

CALVIN COLLEGE



FACULTY FLAUT FEN PAGE 2



HER PAGE 5



DAAC RESTART PAGE 7



V'BALL CELEBRATES PAGE 11

Board of trustees approves strategic plan for the next five years

The plan, which outlines major objectives and goals for the college, emphasizes financial stability

BY LAUREN DEHAAN
Co-Online Editor

At their January meeting, the board of trustees passed the strategic plan, a document outlining Calvin's five-year mission plan.

"The board of trustees commends and thanks the many who participated in the process and those who worked so hard to bring this plan to fruition," said Scott Spoelhof, chairman of the board, in a press release. "The board has been a grateful participant in the process and is honored to offer its final approval."

The plan outlines several major objectives and goals that will be met during the next five years and will be annually reviewed by faculty until 2019.

"It's going to be a document with clear goals that we can see if we meet," said President Le Roy. "We're going to be measuring lots of things and we're going to be publishing our measurements."

The college's strategic plan-

ning process began back in the fall of 2012. The document was drafted by the strategic planning team, which is commissioned by the planning and priorities committee, and passed through faculty senate almost unanimously at their Dec. 16 meeting after weeks of discussion and revision.

The board passed the plan as it was sent to them without any changes.

According to a press release, "The strategic plan provides the college with a strategy document that clarifies the college's vision and sharpens its program offerings and operations in order

to provide a solid platform for the college to do more ambitious and creative work."

The strategic plan focuses on Calvin's mission and is divided

into themes of support, strengthening and secure.

The new goals, as outlined by the document, will seek to support Calvin's mission in the

community and with external partnerships, strengthen Calvin's mission in education and pursuit of diversity and secure Calvin's financial future.

The plan echoed many of the goals from the 2008 strategic plan with a further emphasis on securing Calvin's financial future.

"This plan can't forecast the future," Le Roy said. "The strategy for Calvin College is to use the next five years to plan for the next 20. We want to remain anchored in what we do well, but be nimble."

The full strategic plan can be viewed online on Calvin's website.



PHOTO BY RYAN STRUYK

The mission and goals set by the plan will be reviewed annually by faculty until 2019.

Regathering speakers challenge Calvin

Speakers discuss leaving comfort zones while studying abroad

BY LAUREN DEHAAN
Online Editor

Students and faculty gathered for a time of worship and testimony in the Covenant Fine Arts Center on Wednesday morning to regroup and celebrate the beginning of second semester.

"[Regathering] is a time to affirm one another and to affirm the purpose of being here together," said Michael Le Roy, president of Calvin College.

The regathering featured the testimonies of three students who returned this semester after studying abroad.

The first speaker was Christian Balcer, a junior who studied fall semester in Hungary. His testimony began with a graphic description of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp he visited during his semester.

Balcer explained that the whole time he was at the concentration camp, he asked himself, "Where was God?"

On the way back to Hungary, Balcer's question quickly turned into "Where were we? Where

was humanity?"

Balcer challenged Calvin: "Where are the situations in the world today that need a voice, humanity to show up just to turn things around? How can we show up in places so we don't let things get to that point?"

Sandberg. "If you aren't feeling that every day, there is something wrong. We need to learn to look with the eyes of grace. Be a new reflection of Christ's ministry."

The final speaker was junior student Kate Parsons who talked about the different ways we can experience God outside of our comfort zones.

"In Honduras, all of my habits of experiencing God were gone. We had to experience new ways of seeing him," Parsons said. "Darkness and pain do not mean the absence of God. Sometimes those places are where God's light shines the brightest."

The three testimonies and the time of worship focused on branching out of comfort zones and relying on God.

"[Regathering] is such an important reminder that the kingdom of God is global, universal, timeless; and when we venture out, and as all of our speakers said today, when we get stretched, when we get uncomfortable, we are reminded again how God shows up," said Chaplain Mary Hulst.

Communication arts and sciences professor Stephanie Sandberg spoke next. She described the work that two students did in Ghana to produce a play executed by village children to raise money for a local health clinic. Despite initial setbacks, the play ended up raising \$45,000 and the construction of the clinic is currently underway.

"When was the last time you felt really uncomfortable?" asked



PHOTO BY LAUREN DEHAAN

The speakers challenged Calvin students to go where they are needed, even if it is uncomfortable.

AHANA retention rates low

No faculty of color have ever retired

BY BEN RIETEMA
On-Call Writer

The Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) reported that although Calvin's student body has become more diverse, the number of faculty and staff of color has decreased.

No faculty of color have ever retired from Calvin and few have been tenured.

"We have to do better," said Michelle Loyd-Paige, dean for multicultural affairs. "Recruitment and retention is identified as a goal within the new strategic plan that the board of trustees will review next week. It has a higher profile now. There are more people working on what can we do."

The MAC report also said "a lack of opportunities for growth or advancement is often reported by staff in exit interviews," which may lead to the lack of retention.

"It should be noted that few faculty of color ... have been at Calvin for more than ten years," the MAC report said. "Additionally, the lack of longevity among faculty of color disqualifies many faculty of color from serving in faculty senate and other key committees."

This decrease may have an effect on retention rates (students returning fall semester

sophomore year) of African-, Hispanic-, Asian- and Native-American (AHANA) students. The AHANA retention rate is lower than non-AHANA students.

Along with financial and academic counseling, Loyd-Paige said that faculty and staff of color are integral in making a welcoming environment for students of color.

"The best way to increase student of color retention is to increase the number and retention of faculty and staff of color," Loyd-Paige said. "If the faculty and staff of color's experience is healthy, then the experience of our students of color will be healthy."

The MAC report also said that at a diversity meeting, in which members voted for the strongest aspects of Calvin College, President Le Roy's leadership commitment to diversity was voted highest.

"For an institution to do well on diversity efforts you need strong senior leadership," Loyd-Paige said. "That's something that he has demonstrated with public talks about diversity issues and his desire to go farther in this."

Loyd-Paige said that one of

See "Retention" page 2

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Chimes is the official newspaper of Calvin College. The mission of Chimes is to serve the community of Calvin College in a variety of ways: we aim to reform, review, challenge and foster dialogue within the community.

Low numbers reported for faculty participation in diversity events

BY BEN RIETEMA
On-Call Writer

Less than 50 percent of faculty members report that they have attended at least one diversity event in the past year, according to the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) report.

The From Every Nation (FEN) document, which guides Calvin's diversity efforts, requires faculty, as of 2012, to attend at least one diversity-themed event every year. The requirement was changed in 2012 to once a year from once every other year.

Yet, the requirement has not seemed to have much effect.

"It is very clear that no division for 2012-2013 — the first year that all faculty and all administrators with faculty status were to complete a FEN-related activity per an amended FEN document — had achieved 100 percent compliance," said the MAC report.

The report found that the natural sciences and mathematics division had the least participation, at 34 percent. The arts, language and education division had the highest, at 48 percent.

There are not any conse-

quences if faculty disregard the requirement.

"I don't know if having any consequences would make a difference," Michelle Loyd-Paige, executive associate to the president for diversity and dean of multicultural affairs, said. "You might have higher compliance, but I don't know if it would do the good that we would hope that it would do. When people are engaged in this type of work and it's compulsory, it often has the opposite effect."

The low compliance level may have come from faculty and staff not realizing they had to do something every year.

"Until this year, faculty were supposed to do something every other year," Loyd-Paige said. "So if I was going to be very generous I would say some of them were planning to do something the next year. ... This will be the first year that the requirement that everybody needs to do something at least once a year is in place. This year will be more telling."

Loyd-Paige also said that prior to last spring it was difficult to record when someone had gone to a diversity event.

"Now there's a place that staff

and faculty can self-report what they are doing," Loyd-Paige said. "They are getting used to the idea that they have to report not only what they are doing for their FEN activity, but all their other faculty activities as well."

