Career Development welcomes new director and staff

The Career Development office is pleased to introduce the newest addition to our staff, TaRita Johnson, who began her role as Director of Career Development in August. In this role, TaRita is responsible for providing vision and leadership in developing, planning, and implementing programs and services to assist students and alumni in vocational decision-making and employment.

TaRita has previously worked in both higher education and the corporate sector. Most recently, she held the position of Talent Acquisition Manager in Corporate Recruiting at Meijer. Prior to working for Meijer, TaRita was Vice President and Campus Recruiting Lead for KeyBank in Cleveland, Ohio. Her recruiting expertise will be invaluable as Career Development helps students and alumni present themselves effectively to potential employers.

In addition to offering an employer’s perspective, TaRita also brings a background in higher education, including previous positions in admissions, enrollment management, residence life, and TRIO programs at various institutions.

TaRita has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and social work from Miami University (Ohio), and a master of social work from the University of Michigan.

In addition to a new director, Career Development also welcomes two new staff members: Karen Hollebeek and Travis Gibbons.

Karen Hollebeek has worked at Calvin for over 20 years, but her role as Student Employment Manager is now under Career Development, rather than Financial Services. As Student Employment Manager, Karen helps connect students to meaningful employment, both on- and off-campus. She also oversees the Federal Work Study program for Calvin students and is a board member with the National Student Employment Association.

Travis Gibbons joins Career Development as a Career Counselor, where his primary responsibilities will be to assist students with choosing a major, discovering their individual strengths and interests, writing resumes and cover letters, preparing for interviews, and job searching. Travis recently completed his master’s degree from Grand Valley State University’s College Student Affairs Leadership program and last spring, he was a Graduate Student Intern with Calvin’s Career Development office.
Over 400 Calvin students completed a summer internship, giving them the opportunity to develop the professional skills employers are seeking in candidates.

Students: report your internship at www.calvin.edu/career for a chance to win $15 to the Campus Store!

Additional internship photos are featured on our Facebook page.
Alumnus recognized for work with American Red Cross

By Laurie Lemmen

Calvin's international student body comes from literally all corners of the world. International students from disparate cultures and backgrounds often find commonality and community with each other, despite their vast differences. Through a new program organized by Calvin alumnus Daniel Kim, Calvin's international students are contributing their cultural knowledge and language skills to a critical problem in West Michigan: reuniting refugees with lost family members.

Daniel Kim, a 2014 grad with an International Relations degree, has been interested in all things global since a young age. He recalls a specific moment as a young boy when his passion for international issues was ignited: "As a kid, I watched the first official concert performed by Americans in North Korea. As the New York Philharmonic, led by conductor Lorin Maazel, played, I was stunned to hear them playing Korea's national anthem. The music was more than just instruments, it was a melody of world peace, love, and hope for unification of two Koreas. For me, this concert shed a light on the power of diplomacy and humanitarian action."

While studying at Calvin, three of Daniel's internships, working with refugees at Lutheran Social Services and Civilian Fellowship for International Exchange, and working with global social workers at World Renew, deepened his understanding of challenges facing refugees. After graduating from Calvin, Daniel landed an International Services Associate and Instructor position with the American Red Cross, an ideal opportunity for him to make a real impact on the lives of refugees in West Michigan.

When refugees flee their countries, seeking safety from violence and threats, they frequently lose contact with loved ones in the chaos of their escape. They are shifted from refugee camp to camp, country to country, before they're finally resettled in a long-term home. They rely on organizations like the American Red Cross to help them reconnect with lost loved ones.

A critical piece of making those reconnections happen is the ability to communicate in specific languages. To increase the local Red Cross' success rate, Daniel dreamed up the idea of harnessing the power of Calvin's international student body. He created the Global Language Bank program, in which student volunteers or interns use their language skills to search out lost loved ones as well as enhance refugees' lives in other ways.

Currently, the program is composed of twelve international students from Calvin, conducting humanitarian work such as translating and interpreting for refugees, writing cultural journals, creating educational videos, and more. The interns collectively speak more than 15 languages and are available seven days a week. The Global Language Bank provides in-person and over-the-phone interpretation as well as written translations.

One of the interns, J.T. Lee, said of his experience working with the Global Language Bank, "This internship is a unique opportunity to use different cultures and languages to serve people around the world. The Global Language Bank symbolizes the beauty of diversity and the power of collaboration."

The Calvin students’ willingness to contribute their time and talents has not gone unrecognized by the American Red Cross. The program is seen as a model, and the organization is pursuing ways to implement similar programs nationwide. And as for Daniel Kim, he has been awarded the Red Cross’ "Member of the Month" for the State of Michigan in honor of his vision for and implementation of this program.
Upcoming Events

The Career Development office is preparing for several events happening throughout the fall semester. Check our website (www.calvin.edu/career) for a full listing and more details.

Accounting & Finance Night
Wed., Sept. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Calvin College Prince Conference Center
In partnership with Aquinas College, the Accounting & Finance Night is a focused job fair for accounting majors, as well as business majors with a finance concentration. Seniors and those in the business law class can arrive at 5:30 p.m., juniors at 6:00 p.m.

Amway Networking Event
Mon., Sept. 28, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Amway World Headquarters
Amway is a large, global company with opportunities for students from nearly every major headquartered just a few miles from Calvin. With more than 100 internships offered each summer, Amway offers excellent career opportunities to college students. Network with Calvin alumni who work at Amway to learn more! The event will include a presentation, networking, snacks, and a tour. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors of all majors are invited to attend. To register for the event, e-mail Laurie Lemmen (laurie@calvin.edu) by September 21. In the email, include your major and your year at Calvin, and use the subject line “Amway event RSVP.”

Fall Career Fair
Thurs., Oct. 22, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
 DeVos Place Convention Center
Companies attend this job fair to recruit students from local colleges and universities for full-time positions as well as internships. Free shuttle available.

Association of Christian Schools International Job Fair
Tues., Nov. 10, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Calvin College Prince Conference Center
Christian international schools from all over the globe will be at Calvin to recruit teachers.

Engineering & Computing Career Fair
Thurs., Nov. 12, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Calvin College Prince Conference Center
A fair for the technical and science industry, including computer science, engineering, and the physical sciences.

Recruiting Trends Conference
Mon., Nov. 16, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Calvin College Prince Conference Center
Dr. Phil Gardner of MSU’s Collegiate Employment Research Institute will present national and regional data on current trends in recruiting, followed by a panel discussion.

Career Development Staff

We offer a variety of services for students and alumni:
• Career counseling
• Major selection
• Career testing
• Internships
• Job search assistance
• Job fairs
• Practice interviews
• Resume and cover letter critiques
• Online job posting system

Laurie Lemmen, Internship Program Coordinator
Karen Brewer, Department Assistant
Kristy Dykhhouse, Recruitment Coordinator
Karen Hollebeek, Student Employment Manager

Questions or suggestions? Call or e-mail
Meredith Segur, (616) 526-7675 or msegur@calvin.edu.
Available online at www.calvin.edu/career