

## ***Academic Program Highlights***

### **Student Summer Research**

Opportunities for undergraduate summer research continue to expand for Calvin students. In 2005 an all-time high of 15 students were funded as McGregor Research Fellows to work with faculty partners on topics in the humanities and social sciences (see their names and subjects at: [http://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/scholars/students/mcgregor/fellows\\_2005.htm](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/scholars/students/mcgregor/fellows_2005.htm)). Some 70 students worked as research assistants in the natural sciences (50 on campus, 20 off-campus). Calvin also received two Earhart Emerging Scholars grants through the Michigan Colleges Foundation to support presentations by two McGregor students at the Michigan Academy of Sciences meeting.

### **Honors Program**

Two Calvin graduates received Fulbright Student Grants in 2005 to support their international research. Aaron Iverson (class of 2005), will spend 2005-2006 studying sustainable agriculture at the *Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina* in Peru. James Robin King (class of 2004), is studying the application of Islamic teaching on non-violence to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict at the University of Jordan's Center for Strategic Studies in Amman. Bruce Berglund (History) is Calvin's Fulbright advisor.

### **Summer Camps**

- The 35th annual **Knollcrest Music Camp** hosted 386 campers this summer over two weeks. Offerings included concert band, jazz band, orchestra, choir, musical theater, and a variety of other music classes.
- The **Wetlands and Woodlands Camp** at the Ecosystem Preserve hosted over 50 campers this summer. Some campers learned about insects and bugs during two June sessions and others studied earth, air, and water during three sessions in July.

- The **Summer Sports Programs** in the HPERDS department enrolled 1,285 students in nine different sports. There were also three team camps for volleyball and basketball, both boys and girls. A week-long Nike swim camp hosted 20 athletes from all over the U.S.
- The **Academic Camps for Excellence (ACE)** provided challenging opportunities for 104 academically gifted middle school students. This summer, camp topics included energy, chemistry, mathematics, computer programming, economics and business, and literature and writing. This program is co-sponsored by the Kent County Association for Gifted and Talented.
- The **Chemistry Camps** successfully completed their 11th year with 99 students participating in five different sessions.

### Summer Sessions

- Summer sessions in 2005 recorded a total of 966 registrations. This is a decrease from the past two years, but similar to three years ago: 2002—963, 2003—988, 2004—989, 2005—966. Students continue to appreciate the quality of the Calvin summer courses, making positive comments about both quality of professors and of content.
- Calvin offered 9 graduate education workshops during the summer and attracted 74 registrants, an increase of four from last year. A new offering from Denise Isom (Education), titled “Social Context of Education: Race and Schooling,” launched a series planned on the “social context of education,” focusing each summer on a particular issue.
- For the 5th summer, Calvin College and Christian Schools International co-sponsored the Educators Leadership Development Institute. This year 16 selected teachers explored administrative leadership as a calling.

### Faculty Development

Janel Curry, dean for research and scholarship, and Helen Sterk, chair of the Communications Arts and Sciences Department, held their 4th workshop this summer for faculty on Developing a Five Year Plan of Scholarship. Forty-eight Calvin faculty members have attended the two day workshop, along with participants from other CCCU and Michigan colleges. Curry and Sterk were also invited to give the workshop to new faculty at Ballerme University. The workshop involves helping faculty define the importance of their research to their discipline, construct a timeline that meshes with teaching responsibilities and funding opportunities, identify their time management style as well as essential scholarly networks, and learn the practical skills needed to publish and write grants.

### Lilly Vocation Project

- Calvin College was awarded a renewal grant from the Lilly Endowment’s program, “Sustaining the Theological Exploration of Vocation,” for \$499,979, to support the continuation of the college’s Vocation Project through June 2009.
- **Kathryn Jacobsen** (Biology) used a Vocation mini-grant to lead a team of 7 students to Andean Ecuador to conduct a study that compared children’s health in communities with and without protected water sources. The team completed 300 interviews with households in 20 Quichua communities.

### Lectureships

- **Ronald Wells** (History) is the Calvin lecturer for 2005-2006. His topic is “Faith-Based History: Engaging Historical and Contemporary Issues of Justice and Reconciliation.”
- **Arie Leegwater** (Chemistry) is the featured lecturer in 2005-2006 for the Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education. He is presenting three lectures: “Why Creation Matters: Nature as Given Context,” “Science and Religion: Nature as Interpreted Book,” and “Science and Society: ‘Putting Science in its Place.’”

### Off-Campus Programs

Calvin’s Semester in China enrolled a record 17 students in fall 2005, and the Semester in France, normally offered every other year, is being repeated this fall because of high demand for the spring 2006 program. A total of 145 students studied off-campus in fall 2005, compared to 125 in 2004.

### Community Engagement

The Office of Community Engagement, now in its second year, has identified four priorities for academic community involvement.

1. **Local environmental issues** are being addressed through the Calvin Environmental Assessment Program and the Plaster Creek Working Group.
2. **Literacy** is a challenge for 23 percent of the adult population in Grand Rapids, and a Calvin faculty working group for literacy research has begun.
3. Faculty and students interested in **urban revitalization** are focusing on three Grand Rapids neighborhoods.
4. Calvin is partnering with several community and church initiatives to address matters of **race and racial reconciliation**.
5. In the fall, the office initiated a bus tour for new faculty to introduce them to opportunities for academic involvement in Grand Rapids.