Loyd-Paige said that events would be held and publicized every month. Online training would also be available.

"One of the things my office has done has been to make sure we offer something every month that would satisfy the requirement," Loyd-Paige said. "That's

publicized on the website and we send out communications to faculty so that they are aware those things are happening."

Some events outside of Calvin would also satisfy the requirement.

"People can do other things that our campus doesn't sponsor," Loyd-Paige said. "For example, Grand Rapids Community College has a diversity series lecture. So if they wanted to participate in something like that, that would count towards their FEN development activity."



PHOTO BY LEAH JONKER

Natural sciences and mathematics at Calvin College reported the least participation in diversity events at 34 percent.

RETENTION: MAC reports lack of diversity at Calvin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ways he has gone farther was to hire a diversity consultant.

Loyd-Paige also said that Calvin College was part of a larger effort in the Christian Reformed Church to pay

attention to diversity and equal opportunity.

"The denomination itself is going to be paying attention to recruitment," Loyd-Paige said, "especially at the leadership level. The CRC agency, Calvin College and the Calvin

Theological Seminary all need to report on their efforts and to have recruitment and diversity goals as part of their strategic plan."

Loyd-Paige said that she was hopeful because more institutions than Calvin College

were involved.

"When we are looking at the MAC report," Loyd-Paige said, "there is this synergy because it's not just what Calvin College is doing, but it's also the denomination that is going in this direction."

New online faculty evaluation form available to students

New form will facilitate direct student-to-dean communication anytime during semester

BY ALDEN HARTOPO AND
CONNOR STERCHI
Campus News Editors

The Office of the Provost has launched a new online faculty comment form — available via Portal — for students to send feedback on courses and professors to academic deans.

Evaluation forms cannot be submitted anonymously, but students' names will remain confidential.

The original proposal to faculty senate highlighted two primary purposes of the form.

The first was "to make the deans aware of issues that should be addressed immediately, rather than in the context of end-of-semester evaluations."

The form was also created "to evaluate courses with five or fewer students enrolled, as these courses are not currently evaluated via paper evaluations due to concerns about protecting student identities."

According to the proposal, "the deans will report annually to the Professional Status Committee regarding the number and nature of comments received and the follow-up provided." In addition, "deans would handle any issues that come to their attention via this tool in accordance with the established faculty handbook procedure."

The online form states that comments can range from complaints and concerns to compliments and praise.

"This form is for those times when you've got something you want to communicate directly or confidentially to the dean, or if you're in a class with five or fewer students," the evaluation form reads. "You may use this page to submit any comment about a faculty member or course. Maybe it's a concern that you have, or maybe it's a note of appreciation. Either way, use the form below, and the deans will see that it receives im-

"We would really prefer, whenever possible, [that] the student interact directly with the professor," said Heidi Rienstra, executive assistant and office manager at the provost's office. "We don't want to turn it into [exclusively] electronic communication rather than face-to-face."

The idea for the form originated with a desire to enable students to better communicate their comments or concerns about a class.

the new submission forms will not only benefit students, but also professors.

"I think faculty will find that it's helpful for them as well," she said. "They will get feedback from students who are concerned and students will be encouraged to be more direct and we can use this process to improve the student and faculty experience. It's not a lack of trust; it really is a desire for open communication."

The forms are also intended to help reduce problems with the course that are not typically addressed until the course ends, said Rienstra.

"Way back when we started thinking about this, we [asked], is there any way to help with mid-semester adjustments?" Rienstra said. "Because sometimes when faculty members read their end of the semester evaluations, they don't even see those until after they've turned in the grades, and sometimes they'll say, 'Oh, if I had only known, I would have done something differently.' So this is an opportunity for them too."

While primarily intended for classroom use, the new evaluation forms are not restricted

to academics, said Rienstra. "It's also intended to be available for sports teams and coaches," she said. "It's not just what's in the classroom necessarily. We'll get things to the right places if they come in."

The link to the new faculty comment form can be found here: www.calvin.edu/go/comments-on-faculty.

Professor's Name	Richard Chimes
Department	Chimes
Course	Journalism 101
Section or time offered	Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 2:00 am
Comment	Chimes Campus News Team is currently recruiting new writers for the Spring 2014 semester! This position is unpaid but will allow you to develop your writing skills and stay in touch with the latest at Calvin as well as build connections with the many people you may be interviewing! It is also a fantastic way of participating in the Calvin community and building your resume as you can list Staff Writer at Calvin Chimes as well as have many writing samples to choose from! You will not have to write every week but we would like you to write for us every other week unless you are unavailable during a certain week!
Your Name	;
We need your name because we cannot act on anonymous comments; be assured we will treat this confidentially.	
Submit	Cancel

PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

The new faculty evaluation form enables students to provide feedback mid-semester.

mediate attention and is handled appropriately and confidentially."

The form points out two alternative ways in providing feedback, either directly to the professor or through the formal end of semester course evaluations. The new online forms are meant to supplement, not replace, course evaluations at the end of the year.

"It was the idea of many of us when we realized we needed another way to give direct feedback," said Provost Claudia Beversluis. "There's a lot of emphasis in higher education on accountability — for faculty, for students. That's one reason why we ask [students] to sign their names to this."

Beversluis also thinks that

Athletic room renovated

BY DANIEL PAULSON
Staff Writer

Last December, Calvin's athletic, kinesiology and admissions departments partnered with Physical Plant to renovate the Steen Conference Room in the Spoelhof Fieldhouse.

The room is named after Barney Steen (1920-2005), a former coach, professor and administrator in the Calvin Physical Education Department. Under Steen's coaching, the men's basketball team won six MIAA titles between 1953 and 1966. As the department grew, he was instrumental in setting the course for the future of Calvin athletics.

The renovated room, which overlooks the Venema Aquatic Center, features a hardwood floor, large conference table, soft-seating area for small group meetings and meetings with prospective student athletes and a large television.

ment, "The vision for the renovation of the Steen Conference Room originated within the Kinesiology department and enrollment management was eager to support the effort."

"The enrollment team always strives to communicate the excellence in all that we do here at Calvin and feel that the remodeled Steen conference room helps showcase the excellence of our athletic programs."

"We hope that prospective students who are interested in having DIII athletics as part of their college experience will be impressed with all that Calvin has to offer and that they will choose Calvin as their college," Bloem continued.

Besides normal department business and meetings with prospective students, the room will be used during special events in the Fieldhouse.

Timmer explained, "We were picked to host the 2015

Course evaluations undergo alterations

BY AUDREY ENTERS
Staff Writer

Faculty senate is currently discussing changes to the faculty and course evaluation forms that every student must fill out for every course.

A vital part of any class here at Calvin, these evaluation forms allow professors to see what elements of their courses had positive impacts and what parts need to be changed. To better understand students' opinions, the Professional Status Committee has suggested two main changes to the forms.

The first change swaps the question of the professor's helpfulness, instead asking about "the extent to which the instructor established a safe and respectful learning environment for all students," with a rating from excellent to poor.

The Committee wants to en-

courage a healthy relationship in the classroom and also believes the question may give students something to write about on the open response side of the form. The question it will replace has given little helpful information over the years, and is partially asked in other places on the form.

A larger change the committee wants to make is adding a section on specific outcomes from the class. "The current form does not give us much information about whether and what students are actually learning," the committee explains.

They propose a section where students list up to five skills the professor wants them to develop in his or her class and then rate how much gain was made in each area. The following section asks for up to five different course practices (textbook, discussion or projects for example), and how helpful each of these was.

The two sections will replace questions about the number of hours spent doing homework and the expected grade for the class — questions that students have found difficult to answer with much accuracy. Neither have the questions proven to be "of important value to the college," according to the committee.

The committee also stresses that these forms are for the improvement of courses only. They will not be used in the evaluations of faculty by the chair and dean.

