

The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College
Friday, March 6, 2009

From the Provost

I recently saw the following quote from Elizabeth Vander Lei in the English Department weekly newsletter. Her quote, which comes from an essay written for a wide higher-education audience, reminds us of the multiple ways our students “carry faith” into the classroom. CB

Faith comes in with the people who populate a composition class, and they carry faith in a variety of ways. Some carry faith as unexamined warrants. Some carry faith as a skeleton in their psychological closet, one they'd rather not acknowledge but can't quite seem to escape. Some bring faith as an acknowledged and well-developed worldview that shapes the claims they make and the goals they set for their writing. For some, faith is a set of nagging questions or haunting suspicions. For others, it registers most strongly as doubt or vilification of particular religious dogmas or religion in general. Religious faith for some functions as a self-imposed filter, a safeguard against “damaging” or “corrupting” ideas or maybe against change of any kind at all. While it may be more or less affiliated with theology or a religious community, religious faith is inherently personal and spiritual. It is how people live out theology or religion, whether they're embracing it, fleeing from it, or only suspecting that it affects their lives.

Elizabeth Vander lei, in Elizabeth Vander Lei and bonnie lenore kyburz, eds.
Negotiating Religious Faith in the Composition Classroom

Welcome to New Members of the Calvin Community

Michael Harris has been selected as the next executive director of the Enterprise Center at Calvin. Mike received his undergraduate and post-graduate degrees from University of Michigan in engineering. He comes to Calvin with experience in strategic planning, technology and innovation assessment, market research, legal and regulatory compliance, and teaching. Mike began his leadership role for the Enterprise Center on March 2 and is teaching labs in the Engineering Department this semester. Feel free to offer your welcome: msh9@calvin.edu.

Mary Hulst has accepted the position of college chaplain. Dr. Hulst received her BA in classics at Calvin College in May, 1991, and earned her PhD in communications ethics from the University of Illinois. She has served as pastor of the Eastern Avenue CRC and as faculty member in Calvin's CAS department and at Calvin Theological Seminary. She will begin her work as chaplain in June. Notes of congratulations can be sent to her at mary.hulst@gmail.com.

David Leugs will (re)join the CAS department this fall in a new role: as a member of the teaching faculty. David graduated from Calvin College in 1982 and received his M.F.A. in

theatrical design from the University of Michigan. He has worked with scenic design and lighting at Calvin for the past twenty years, and has both taught courses on design and also created original designs for sets and lighting in various venues, including the Calvin Theatre Company's recent productions of "Alice in Wonderland" and "The Women of Lockerbie." Congratulations can be sent to djl2@calvin.edu

Faculty Grants

The following faculty were recently awarded a combined total of \$24,634 in research grants from the Calvin Alumni Association Board:

- Johnathan Bascom (Geography): A Geography of Eritrea
- Mark Fackler (CAS): Media and Peace in East Africa: A Case Study and Call to Action
- Glenn Fetzer (French): The Arabic Connection: Writing and Transnationalism in the Work of Lorand Gaspar
- Don Hettinga (English): Pennsylvania Patriot Folkways
- Ed Miller (Spanish): The Afro-Argentine and Afro-Uruguayan Newspapers: Windows into the Literature and Culture of a Forgotten Aspect of South American Culture
- Richard Plantinga/Matt Lundberg/Tom Thompson (Religion): Christian Theology for a Contemporary World
- Gerry VanKooten (Geology): Ammonite Fossil Filling and Preservation
- Julie Yonker (Psychology): Effects of Prenatal Malnutrition on Cognitive Function in Older Adults
- Lavonne Zwart/Cindy Kok (Psychology): Learning Activities for Faith and Psychology

Open House

The Board and Staff of the Theological Book Network cordially invite Calvin staff and faculty to an open house at their new facility at 3529 Patterson Ave SE (on Patterson between 28th St. and 36th St.) on Thursday, March 12, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Refreshments and drinks will be provided.

Next Week on Campus

Tuesday, March 10

- International Women's Day film: "Where the Water Meets the Sky." 7:00 p.m., Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Wednesday, March 11

- From Every Nation Symposium on Race: Victor Hinojosa, "The Most Segregated Hour in America." 7:00 p.m., Commons Lecture Hall

Thursday, March 12

- From Every Nation Symposium on Race: Kimberly Huyser, "Native Fruition: Inequality and American Indian Perseverance." 7:00 p.m., Commons Lecture Hall

Friday, March 13

- Fine Artist Series: The Eisenhower Dance Ensemble. 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Center