## Research Centers and Institutes

### Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship (CCCS)

- In June 2005, a group of 17 scholars, from the United States and five European countries, met at Calvin to begin a project to advance the study of Christianity’s history in modern Eastern Europe. The meetings were funded by a CCCS grant and directed by Bruce Berglund (History). The participating scholars spoke enthusiastically of the hospitality they received, the facilities at

Calvin and the Prince Conference Center, the organization of the program, the collegiality of the group, and the value of the sessions' content. The project's second stage will commence in June 2006 in Warsaw.

- Hyesook Kim (Music), Stéphanie Lemelin (Music, University of Ottawa), and Stephen Schloesser (History, Boston College) gathered at Calvin to continue their CCCS-funded work on a book and a companion DVD presenting the French Catholic composer, Olivier Messiaen, and his composition, *Visions de l'Amen* for two pianos.
- Several groups recently received funding for reading groups:
  - "Developing Methods and Language for Understanding Music as a Community," led by David Fuentes (Music);
  - "Exploring the Terrain of World Christianity," led by Daniel Bays (History), and Paul Freston (Sociology & Byker Chair);
  - "Making Reformed Disciples Today: Exploring the Interface between the Reformed Tradition and the Culture of Young People," led by Dale Cooper (Chaplain).

### **Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW)**

- The CICW remains active around the world. It sent a group of 16 students and faculty to lead worship at the Reformed Ecumenical Council meetings in Utrecht, and came back with renewed appreciation for the depth and vigor of Reformed church life worldwide. Since May, CICW staff have lectured or led training events in six states and provinces, and answered queries from over 50 congregations, individual scholars, and other church leaders.
- A CICW summer seminar brought 16 faculty from other institutions to Calvin to work on teaching worship. In June, the CICW hosted 200 guests at their annual grants colloquium. These guests represented over 100 grant projects from 20 denominations and 30+ states and provinces.
- The CICW has been upgrading its web resources and now has 1,100 pages of worship related resources available on-line.

### **Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics**

- Corwin Smidt (Political Science), director of the Henry Institute, and Steve Monsma, Henry Institute research fellow, recently participated in major international meetings. Monsma spoke at the "Making a Difference in Today's Africa" conference sponsored by The Centre for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya, on March 31 – April 3, 2005. Smidt taught week-long undergraduate and graduate courses on Christianity and politics at the University of the West, and lectured at the Areopagus Centre for Christian Studies and Contemporary Culture, both in Timisoara, Romania, on May 9-13, 2005.
- The Henry Institute conducted its third biennial Workshop on Survey Research and American Religion on campus July 17-23, 2005. Smidt led the workshop along with James Guth (Furman University) and Lyman Kellstedt (Wheaton College). Participation in the workshop was limited to twelve graduate students selected from major universities across the United States.

### **H.H. Meeter Center for Calvin Studies**

- The Meeter Center held its biennial Genevan Paleography course this summer, helping graduate students and faculty learn to read sixteenth century French handwriting. The seven participants came from the U.S. and Europe, including three recent Calvin College history graduates who plan to go to graduate school.
- Seven scholars received fellowships from the Meeter Center for their summer research. They came from Indonesia, Korea, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Great Britain and the U.S.

### **Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning**

- The Institute sponsored two one-week workshops in the summer of 2005. The first, on spiritual and moral development across the curriculum, was led by John Shortt, an educational consultant from the UK and adjunct in Calvin College's education department. The workshop included four visitors from the University of Potchefstroom in South Africa.
- The second workshop was targeted to higher education faculty across the disciplines and focused on the topic of Christian conceptions of teaching and learning. This workshop, led by Institute director David Smith, drew 50 applicants from which 14 were selected, including three participants from Christian colleges in South Korea. Because of the high demand, Kuyers plans to repeat this workshop in 2006.
- An Institute grant enabled Marilyn Bierling (Spanish) to format a collection of five student-authored curriculum units for high school Spanish and publish them online. See them posted at <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/spanish/class/unithome.htm>.
- David Smith, the Institute director, also led the following events during the summer:
  - in-service training events for teachers at five regional Christian Middle and High Schools, on Christian approaches to pedagogy.
  - a week-long workshop from June 6–9, 2005, for faculty at John Brown University on pedagogy for internationalizing a Christian college curriculum.

### **Seminars in Christian Scholarship**

- This past summer the Seminars in Christian Scholarship hosted over 140 scholars, pastors, and their families who participated in 11 different events. Topics included development strategies for the rural poor, the interface of music and theology, the development of distinctly Christian philosophy, Afro-Christian scholarship, and teaching worship in churches and schools. One highlight was the providential timing of our seminar "Making Markets Work with the Rural Poor" concurrent with the G8 economic summit that addressed issues of global poverty. Participants in the seminar included experts in this field, including a British member of the World Bank.

- The Seminars program continues to enhance Christian scholarship throughout the world as participants pursue their research and publish the results—as seen in the four SCS-related books published over the last several months (growing out of previous seminars on World Christianity, Christianity and Political Liberalism, Christian Environmentalism, and Biology, Purpose, and Morality).