Both of these proposals have been sent to faculty senate and approved, but according to dean Michael Stob, the form is not finalized yet as student senate has sent additional suggestions to the Professional Status Committee for consideration. These suggestions will be discussed in February and new forms will go into use at the end of second semester.



PHOTO BY DANIEL PAULSON

The new athletic conference room was sponsored by donors.

According to Jim Timmer, director of men's athletics at Calvin, the renovated room serves two main purposes.

"One, it serves as our conference room ... for all the meetings that go on in our department," Timmer said. "The second purpose is obviously to enhance the recruiting of student athletes and their families."

Calvin's athletic and kinesiology departments worked with admissions to design the room.

According to Russ Bloem, vice president of enrollment manage-

and 2017 NCAA Final Fours for both women's basketball and women's volleyball so we will use it as a hospitality reception area as well."

The renovation was funded through donations from the Steen family and others.

"We are thrilled with the support from our alumni and friends who feel like we're doing a good job in kinesiology and athletics and want to come along and support the recruiting efforts and the business we do," said Timmer.

FIDC offers free nonviolence training

BY KATE PARSONS
Online Editor

This year's Faith and International Development Conference (FIDC) includes something different in addition to the usual panel of speakers and workshops. On Feb. 8, Christian Peacemaker Teams and the organization Hope Equals will present a free workshop on Nonviolent Direct Action.

Direct action can take the form of strikes, sit-ins or other creative forms of protest. Following the examples of Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi, students are taught to take a stand for an issue they care about without resorting to force.

Gabe LePage, a sophomore at Calvin and co-director of the conference, says, "The training will teach students to never let working for justice and living out our faith be an 'us versus them' struggle."

Instead, he says, "This is a practical training about how to protect the dignity of yourself and your enemy in the midst of conflict."

The Nonviolent Direct Action training comes after three days

of events, including speakers such as Brian Fikkert, an economist working with the church to empower the poor; Rob and Tara Cahill, who serve in Guatemala; and Tarek Abuata, the representative from Christian Peacemaker Teams in Pakistan.

Dozens of organizations will also be represented at the event with information tables or workshops.

The Faith and International Development Conference attracts students from across the country. While the conference is led by students from the

International Development Studies department at Calvin, students from all majors are encouraged to attend.

Whether learning about internships from international organizations or being trained in peacemaking tactics, the directors of the Conference think all students can learn from this year's FIDC.

"The conference is about the Church's love in action," says LePage.

The conference will take place Feb. 6-8. Registration is \$20 for Calvin students, and closes Jan. 30.



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

The FIDC will feature international speakers including Brian Fikkert, Tarek Abuata and Rob and Tara Cahill.

Calvin students develop new Android application for student news

BY JOE MOHAN
Staff Writer

Last semester, five computer science students created a new Android application to allow Calvin students to read Student News more easily.

Paul Martin, Jakob Gibson, Jonathan Cook, Jonathan Dehoog and Wasiq Sohail were five students in the fall 2013 CS 262 class, a three-credit software engineering course, who developed the student news application as their class project.

"It was a very obvious problem," said Paul Martin. "It's very difficult to read Student News the way it is right now. I personally rarely read Student News in the email because of how difficult it is to get what I actually care about," he said.

"So, the idea that I could get to those things that I think are important with an app like that sounded really appealing to me. It could very easily make the user interface much better. We originally started it just for this class, but JD [Jonathan Dehoog] and I are gonna keep working on it and putting effort into it."

Martin credits a couple of his

peers from the class for the idea of writing an Android app to make Student News easier on the eye of the reader.

"John Muyskens and Peter VandeHaar had mentioned this idea, and they had several ideas, but their teams ended up doing different things," he said.

He also wanted to tell students where they could find the app. "Our application is available on the Google Play Store. It is completely free of charge. It cost us money to put it up there, but we wanted people to know about it and the only way to do that is to make it free."

He stated that there are efforts being made to make the Student News application available on other devices besides Android.

"A lot of people have iOS, so in order to develop this app for an iPhone, you need to actually have a Mac. That's not something we can do right now. One

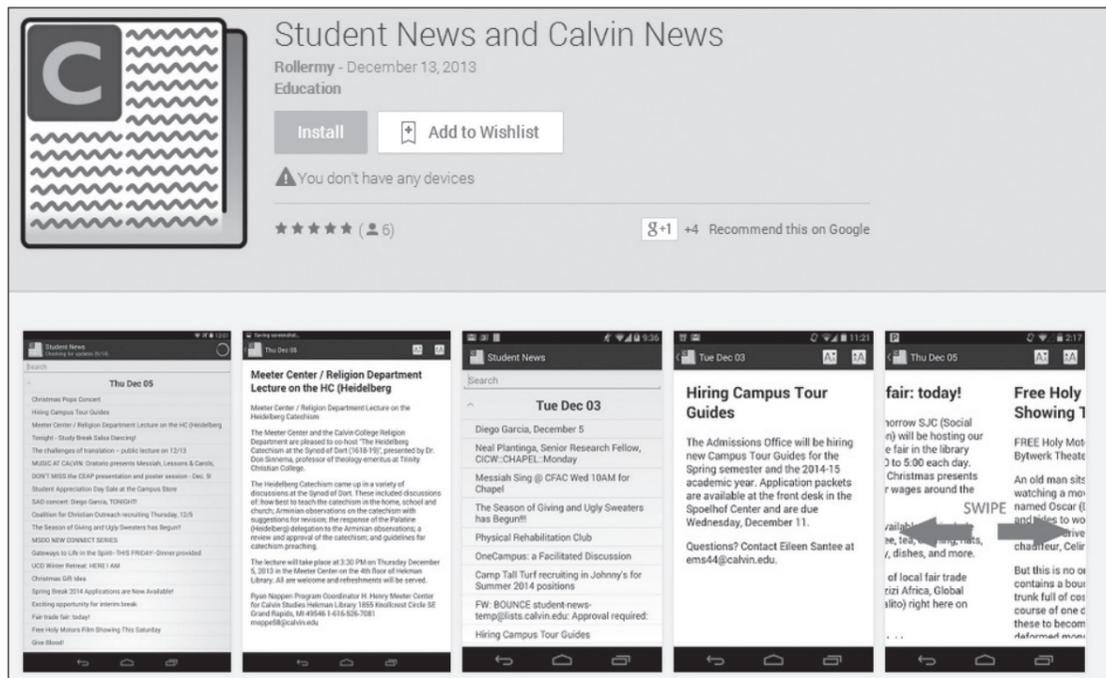
of the things that I'm working on in combination with Daniel Harold is making a mobile version of the online thing that he has made [Enhanced Student News, an automated email version of Student News that is well formatted and has links to individual news items]."

"Once we do that, we have an option for not only Android, but also iPhones, and even just desktop computers."

Martin encourages students to try out the Android app. "If you read Student News from time to time or you think you might like to read Student News, just download, give it a try, it's not too big, it doesn't take up a lot of room and if you don't like it, just uninstall it. It won't hurt our feelings."

Daniel Harold, who is another Calvin computer science student, occasionally uses the group's app. "It presents a list of the news items for a specific day and you can scroll down to get to previous days. You can tap on any news item title and read that news item. You could also use the search function and it supports both Student News and Calvin News which is for faculty."

"What it does is present Student News in the format that is easier to read and navigate."



FILE PHOTO

The student news application has an enhanced interface that allows users to access stories via links.

“ ‘About Time’ shows the vulnerability and beauty that is life without oversimplifying too greatly one way or the other.

Katie Salyer, “Sincere romantic comedy”

Spike Jonze’s dramatic comedy ‘Her’ is odd, but beautiful

Joaquin Phoenix and Scarlett Johansson star in film that is nominated for five Academy Awards

BY SIERRA SAVELA
Staff Writer

In the not-so-distant future, operating systems have the ability to learn and grow from their own experiences. They become human-like beings with feelings, memories and vast amounts of power. This might sound like the plot for a sci-fi flick that explores the looming dangers of technology, but it’s actually the plot of Spike Jonze’s Oscar nominated dramatic comedy “Her.”

