

The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College
Friday, February 20, 2009

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our colleague David Warners (Biology) who, last evening, was awarded the Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching. Special attention was paid to David's work with students, to his focus on native plant species and site restorations on the Calvin campus and in West Michigan, and to his work in sites around the world. In his remarks following the presentation of the award, David told about his own rocky start as a student at Calvin, his love for the outdoors, his return to Calvin and subsequent focus on plant biology, important mentoring by Calvin faculty, and his growing vision for caring for God's cosmos. Using a biologist's sensitivity to the ecology of each person's work, David described the various communities that have nurtured his success, including vital collaborations with current Calvin faculty and staff.

The teaching award dinner is an occasion to celebrate one individual's efforts in teaching, but it is also an opportunity to pay attention to all good teaching at Calvin. The award dinner takes place in the context of board interviews of faculty, alumni board interviews of students, and multiple reminiscences of people's own undergraduate experiences. It is clear from all of these interviews that good teaching is rarely an individual achievement. Dave Warners said the same thing in his response to the award as he drew attention to the communities and collaborators that make his work possible. Thank you to everyone here whose work is teaching.

Teaching Fellow Needed

The current teaching fellows are seeking a faculty member to serve as one of the three teaching fellows next year. Jennifer Holberg and Bruce Berglund are completing their terms as teaching fellows, and one new fellow is needed to join Irene Konyndyk and Jim Jadrich, who are continuing, and to serve the Social Sciences and Contextual Studies Division. Applications and nominations should be sent by this Monday, February 23, to Mike Stob (Mathematics and Statistics), who is coordinating the search.

This Week on Campus

Monday, February 23

- President Byker's report on the February 19–21 Board of Trustees meeting. 4:00 p.m., Commons Annex Alumni Board Room

Thursday, February 26

- Center for Social Research Fellows lecture: Subdivided by Faith. 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center Lecture Hall

- Byker Chair lecture, Janel Curry: Religion and Social Order: Lessons Illuminated by the Tragedies of Hurricane Katrina and the Asian Tsunami. 7:00 p.m., Willow Room (Prince Conference Center)

Friday, February 27

- Fridays at Calvin
- “Ain’t I a Woman!” performance. 7:30 p.m., Gezon Auditorium

Coming Events

The C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society will hold its 12th annual conference, “Inklings: Dinosaurs or Contemporaries?”, at Calvin College on March 26–28. Visit <http://www.calvin.edu/scs> for more information and to register, or call the Seminars in Christian Scholarship office at (616) 526-8558.

From Thursday, April 16, to Saturday, April 18, the Meeter Center will host the biennial conference of the Calvin Studies Society, “John Calvin: Myth and Reality.” Sessions will be held in the Seminary chapel. A full schedule, list of speakers, and registration form are available at <http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/calvinconference2009/mainpage.htm>. Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary faculty and staff and students can register for the full conference for \$30; day registrations are also available. Please contact the Meeter Center with any questions.