

# The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College  
Friday, September 11, 2009

## *Calvin College Authors on Our Educational Task*

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To be human means to be born *somewhere*, in a particular place and time, and to make connections with particular people. Strip away all the cultural particularities, all the influences of those who came before and alongside us, and we would not be left with a transcendent universal self or with naked access to true reality, but rather with little more than bare sensation. Realizing that we are cultural creatures does not throw out goodness, truth, and beauty—culture is the medium *in which* we become able to apprehend and respond to the good, the true, and the beautiful. To receive an identity from a nurturing context that we did not construct is a kind of “primordial grace”—our culture is what God has used to gift us with our selves. As Augustine recognized, the first response that we owe is one of gratitude for the immensity of what we have received. (p. 49)

As we encounter new cultural realities we become stewards of new knowledge, and the ways in which we speak of (or remain silent about) the cultural others whom we encounter can help spread peace or discord, understanding or prejudice. In some cases, a sense of obligation that is stronger yet may arise. Our learning and new relationships make us aware of injustices that had been hidden to us, past injustices that are still felt or injustices still being perpetrated. In those cases there may be a need for more than gentle corrections in everyday conversation; I may need to find more active ways of educating others and advocating change. “What does the Lord require of you?” asked the prophet Micah centuries ago. “To act justly,” came the response, “and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). “Blessed are the peacemakers,” added Jesus, “for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). The outcomes of intercultural learning can go a long, long way beyond better answers on a test. (p. 126)

David Smith, *Learning from the Stranger*,  
(Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009)

## *Welcome to New Faculty This Fall*

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**Sharon DeKleine** (skd7@calvin.edu) will serve as associate professor and head intercollegiate softball coach for the HPERDS department in a two-year, reduced-load appointment. DeKleine obtained her MEd (secondary education) from Grand Valley State University and has taught and coached at Unity Christian High School for 23 years.

**Andrea (Angie) Kortenhoven** (alk9@calvin.edu) joins the English department on a term appointment after completing her studies with support from a Calvin College Minority Graduate Fellowship. Kortenhoven is finishing her PhD at Stanford University and will teach English 101, linguistics, and various special topics courses.

**Bret Otte** (bjo4@calvin.edu) will serve as assistant professor and head intercollegiate track and field coach for the HPERDS department in a two-year appointment. Otte received his BA and BSc from Calvin and his MA (physical education and coaching) from Central Michigan University. He comes to Calvin from Geneva College, where he has taught and coached since 1998.

**Jennifer Vander Heide** (jlv9@calvin.edu) has been appointed instructor in the Communication Arts and Sciences department on a one-year term. A Calvin alumna, Vander Heide completed her MA (film studies) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and will teach core courses in the arts and rhetoric in culture.

### ***Kuyers Institute Conference***

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The Kuyers Institute is hosting a conference next month, titled “Teaching, Learning, and Christian Practices.” More information is available at [www.calvin.edu/scs/2009/Conferences/Kuyers/](http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2009/Conferences/Kuyers/). Calvin faculty and staff are eligible for a discounted registration rate (\$50 without meals or \$105 with meals).

### ***NEH Research Programs: Web Seminar***

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Calvin faculty are invited to a Web-based seminar on research programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Web seminar will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 3:30 p.m., in the President’s Conference Room (SC382). An NEH program officer will give a program overview and answer questions through a live Internet connection. The event will be sponsored by the Independent Colleges Office in Washington, DC. If you are interested in applying for NEH funding, please consider participating in this Web seminar. To sign up and to get further details, contact Dawn Crook (drc5@calvin.edu).

### ***Next Week on Campus***

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#### Monday, September 14

- Last day to add a course for the fall semester

#### Tuesday, September 15

- Office for Multicultural Affairs: Anti-racism Day
  - Open house, noon–1:00 p.m., Commons Lecture Hall
  - Film screening, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m., Commons Lecture Hall
  - Workshop, 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m., HH333

#### Thursday, September 17

- Henry Institute lecture: Mark Noll, “God and Race in American Politics.” 3:30 p.m., Willow Room (Prince Conference Center)

#### Friday, September 18

- Henry Institute lecture: Mark Noll, “World Christianity and American Christianity: What About the Future?” 3:30 p.m., Oak Room (Prince Conference Center)

### ***Faculty Assembly: Save the Date***

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Reserve the evening of **Monday, October 26**, for a full-faculty assembly: “The full faculty will meet early in the fall semester for a Faculty Assembly in which, among other things, chairpersons of four or five committees with urgent agendas will report and the president and provost will speak on matters of all-college concern. The agenda shall include an item called Question Period. During this period faculty members may direct questions to any committee or official regarding matters of all-college concern.” *Handbook for Teaching Faculty*, section 2.1.2 ([http://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/fac\\_hb/chap\\_2/2\\_1.htm](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/fac_hb/chap_2/2_1.htm)).