The year is unknown, but using context clues we can tell it can’t be too far into the future. We don’t see hovercrafts or anything too frightening, and the choices of clothing are similar to today: high-waisted pants, big glasses and shoulder bags.

Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix), an almost-divorced dweller in his loneliness, buys this new OS. She calls herself Samantha (Scarlett Johansson) and she doesn’t have the robotic voice of any previous OS. Instead she is flirty, funny and has been created to meet Theodore’s every need. She talks like a real person and as the two get to know each other, they begin to fall in love.

The acting in this movie is brilliant. Phoenix gives a solid performance. Theodore is a

lonely man still holding on to his excitement for life. A good portion of the movie is a close-up of Phoenix’s face, and he delivers the emotions and at-

but still incredibly smart, just like Samantha. Since the OS doesn’t have a body, Johansson acts purely with her voice and it is absolutely fantastic.

falling in love with his computer has the potential to be droll, but there is action and romance and philosophy. Everything about this film is beautiful, the music,

to be the perfect opportunity to explore the more frightening sides of advancement in technology, Jonze doesn’t make it a main point of the film. The “big brother” aspect is not addressed and the worry of people being so focused on technology that they cannot live in the moment does not take the foreground either. There are a couple shots of every person on the street talking and listening to their ear piece, which may be a comment on how obsessed we can become, but that is about as far as it goes.

The characters still enjoy life. They have good relationships with each other, they go to the beach and they take their earpieces out on dates. The technology doesn’t seem to create any major problems in the movie. People even seem to be accepting of Theodore having a relationship with his OS.

The movie portrays the relationship like it would any other. They meet, fall in love and even have normal relationship problems. After a while the audience begins to accept it, despite its oddity, because of how natural the relationship and the film flow.

“Her” is nominated for five Oscars this year including best picture of the year. It is truly a well rounded, enlightening film. I would recommend it.



FILE PHOTO

titute of Theodore quite well. Johansson has the perfect voice for this role. It’s fresh and lively

What is really impressive about the film is how consistently entertaining and exciting it is. A man

the sets and all the colors that fill almost every shot.

Although this movie seems

Sincere romantic comedy surprises

Richard Curtis’ ‘About Time’ is now available on DVD

BY KATIE SALYER
Guest Writer

If I was being totally honest, I would tell you that I was not so excited about this movie. I would tell you that I had every expecta-

tion of this Calvin-sponsored movie being another rendition of another sappy Nicholas Sparks novel. Oh there’s time travel? Hasn’t that concept been over-used yet? There must be some sort of societal threshold to the number of allowable romances containing hints of science fiction.

But I was surprised by this rendition. I can be a cryer in some films if it strikes a certain chord, and Richard Curtis’ “About Time” strummed a tune

that brought me to tears more than once. Not only did the movie tell a stereotypical romance, it explored themes that cut to the heart of human relationships.

It’s no mystery that we are only given a certain amount of stolen moments in a lifetime. But what people to act the way he wishes. As Tim goes through life he discovers that he, like the rest of the world, must take life one day at a time and still learn how to deal with the joys and sorrows of life. In this strikingly sincere film, we see our struggles reflected in Tim as well as our own triumphs. We laugh at ourselves through Tim’s more uncomfortable discoveries and awkward slips in interactions. And we cheer when Tim tries it over and knocks it out of the ballpark, jumping over the potholes he fell into before.

And not only is it a beautiful and honest romance, it is also a movie that delves deeper into what is important in life: family. Tim is given the opportunity to unify his family and encourage them, taking every advantage of life with them. But he is also given the opportunity to harm them and keep it a secret.

Instead of destroying them and himself, he runs. He runs hard and fast away from the things that could demolish his family and himself, and he doesn’t look back at it or relive it.

“About Time” shows the vulnerability and beauty that is life without oversimplifying or overexaggerating too greatly one way or the other. It is not without fault by any means, but the value of life and living well leaves one with all the sense of the preciousness of the gift of life. Though I was a skeptic going in, I laughed and cried my way through a very uplifting and gratifying work of art.

if you could go back and enjoy them over and over, changing small unfortunate moments or reworking your life to a specific purpose? Turns out Tim Lake has that ability, just as all of the men in his family before him did.

So what does Tim want to change? He wants a girl, of course. But through his fumbling around with his gift of time travel, he discovers that though he can relive moments as much as he pleases, he cannot force other



FILE PHOTO

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Collaboration makes art

Engaging improvised album impresses

BY JONATHAN HIELKEMA
Staff Writer

Collaborations between improvisational artists are nothing if not unpredictable. That is, of course, the nature of the music that they make, defying boundaries and formulae in favor of a more intuitive and unstructured approach.

This is not to say, however, that improvised music lacks rules, only that those rules are formed organically through performance and not decided ahead of time. Percussionist and sound artist Tatsuya Nakatani and guitarist Shane Perlowin’s “Anatomy of a Moment” is a collection of nine improvised compositions that demonstrate a magnificent harmony between the two artists.

Throughout the album, Nakatani and Perlowin’s compositions evoke a pastoral mood reminiscent of folk music without imitating the forms normally associated with that genre. Perlowin alternates between using electric and acoustic guitars, often using complicated picking to set the pieces’ shifting rhythms. The production on his instruments is clear and resonant, often placing him at the front of the mix, though never undisturbed by Nakatani’s percussive experimentation.

With a wide array of instruments and techniques, Nakatani creates environments of sound that wrap around and support the guitars. For instance, at the beginning of “Cruel to Be Kind,” he creates a grinding metallic noise, sounding almost like the squealing saxophones associated with free jazz. While Perlowin plays repetitive phrases in the foreground, that grind sets the piece on edge, building a tension that the piece leaves unresolved at the end.

Often, the sounds create an almost naturalistic ambience

to them. In the title track, for instance, Nakatani plays cymbals to sound like a cool breeze, while the heavier timpani is used to evoke the slow but deliberate movements of a religious ritual. While some of the tracks use brighter palettes, this composition sounds more funeral. By contrast, the next track, “Day of Exceptions,” features Perlowin at his lightest and most agile and is able to make sudden turns depending on the shifting soundscapes Nakatani creates.

One weakness to this form of collaboration is that the pieces can sound indistinct. The duo never changes its fundamental approach, carefully searching out appealing combinations of sounds and creating unusual aural juxtapositions. The feel of the album goes through minor variations but the sounds are consistent, leading to a sense of sameness. At the same time, the approach is so free-form that it yields huge variations within pieces.

Their primary virtue is their patience and close cooperation, neither seizing the spotlight but choosing instead to respond thoughtfully to one another in musical conversation. Unlike many improvised pieces, however, the tone is less argumentative and more contemplative. Whenever the album drifts slightly too far into aimlessness, the scene shifts in an instant and some new and beautiful sound emerges.

At just under 47 minutes, “Anatomy of a Moment” feels a good deal longer. This is not a problem, however, since the music that unfolds over those minutes is engaging and stimulating. It is always a pleasure to hear two skilled and intelligent people converse, no less in music than in speech, and this album’s experiments yield more than enough rewards for those patient enough to invest themselves into them.

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: A RIGHT TO BELONG

FAITH & INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

WHAT IS THE FAITH AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE?

BY AUDREY HUGHEY AND GABE LE PAGE, CO-DIRECTORS OF THE FAITH AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Guest Writers



The Faith and International Development Conference (FIDC) provides a space for students and development professionals from diverse backgrounds to share ideas and explore their passions. Together, we strive to challenge ourselves by opening our minds, hearts and hands to understanding and increasing our global awareness of Christ's world.

