order to complete his dissertation, Mr. Brian Madison will join the Religion Department faculty in a tenure track position this fall. A graduate of Drew University, Prof. Madison did doctoral work in history at Rutgers University prior to pursuing his current doctorate in religion from Duke University. His research and teaching interests include religion and science and the doctrine of creation as well as Christology and philosophical theology. Prof. Madison served as an InterVarsity staff worker for several years and is a candidate for ordination in the PCUSA. You may welcome Prof. Madison via email: bpm3@duke.edu.

Also joining the faculty this fall after a one-year deferral is Mr. Peter Snyder, entering the Business Department in a tenure-track position. Prof. Snyder is completing his doctoral work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His teaching and research areas include organizations and strategic management, international business, and ethical decision making. A graduate of Baylor University, Prof. Snyder holds a master's degree in church history and theology from Wheaton College as well as an MBA from the University of Kansas. Contact Prof. Snyder via email: pjsnyder@uwm.edu.

NEW Faculty Development Opportunities: On Campus

To wiki or not to wiki? Do you forbid your students to use Wikipedia for research? Or, do you *require* students to use Wikipedia, perhaps by assigning them a Wikipedia article to critique or contribute to? Sarah Kolk, instruction librarian, will lead a discussion on this debate and asks for input from faculty who have incorporated Wikipedia into classroom assignments. Contact Sarah at smk23@calvin.edu or come to the discussion March 19, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., Hekman Library 305.

"Teaching With Technology Showcase." Meet CIT's Teaching & Learning team, learn about T&L services, ask questions, share ideas, and see how other faculty are using technology for teaching. Presentations include: new features in KnightVision, clickers (classroom performance system), podcasting, blogs and wikis, eportfolios, plagiarism detection, digital studio services, and a sneak peek at upcoming projects. For more information, visit: <http://www.calvin.edu/it/tl/twtshowcase/>. March 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Alumni Association Board Room (top floor, Commons Annex).

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

Tuesday, March 18

- Carol Jacobsen, Director of the Michigan Women's Justice & Clemency Project and professor of art, women's studies, American culture, and human rights, University of Michigan. Women in Michigan Prisons: Clemency, Human Rights and Wrongful Convictions. 3:30 p.m., Alumni Association Board Room (Commons Annex 206).
- Michelle Loyd-Paige, Dean for Multicultural Affairs. The Faith of Our Mothers: Black Women's Jesus, White Women's Christ. 3:30 p.m., Commons Lecture Hall.

Wednesday, March 19

- Riemer Roukema, Theological University, Kampen, Netherlands and author of *Gnosis and Faith in Early Christianity: An Introduction to Gnosticism*. The Gospel of Judas. 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center (4th floor of the library).

Congratulations

Congratulations to Michelle Loyd-Paige and her husband Darrell L. Paige. On November 6, 2007, Darrell was elected mayor of the city of Muskegon Heights. Darrell had served on the city council since 1990. He was sworn into office on November 19, 2007, and celebrated at an inaugural gala on February 29, 2008.

From the Provost: Journal of College and Character Request for Articles

The *Journal of College and Character* is an on-line peer reviewed journal whose purpose is to “inform professional colleagues, students, and friends about research and educational programs related to moral and civic learning in college.” Many Calvin faculty have published in this journal; our presence in this publication supports our mission.

Currently there is a request for articles (due July 1) addressing college students’ political engagement: In the September 2008 issue, the *JCC* will publish articles, essays, and program reports that examine the role of colleges and universities in increasing students’ political understanding, motivation, and involvement. For more information, see: www.collegevalues.org.

Here is a highlight from a recent article:

“Challenging College Students to Learn in Campus Cultures of Comfort, Convenience and Complacency,” Jon Dalton and Pamela Crosby, *Journal of College and Character*, vol. IX, no. 3, Feb. 2008.

Millennial students are ambitious and achievement oriented but many have not been allowed to make significant personal decisions or to take responsibility for themselves. They come to college expecting the conveniences and comfort that they received at home. They view challenge, dissonance, and disequilibrium as indicators of poor customer services and unnecessary obstacles....

Some educators are concerned that a growing imbalance between challenge and support is making it harder to create the most effective learning and development conditions for students on campus. Richard Light (2001) argues that it is important that educators “get in students’ way” by creating learning conditions that challenge students to see new perspectives and open themselves to new experiences. He cautions that educators should not underestimate the propensity of college students to isolate and insulate themselves from the kinds of risk-taking, challenging situations that contribute to deep learning....

The recent ten year annual report from the National Student Engagement project (2007) makes it clear that the most important conditions for deep learning in college must be intentionally structured and promoted in order for students to take advantage of them. Research suggests that, left to themselves, most students will not push themselves to increase their study hours, seek out a faculty member with whom to do research, find ways to connect coursework with service and career, enroll in intensive academic seminars, or take a demanding senior capstone course. If colleges do not intentionally create the structures and conditions for an optimal balance in challenge and support, in both classroom and student life, students will likely gravitate toward those things that they view as comfortable and convenient, especially when they feel pressured.