

Research Grants Awarded to Calvin Faculty

The Alumni Association Board has awarded \$25,000 in faculty research grants during their 2005 award program. These grants were made possible through alumni gifts to the Spark Voluntary Subscription Drive.

Name and Department	Project Summary
Randy Bytwerk Communication Arts & Sciences	<p>“The Reichspropagandaleitung of the Nazi Party”</p> <p>This grant provides funding for travel to the German National Archives in Berlin and the German National Library in Leipzig for research on the inner workings of the Nazi Party's propaganda system.</p>
Don DeGraaf Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance, and Sport	<p>“Experiential Education's Impact on Social Capital and Civic Engagement”</p> <p>Social capital refers to connections between individuals—the networks and trust that enables people to act together more effectively and be engaged in their communities. This proposal examines the impact of experiential education on the development of social capital and civic engagement in program participants by studying the Viata (youth adventure education) program in Romania and developing a plan to replicate their evaluation program in the United States.</p>
Herm DeVries Germanic & Asian Languages	<p>“Identity in Flux: The Netherlands and Present Cultural Transitions”</p> <p>This funding supports travel to the Netherlands to research the various issues of national and cultural identity (economic globalization, expansion of the European Union, multicultural society, etc.) that the Dutch are confronting today.</p>
Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung Philosophy	<p>“Seven Capital Vices”</p> <p>This project seeks to develop a dynamic curriculum for high school, college, and general Christian audiences on the seven capital vices (i.e., the seven deadly sins).</p>
Mark Fackler Communication Arts & Sciences	<p>“The Kenya Press Code: Professional Values in a Developing Democracy”</p> <p>What do journalists and their publics in Kenya understand concerning the values articulated in the Kenya Union of Journalists' Code of Conduct? This study seeks to describe and interpret the role of agape and, as a counterpoint, instrumental ethics in a developing civil society. Funds will allow a student researcher to travel to Kenya and participate in this project.</p>
Susan Hasseler Education	<p>“Educating for Shalom: An International Study of Race, Reconciliation, and Justice in Teacher Education Programs”</p> <p>This study examines the efforts of two institutions with Reformed roots, Calvin College and Northwest University in Potchefstroom, South Africa, to design educational programs that prepare teachers to teach in ways that promote equity and justice. Funds will be used for travel to South Africa and to analyze the data from interviews and documents collected.</p>
Kathryn Jacobsen Biology	<p>“Epidemiology of Infections Diseases in Ecuador”</p> <p>This study will develop an epidemiologic profile of the agents responsible for acute diarrhea in the Amazon River Basin of Ecuador (partnering with HCJB World Radio healthcare facilities), including analysis of drug-resistant bacteria. Funds support a student research assistant and travel to Ecuador.</p>
Christopher Smit Communication Arts & Sciences	<p>“No More Fallen: A New Approach to Disability and Christianity”</p> <p>This project explores the manner in which Christian doctrine defines disability, how those definitions are garnered from biblical texts, and how those definitions get employed in interpersonal and cultural communication between non-disabled and disabled members of the body of Christ. This grant provides funding for a student research assistant to be involved in research and a co-written essay.</p>
Jolene Vos-Camy French	<p>“Faith, Love and Heroism in late 17th Century France”</p> <p>This project investigates the themes of faith, love and heroism in the writings of Catherine Bernard (1662-1712); funding allows a student researcher to present a co-authored paper at the North American Christian Foreign Language Associate Conference.</p>