The FIDC strives to balance prayerful discernment of students' callings, relationship building among students and professionals and practical

learning about international development. Small group breakout sessions provide opportunities for in-depth discussions on a variety of topics. Organization display tables allow for one-on-one discussion and guidance from professionals working in the field. Exploration of volunteer, internship and career opportunities is a key focus and a source of excitement for both students and organization representatives.

The desire of the FIDC is to create a space where the challenges, inspirations, doubts, assurances, the good (and the bad)

of international development may be illuminated and discussed in a context of faith. The overall purpose of the conference is to bring students and professionals from a wide range of backgrounds together to share and explore the ideas and practices of development. It is our hope and prayer that the FIDC is a learning experience, an exciting revival and a time full of opportunities.

The conference runs from Thursday, Feb. 6 through Saturday, Feb. 8. Calvin students can register for only \$20.

THE FIDC PLENARY SPEAKERS

ROB AND TARA CAHILL

Friday, February 7, 2014
9:30 - 10:20
CFAC Auditorium

Rob and Tara Cahill, directors of Community Cloud Forest Conservation, work together with Q'eqchi' Maya families of the mountains of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala to conserve and restore natural forests and to improve the ecological health of the human environment in villages bordering forests. They teach conservation, reforestation, environmental education, agroecology and sustainable living practices through an integrated set of programs. They curb human encroachment on the forests by planting native trees and fruit trees with basic grains and traditional vegetable crops to provide food security, good nutrition and healthy habitats. The Cahills work to inspire and empower the most marginalized people: rural, indigenous young women and children.

Their Conservation, Agroecology and Sustainable Living Leadership Training Program (CALT) provides access to education and vocation for young Q'eqchi' women from remote mountain villages, preparing them as community leaders to teach conservation, agroecology and sustainable living practices in their home communities. Their environmental education programs in village schools, Connecting Kids through Birds (in cooperation with Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Neotropical Migratory Bird Act) and Artful Eyes of Appreciation on the Earth, inspire village

children to explore, appreciate, understand and care for nature. Rob studied at Westmont College, Calvin College and Au Sable Institute, earning his Bachelor of Arts in History from University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Masters of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. Tara earned her Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Secondary Education from Calvin College, her Naturalist Certification from Au Sable Institute and Master of Science in Land Resources from University of Wisconsin-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

Plenary Speech: "Widening The Circle, Reforming the Margins: A View From Guatemala's Central Highlands"

MINAS HIRUY

Friday, February 7, 2014
2:00 - 3:00
Chapel

Dr. Minas Hiruy, who was born in Ethiopia in 1950, received a bachelor's degree in business from Sterling College, Kansas, a Master of Public Administration in City Management from the University of Kansas, a Master of Higher Education from Kent State University and his Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy Studies from Kent State University. Dr. Hiruy has published numerous articles. Returning to his home country after 18 years of life in the United States, he has founded many organizations, established schools, vocational institutes and care and rescue missions. His most recent contribution was Hope University College, the first public benefit degree-granting institution in Ethiopia. He has also used his knowledge to influence policy directions in his country in a number of areas.

He serves on various boards. In his work he has wedded his faith in Jesus Christ with numerous acts of compassion. He invests a substantial part of his time in evangelism and has been instrumental in the planting of no less than 7,000 churches in less than a decade. SEED, an American award society, saluted Dr. Hiruy for his unselfish devotion and exemplary community service. His alma mater, Sterling College, awarded him the Alumni Distinguished Service Award of 2003. He is married and has two boys and two girls.

Plenary Speech: "Our Part as Christians in Responding to a Hurting World"

TAREK ABUATA

Saturday, February 8, 2014
9:00 - 9:50
CFAC Auditorium

Tarek Abuata grew up in Bethlehem, Palestine and moved to the United States along with his family at the age of 12, two years after the 1987 Palestinian uprising. After receiving his J.D. with a focus in international law from the University of Texas Law School in 2002, he spent a year in Palestine working with the Negotiations Support Unit, a group of advisers to the Palestinian Negotiations. Over the past 10 years, Abuata has been involved in various non-violence work-shops, including trainings led by Dr. Bernard La Fayette, one of the leaders of the civil rights movement in the United States. In addition to his speaking and nonviolence trainings, Abuata serves as the Palestine Coordinator for the Christian Peacemakers Team.

Plenary Speech: "Neither Savior nor Servant, but a Partner"

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION AS PUBLIC WITNESS

When: Saturday, Feb. 8 from 1:30 to 6:30

Cost: Free

Where: Chapel Undercroft

What: Sponsored by Christian Peacemaker Teams and Hope Equals, this is a half-day workshop on how to creatively deal with conflict and oppression as a development worker (or as any seeker of truth and justice). Using the perspectives of Scripture, Gene Sharp, Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, we'll develop a definition of nonviolent direct action, practice peace building using a Brazilian role playing technique known as Theatre of the Oppressed and plan our own nonviolent direct action events in constructive response to current conflicts and injustices. Plenary speakers Tarek Abuata and Minas Hiruy, as well as musician Josh Davis, will be participating in the training.



Minas Hiruy is speaking at the Faith and International Development Conference on Friday.

FILE PHOTO

Eastown will host pancake breakfast, meeting

Residents invited to connect with others in their community, eat pancakes at Feb. 8 ECA meeting

BY LAUREN DEHAAN
Online Editor

The Eastown Community Association (ECA) will hold its second annual meeting and community pancake breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 8:30 to noon.

Residents and supporters of Eastown will be invited to learn more about the ECA and connect with other people in the community.

“The pancake breakfast is a fun time for Eastown residents to learn more about the ECA and also to meet more people in their community,” said Lindsey Ruffin, executive director of the ECA. “Events like this are just one way that the ECA hopes to engage more community members as well as show off the work we are doing in Eastown.”

Along with the pancake breakfast, the event will include the election of new board members, the five year plan for Wilcox Park

and raffle prizes.

“The committee has worked very hard on the master plan for Wilcox Park by including some of the historical features of the park along with new designs to enrich the area and increase community involvement and activity at the park year-round. We are excited to share the new plans and drawings with community members and receive their input and feedback,” said Ruffin.

The event will take place at Calvin Christian Reformed Church, located at 700 Ethel Ave. SE.

The ECA was formed in 1973 by a group of residents aided by Aquinas College and the Kellogg Foundation. According to their website, the ECA works to foster a safe, diverse and walk-

able Eastown neighborhood by creating opportunities for neighbors and friends to engage

and connect.

According to Ruffin, volunteers and the ECA board

of directors are planning on making enough food for around 300 people.



ECA to hold pancake breakfast and meeting to build community among residents Feb. 8

FILE PHOTO

DAAC to reopen doors following sudden closure

Arts collective known for supporting local artists and hosting concerts for all ages to reopen doors

BY NATHAN SLAUER
Staff Writer

Last year, the Division Avenue Arts Collective (DAAC), a local all-ages music venue, art gallery and do-it-yourself (DIY) project incubator, left its location of 10 years in the Heartside neighborhood on 115 S. Division Ave. when the building was abruptly sold.

But fans of local art, music and culture should not forget about the DAAC just yet. Members of the DAAC board recently announced the launch of a new fundraising campaign that would, if successful, help find the DAAC a permanent new location in Grand Rapids.

Members of the DAAC board remain passionate about the DAAC's contribution to the culture of Grand Rapids.

“Over the past 10 years we have hosted thousands of events ranging from art exhibitions, music shows, puppet shows, creative workshops, the really free market, lectures, film screenings and have awarded over \$3,300 to local creative projects in the form of Sunday soup micro-grants,” said DAAC board member Mike Wolf. “The DAAC has supported the local arts and culture of GR on every level. Whether it's for a band just getting started or one signed to a major label, a kid who doodles on his homework or an artist with an MFA, a student organization or a congressional election watch party, we treat every event the same because we believe that arts and culture should be accessible and people should actively participate in their community.”

