Glenn Triezenberg retires after 27 years at Calvin

After growing up in South Holland, Illinois, Glenn Triezenberg came to Calvin College as a freshman in the fall of 1967. He graduated from Calvin in 1971 with a BA in English, before earning his MSW in 1973 from George Williams College in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Glenn then went on to practice social work in a variety of settings, including as a family therapist at Pine Rest Christian Hospital and director of medical social work services at Blodgett Memorial Medical Center. During this time, he earned his MBA from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. Glenn also spent a couple years as an account executive with an executive search and management consulting firm, before getting hired at Calvin College as a counselor in the Broene Counseling Center.

Given Glenn's background in therapy, social work, and executive recruiting, he was well equipped to be appointed Director of Career Development at Calvin in 1993, where he faithfully served until his retirement in March 2015. While Director, Glenn developed a comprehensive assessment system to track all of the activities of the Career Development office, which was implemented in 2005 and presented at a national conference. Because of this tracking, the Career Development office can report that last year, they provided over 2,900 career counseling appointments with students and alumni, the highest number of appointments since the assessment system was implemented. These appointments also had a 97% client satisfaction rate.

In addition to providing high quantity and quality career counseling, Glenn was also passionate about enhancing experiential education opportunities for Calvin students. One of the ways he did this was by founding the Calvin/YMCA of the Rockies Leadership Challenge Institute in 1998. In this program, hundreds of Calvin students have had the opportunity to spend a summer gaining work experience at Snow Mountain Ranch near Winter Park, Colorado, while growing in Christian discipleship and leadership skills through weekly seminars and small groups. Glenn also established the annual Business Careers Networking Reception, an event that has helped students connect with local business professionals for career advice and potential job or internship opportunities.

Another way that Glenn strengthened opportunities for students was through his role as Director of the Spoelhof Family Institute for Christian Leadership in Business. The Spoelhof Institute was instrumental in providing support for internship program development, increasing student participation so that today, 80% of graduating seniors have completed at least one internship during their years at Calvin.

Even with all of these noteworthy accomplishments, Glenn's true purpose and joy came from serving as a teacher and mentor to Calvin students. Glenn taught courses in Business, Social Work, Prelude, and Interim. He also mentored countless students, helping them discern their vocational direction and encouraging them to take the necessary steps to reach their goals. He was always ready to support students with “You can do this” or “I have confidence in you,” if students ever were afraid or struggling with doubts.

After 27 years of faithful service to the Calvin community, Glenn’s gifts in seeing the potential in others and cultivating a culture of excellence will certainly be missed.
Over 280 Calvin students completed a spring 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.
Class of 2015: Transition-ready for employment or graduate school

Seniors who report their jobs or graduate school plans within 6 months of graduation receive a $15 Campus Store gift certificate. (Seniors: report your post-Calvin plans at www.calvin.edu/career.) Some members of the graduating class are featured below. Congratulations, class of 2015!

Andrew Jo
Electrical Engineering Major
Edison Engineering Development Program Participant - GE Aviation
Grand Rapids, MI
How found? On-campus interview

Kara Venema
Strategic Communication Major
Junior Account Executive
G&S Business Communications
Chicago, IL
How found? Internship

Luke Lindholm
Business Finance Major
Commercial Credit Analyst
Mercantile Bank
Grand Rapids, MI
How found? Job fair

Terver Ubwa
Accounting Major
Information Integrity Technician
Spectrum Health
Grand Rapids, MI
How found? Internship

Kathryn Knox
Social Work and Spanish Major
Volunteer
Peace Corps
How found? Company website

Lindsey Ryskamp
Business Marketing and Spanish Major
E-Commerce Manager
Michigan Industrial Tools
Grand Rapids, MI
How found? Personal connection

Daniel Paulson
History and Business Finance Major
Vanderbilt University
Law School
Nashville, TN

Abigail Fincel
Biology Major
University of Iowa
College of Dentistry
Iowa City, IA
How found? Online