Of particular importance to the DAAC board is the all-ages aspect of the venue: “Youth under 21 are routinely shut out of live music all across the country. It's a shame because more often than not arts and music are the things that have the power to get youth under 21 excited and motivated to create something of their own. There have been so many bands that have had their first show at the DAAC when they were teenag-

ers,” said Wolf.

Wolf recalled the story of Sam Cook-Parrot, a young artist from Grand Rapids who plays in the band Radiator Hospital. “When he was a teenager he started going to shows, then formed bands with his friends. Those bands played what seems like every other DAAC show, and on top of that he also interned at Vertigo and WYCE. He has since moved to Philly and continues to release music on a regular basis online, plays tons of shows, is starting to tour, play in bands with his friends who are also touring, playing all across the country and it all started at the DAAC.”

Wolf hopes that reopening the DAAC will give other young artists the opportunity to express themselves in a way that would otherwise not be possible.

The DAAC board, which consists of nine members, started the fundraising campaign with the assistance of both national and local organizations. Fractured Atlas, a New York-based national non-profit which supports arts organizations and artists through the provision of financial, business and educational resources, stepped in to aid the DAAC in their comeback attempt.

“Through Fractured Atlas, the DAAC is able to access opportunities that are normally only available to traditional 501(C)3 nonprofits, such as the ability to receive tax-exempt donations,” said DAAC board member George Wieter. “It will aid in our immediate fundraising efforts and help us make the leap if and when we decide to become a nonprofit of our own.”

Alongside the DAAC stand a number of local, grassroots arts-based organizations that are providing fiscal sponsorship to campaign, such as the Lamp Light Music Festival, Do-It-Together Grand Rapids and Many Hands Clay Collective. Furthermore, house shows throughout Grand Rapids have continued hosting shows to raise funds for the project, including a Radiator Hospital show in January at the Neighborhood House on Sigsbee Avenue,

currently occupied by DAAC board member, CARE band member and Calvin alumnus Justin Majetich.

The DAAC online fundraising campaign can be found at RocketHub.com, a popular crowd funding site. DAAC board members seek to earn \$20,000 by Feb. 25 and have reached \$5,036, or 26 percent of their goal, as of this week. DAAC board has not yet found an exact location for the DAAC's permanent return, but Wolf says that they would like the space to hold 150-200 people with additional space for a ceramics studio and other programming. “Moving forward, we're looking for a space that can not only support our immediate needs — we also want there to be enough room for us to grow in the future.”

DAAC board members remain optimistic that Grand Rapids residents will support their efforts to find a home for the DAAC once more. When asked about how Grand Rapids residents should feel towards the DAAC's impact in Grand Rapids, DAAC board member Marlee Grace expressed excitement: “It's so hard to put into words. In some ways you have to feel it to know why. You have to have been inside for those shows or experiences that left you feeling so full inside that you didn't know where to put it. Having an all ages music space is radical. It's a big deal. And living in a town

that has one brings so much value and vitality to the community that can't be put into words.

You gotta feel it. So if we bring it back, we can all feel it.”



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Knights celebrate

Team opens their banquet to the public

BY JACOB KUYVENHOVEN
Sports Editor

The Calvin College volleyball team will celebrate their national championship with a year-end banquet this Saturday that will be quite different from a typical year-end team gathering.

Titled “A Knight to Remember,” the celebration will incorporate other Calvin students and fans at a level not previously seen.

Director Nancy Meyer said that the fans were “such a big, such a visible part of the team’s journey that it warranted something celebratory, but also something that would be inclusive and affordable.”

for the public. Paying the fee allows you to sit in the lower bowl of the Spoelhof Center and have your fill of desserts. For those who opt for the free admission, there will still be popcorn and refreshments in the upper section of the stadium.

The event will also feature different events and speakers from your typical year-end banquet. Calvin president Michael Le Roy and sports information director Jeff Febus are slated to speak along with coach Amber Warners. Division III National Player of the year Megan Rietema and teammate Stacey Kamp will also speak.

Also, championship rings will be presented and the national championship banner will be



PHOTOS COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

You can celebrate with the national championship team for free.

According to Meyer, accessibility was a key component for a successful event. “We wanted a communal experience, one where anybody could go, but mingling with the players was also possible.”

This was accomplished by creating two kinds of admission: one free and one that would be \$6 for Calvin students and \$10

hung along with the typical fare of video highlights.

All fans of the team are encouraged to be present. Meyer hopes to get as many students, faculty and staff to the event as possible to “make this incredible season come full circle.” It will start at 6:30 for those who are paying for the desserts, with the awards and speakers kicking off at 7:30.

Calvin softball’s new culture

Knights have a new coach, new outlook and new season

BY BRIAN EXNER
Staff Writer

After finishing fifth in conference at 8-8 and going 17-13 overall, the Calvin Knights softball team is looking to compete with a new attitude and a new coach.

Coach Tim Syrek is a native of Grand Rapids and has served as a coach for various high school teams as well as serving as an assistant to the District 2 Big League softball team.

Coach Syrek plans to use his players’ unique skill sets to win games: “We are trying to use the talents we have and put them out there to be as successful as we can. We want to be a team that can bunt, move runners along, but we also have kids that can hit the ball over the fence.”

Senior pitcher and infielder Lina Avila is one of those players who can hit the ball over the fence. The career leader in home runs for Calvin who was named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division III All-Central Region second team for a second consecutive year.

Avila is the team’s main source of run production, with 6 home runs and 29 RBIs last season.

Her reflection on the past year pro-

vides insight to this year: “I cannot wait for us to come out and show how much we have grown from last year. It’s going to be a great year.”

Senior outfielder Ashley Jakus plays a balancing role to slugger Avila. Leading the Knights last season with 16 stolen bases and

also scoring 24 runs, Jakus says she’s not the only one to be afraid of: “This is one of the fastest outfielders I’ve ever been a part of.”

The Knights hit .312 as a team and scored 175 runs last season, and their speed played a huge role in this.

The Knights’ offense is balanced out by a good defense. Sophomore catcher Lydia Gildea knows that the Knights pitching staff combined with the defense will give them many opportunities to win.

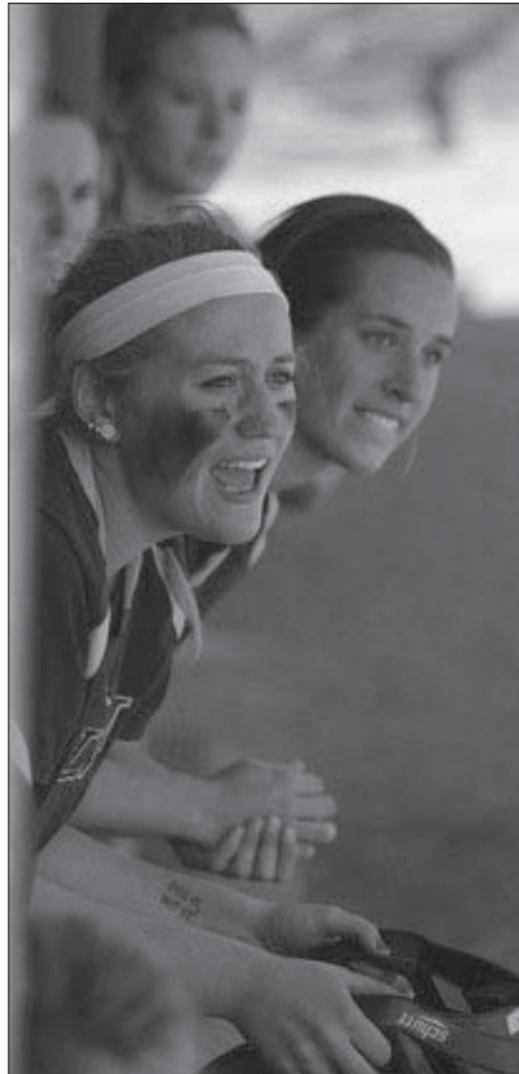
“When our pitchers have faith in the defense behind them, it allows them to throw without hesitation or doubt. This fearlessness gives our defense more grounders and pop flies which will help us win game after game.”

This confidence is deserved as the Knights compiled a .944 fielding percentage and a 3.43 ERA last season.

Each player reflects the goals and attitude of new head Coach Syrek through and through. Senior pitcher Caitlin Callow reinforced what her teammates said, adding, “Calvin softball is going places. We plan to start where we left off and have expectations to win and continue to improve. I know we have the talent.”

The Knights play three nonconference games before heading down to Clermont, Fla. for a spring break trip.

Coach Syrek will mentally approach things one game at a time. “We have to accomplish our first task before moving on to the second.”



Calvin players are excited about the new season.

Scouting report: Calvin men’s basketball

We’ve got the scoop on what you should be watching for when you go to watch the Knights play

BY JACOB KUYVENHOVEN
Sports Editor

I watch at ton of pro, NCAA DI and Calvin basketball. So while I’m not a basketball expert per se, I feel like I’m starting to really understand this team. Especially what makes them effective, and what plagues them when they are ineffective.

So before the MIAA tournament really kicks off, I’m sharing something of a Calvin Basketball cheat sheet. Here’s the low down on every player who you’ll see playing big minutes for the Knights, with very sincere apologies to BJ Van Loo and TJ Huizenga.

If those two players are mad at me for omitting them, I’ll take them out to dinner or something. It would be nice, cause “TJ, BJ and Jacob” sounds like a little alt-rock group that makes children’s music CDs.

STARTERS:

Jordan Daley, PG/SG (#34)

- Strengths:
- Athletic: a big guard who excels at taking smaller guards to the rim and posting them up.
 - High-energy defender who

- forces lots of turnovers.
- Efficient: a great free throw shooter and smart player, who only takes good shots.

Weaknesses:

- Not a great ball handler, turnover-prone.
- Still learning aspects of playing point guard — it’s his first year at the position.

Jordan Brink, SG (#12)

Strengths:

- Great shooter from deep, both off the dribble and in catch-and-shoot.
- His ability to create his own shot often bails out his team.
- High basketball IQ: good passer, good shot selection.

Weaknesses:

- Not exactly a lockdown defender.
- Isn’t always as aggressive on offense as he should be.

Tyler Dykstra, SF/PF (#32)

Strengths:

- Elite athlete: great finisher in transition and on cuts.
- Calvin’s best defensive player: his quickness,

- height and long arms mean opposing perimeter players are better off not even trying to score on him.
- Fantastic weak-side shot blocker.

Weaknesses:

- Work in progress on offense. A little turnover-prone and poor jump shooter.
- Might be better suited to play at power forward, but logs most of his minutes at small forward.

Mickey DeVries, PF (#24)

Strengths:

- Super high-energy big man. Capable of providing a spark any time he steps on the floor.
- Great rebounder and effective shot-blocker.
- Very athletic for his size.

Weaknesses:

- Doesn’t really have a reliable post game.
- Spends a lot of his time in foul trouble.

Tyler Kruijs, C (#42)

Strengths:

- Skilled big man with wide variety of offensive moves.
- Has range on his jumper

- even out to the three-point line.
- Draws a lot of fouls and is a good free throw shooter.

Weaknesses:

- Lean frame means he can get pushed around by opposing big men.
- Occasionally coasts: he could probably average more rebounds and blocks given his size.

RESERVES:

Austin Parks, PG/SG (#10)

Strengths:

- Attacking combo guard with a scorer’s mentality.
- Deep range on his jumper, he can take over a game if given the chance.
- Great free throw shooter.

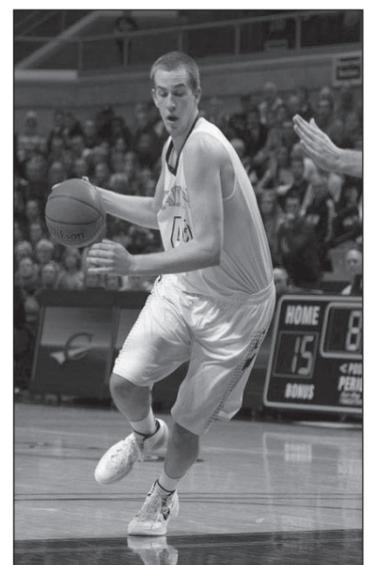
Weaknesses:

- Not a great ball handler or distributor yet: he really just plays at the point because of his size.
- Still has work to do to become an above-average defender.

Daniel Stout, C (#40)

Strengths:

- Rock-solid big man on de-



Kruijs is the team’s starting center.

- Can lock down the paint by himself.
- Crashes the offensive glass at a very high rate.
- Much improved passer, and player in general, on offense.

Weaknesses:

- Inefficient for a center: he falls in love with his jumper.
- Needs to tone down his aggressiveness on defense on occasion.

Over 1,600 attend Calvin's worship symposium

The Calvin Institute for Christian Worship invites pastors and professors to encourage worship leaders

BY SARAH STRIPP AND
NATHAN GROENEWOLD
Staff Writer and Religion Co-
Editor

The 27th annual Symposium on Worship welcomed over 1,600 church leaders to campus this past weekend. Leaders came seeking worship renewal, fellowship and training. Perhaps the only thing they struggled to find was a parking spot.

While the symposium is sponsored by a Reformed institution, the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, the conference is largely ecumenical, inviting preachers and worship leaders from a large number of denominations both in North America and worldwide.

Dr. John Witvliet, the director of the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, said there is “a palpable sense of the worldwide church” felt at the conference each year.

Vivien Timothy travelled from Port-Harcourt, Nigeria, to attend the symposium. She spoke about the beauty of the worldwide church converging at the event.

“You are able to come together with different people,” Timothy said. “It gives you this feeling of peace and unity. We have a togetherness as Christians.”

“It is powerful to be in the Commons [Dining Hall] face-to-face with people literally from around the world,” Witvliet said.

But beyond ethnic diversity, the symposium was also the youngest crowd that has ever attended. Twenty-five percent of attendees were under 25 years old, with a wide representation of various colleges and high schools. Fifty percent of attendees were under 40 years old.

“The goal is to affirm every single generation,” said Witvliet. “It is crucial to have teenagers and people in their seventies.”

For many attendees, the Symposium on Worship is also a time for spiritual renewal, encouragement and encountering new worship practices.

“It is a fellowship opportunity and rejuvenating for worship leaders,” said Laura de Jong, a member of the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship staff and the Building and Worship Service Coordinator for this year's conference. “It is a breath of fresh air and gives leaders something to take back to their congregations.”

For Timothy, the symposium is about discovering new ideas to bring back to her congregation. She discovered the use of drama in worship after seeing a perfor-

mance on Cain and Abel by the Drama Ministries Ensemble of Northwestern College.

“Trust me, I have read the story [of Cain and Abel],” Timothy said, “but today, it gave me more insight about the message God is trying to say to us. ... This is something I will never forget.”

“There is a strong sense of spiritual encouragement and vitality in the conference,” said Witvliet, acknowledging the importance of having this conference on campus and giving church leaders a chance to connect and learn from each other.

The conference was structured around morning worship services and plenaries, followed by smaller workshops in the afternoon.

Main plenary sessions were led by Jeremy Begbie, a theology professor from Duke Divinity School who spoke on the mystery of worship, and Dr. John Witvliet, Mark Charles, Eric Sarwa, and Anne Zaki, who spoke on the church's need to pray on a global level in corporate worship.

Todd Cioffi, assistant professor and advisor for the Congregational Ministry

Studies department, noted one critique of the worship services at symposium.