Adam Quinones
Media Production Major
Associate Technical Director
Wheaton Bible Church
West Chicago, IL
How found? Internship

James Lamine
Computer Science Major
Software Engineer
Indeed
Austin, TX
How found? Online

Kathryn Ardinger
Math Major
Actuarial Technician
Auto-Owners Insurance
Lansing, MI
How found? Internship

Alyssa Carrasco
Psychology and Spanish Major
Domestic Assault Response Team Member - 61st District Court
Grand Rapids, MI
How found? Networking

Sonya Sulayman
Elementary Education Major
Mandarin Immersion Teacher
Zeeland Christian School
Zeeland, MI
How found? Student teaching

Troy Ellens
Nursing Major
RN: Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement
Spectrum Health
Grand Rapids, MI
How found? Personal connection

Ranuka Sinniah
Biochemistry Major
NIH-IRTA Fellow/Researcher
National Cancer Institute
Frederick, MD
How found? Networking

Zion Lee
Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry Major
University of Minnesota
Chemical Engineering Program
Minneapolis, MN
How found? Networking

Katerina Parsons
International Development Studies and Writing Major
Research & Communications Facilitator
Association for a More Just Society
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
How found? Personal connection

Jamie Cheeney
Business Human Resources Major
Human Resources Employment Specialist
Kamps Pallets
Walker, MI
How found? Career counselor/faculty

In partnership with students, graduates, employers, and faculty, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in God's world.

Career Development’s Mission Statement
Alumni network helps philosophy grad with job search

The Calvin network is alive and well, as Jesse Roberts ’13 can testify. Thanks in part to a referral from a fellow Calvin alum, Jesse was able to obtain his position as a paralegal at Wagenmaker & Oberly, LLC, a boutique law firm in Chicago specializing in nonprofit law. “When I decided I’d like to try and get a paralegal job, I was told by the career office to try and utilize uKnight (Calvin’s online alumni directory), which I would recommend to everyone,” Jesse says. “I had the luxury of not being limited geographically, so I sent hundreds of e-mails addressed to Calvin alumni working in the legal field in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia … asking if his or her current practice had any openings or if he or she could refer me to another firm. I had great feedback, with about 35-40% of the alums replying to me, and I was eventually referred to a partner of the firm where I currently work.”

Working as a paralegal for a firm that specializes in nonprofit law has been very rewarding for Jesse. His job is to be the “hands and feet” of the attorneys, assisting their clients from start to finish with legal issues pertaining to their respective nonprofit projects. This could mean visiting the Secretary of State’s office to file incorporation documents, or working with clients to finalize their bylaws, or helping them secure income or property-tax exemption, or even assisting them with articles of dissolution. Jesse enjoys interacting with clients and acknowledges they are “some of the most caring people I’ve ever met.” However, Jesse’s favorite part of his job is working with his colleagues at Wagenmaker & Oberly. “They’re willing to work with me and be patient, and encourage me as I continue to learn and get better at my job,” says Jesse. “I have the privilege of working alongside some of the best attorneys in the business, which I think will prove to be an invaluable resource as my career in the legal field progresses.”

As a graduate of Calvin’s philosophy program, Jesse has advice for other humanities majors: “You’re more marketable than you even realize. You know how to read carefully, write thoughtfully, think critically, and learn quickly; employers want people with your skills,” he says. “So, if you’ve given up on grad school or teaching, or simply want to apply your skills in a different way, I would suggest you think creatively on what you’d like in a career, and how to best market yourself. And again, use uKnight – seriously, it’s awesome.”

Career Development Staff

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Lydia Frens, Career Counselor
Beth Cok, Internship Program Manager and Interim Co-Director
Karen Brewer, Department Assistant
Laurie Lemmen, Internship Program Coordinator
Kristy Dykhouse, Recruitment Coordinator
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Available online at www.calvin.edu/career