“Sometimes we wish it could be more pedestrian,” Cioffi reports hearing from past attendees. Some leaders feel that that

licate each week, given the broad range of ethnicities, denominations and traditions represented. However, Cioffi hopes the symposium might inspire leaders to take small pieces back to



PHOTO COURTESY STEVEN HUYSER-HONIG

This weekend, worshippers filled the chapel and CFAC each morning.

services are done so well, they struggle to take elements back to their congregations.

The experience is not something most churches can rep-

their congregations.

Perhaps the best way to view the worship services at the symposium, Cioffi said, “is a great holiday feast.”

Symposium encourages listeners to be steadfast in intercessory prayer for the worldwide church

BY BEKAH COGGIN
Religion Co-Editor

If a stranger walked into your church today, how would he fill in the blank: this house is called a house of _____? Jesus preached that his house should be a house of prayer, but is prayer the word that a stranger would use to describe our churches?

Dr. John Witvliet, director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and a professor at Calvin College, opened Friday's plenary address, entitled “Strengthening Gospel-Shaped Prayers,” with this poignant question.

The talk, which focused on intercessory prayer for other countries and peoples, included international and national speakers associated with the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship. The speakers pleaded with their listeners to pray often for the worldwide church.

“We need you to be steadfast in

prayer. This is just as essential in ministry as us getting on a plane and flying there,” said Anne Zaki, who lives in Cairo, Egypt and works with the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship.

“Prayer is shaping people and changing God's mind,” said Eric

in Exodus 32 where the Lord changed his mind because of Moses' prayers.

The speakers stressed the necessity to lead informed public intercessory prayers, which requires the church to be knowledgeable about the struggles and persecution of the worldwide church.

“Never read the newspaper in the same way. Read it as an act of prayer,” said Mark Charles, a resource development specialist for Indigenous worship at the Calvin Institute.

Charles expressed concern that the church cannot be united when we do not know the needs of brothers and sisters in other cultures. Often, Charles warned, we base our church community on our common similarities rather than our common faith.

“We have removed the need

for Christ in our church because our similarities unite us,” Charles said. If we shift focus from “I, me” to “we, us,” as Sarwar encourages, our prayers can instead reach across the world and the Holy Spirit can bring unity across cultures.

Seminars throughout the symposium informed attendees of both the joys and trials of Christians in Ireland, Egypt, Pakistan, Argentina, El Salvador, South Africa, Philippines, Singapore and Mexico so that congregations would know how to best pray in response to the call given in 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

Jesus' command to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” is different in the context of each of these countries. In reference to a recent tragedy, Sarwar explained that in Pakistan your enemy may not just be trying to kill you, but trying to burn your entire town. Yet Sarwar asked listeners to remember the persecutors in prayer alongside the persecuted.

“This gives a way to stretch my church's prayers,” said Mary Systsma, a worship symposium attendee and elder at Wheaton

Reformed Church. “We will be stretched to pray for the enemies — the persecutors — of the church in Pakistan.”

Along with her plea for steadfast prayer for Egypt, the Middle East and worldwide, Zaki gave her listeners five specific requests for her country: pray for the past, for the future, for people in authority, for powerless people and for the quick return of the Lord.

She said when the church focuses prayer on these five areas, it will invest more in being both informed about worldwide events and caring more deeply about them, thus uniting the worldwide church.

Witvliet said by doing all these things we can expand the specificity and scope of public prayer to strengthen congregations and serve the world. The needs worldwide are overwhelming, Witvliet said, but prayer reminds the church that God is able.

“What we pray for reveals and shapes the kinds of things we perceive God is actively doing in the world,” Dr. Witvliet said. “[It] is a theological barometer ... an indication of what we think God can do.”



PHOTO COURTESY STEVEN HUYSER-HONIG

Speakers from Egypt, Pakistan and the Navajos opened the plenary address on Friday.

Sarwar, ordained Presbyterian pastor from Pakistan. Because the symposium theme this year comes from Exodus, Sarwar based his request on a passage



PHOTO COURTESY STEVEN HUYSER-HONIG

Begbie, a professional musician, teaches theology at Duke.

Begbie teaches a healthy appreciation of mystery in faith and worship

BY NATHAN GROENEWOLD
Religion Co-Editor

Have you heard of PPSD (Post-Protestant Stress Disorder)? Do you struggle with it? Symptoms might include, but are not limited to, a frustration with long Powerpoint-driven sermons, a belief that the Bible is nearly incomprehensible and an overwhelming sense of despair in the pursuit of truth.

Jeremy Begbie, in a plenary address at this past weekend's Worship Symposium, (jokingly) introduced the term and used it to account for the church's reborn fixa-

tion on mystery.

Begbie said that many Christians connected to or borrowing from the Protestant tradition (much of western Christianity) have grown frustrated with overly didactic Christian teachings that have left no room for wonder about the fullness of God's character or about paradox in the Bible.

For example, Begbie said, worship services have often included “the first five minutes of compulsory jolly,” a time where worshippers feign happiness, even if they are struggling with doubt, grief, pain or confusion.

The result of this kind of worship and teaching, Begbie noted, is often a misdirected interest in

mystery, a swing from believing that God and God's word are easily explained in a 20-minute sermon to believing that “God is completely unknowable,” or Scripture is something we cannot “know or speak about.”

“The [new] trend is a love of mystery for its own sake,” Begbie said.

Begbie notes that the message of the gospel, the embodied Jesus Christ, is certainly a mystery in that it is too profound for human discovery or understanding.

Yet, Begbie reminded listeners that the mystery has been revealed by “the saving plan of God, shown and effected in Christ.”

He referenced Colossians 2:2 in saying that Christ is the fulfill-

ment of this mystery. Therefore, Begbie called listeners to center the focus of mystery on its fulfillment in Christ. Having said this, he also called the church to reclaim a healthy sense of mystery.

“[Worship should] make mystery sound interesting rather than a lukewarm bath,” Begbie said.

Begbie said worship, while affirming the truth of Christ, could remind us also of our inability to grasp God, the reality that our best descriptions of God fall short of who God is.

“Words can never imprison the realities we speak about,” Begbie said. “In worship, we must recognize the weirdness of the gospel.”

Yet he countered, “Just because something isn't adequate doesn't mean it's not true.”

“ However, as we all grow up, the pain seems to remain the same, but the punishments get ever greater.

Peter Widitz, “Social media” ”

FROM THE EDITOR



As you may know, one of the trademark jobs of the editor in chief of Chimes is writing a brief letter to all of you each week, which typically takes the form of a short piece of heartfelt advice from the editor in chief to all of you. So here is my opening piece of advice to all of you: never give other people unsolicited advice.

Not all advice is unsolicited advice, of course: if your friend asks for your help with a difficult situation, feel free to let loose with any nuggets of wisdom that may help them. But in most other situations, it will be better for everyone if you keep your opinions about other people's behavior to yourself.

I have no doubt that many of you are familiar with what it feels like to have other people giving you unsolicited advice: from family members giving you worse-than-useless dating tips to driving tips that are clearly veiled insults, I can't

think of a situation where unsolicited advice is useful.

A step up from this banal irritation is the unsolicited advice given to the entire world rather than a single person. Whether it's websites telling women what clothing trends to avoid or one of a variety of open letters to various celebrities, media is full of articles that are completely, bizarrely confident that they are more qualified to make your personal decisions than you are.

This confidence is what is truly concerning about unsolicited advice. The implication of unsolicited advice, intended or not, is that the advisee does not have sole dominion over their personal choices, but that they need to take the opinions of the advisor into account before making personal decisions. Giving unsolicited advice can be a subtle way of undermining other people's agency.

Admittedly, when someone's actions affect other people severely, they no longer have the

right to do whatever they want — but the appropriate reaction is a clear examination of the harmful consequences of someone's actions, or of course disciplinary action, rather than snidely telling them what they should have done.

I should also note that unsolicited advice is a relatively narrow category — you might sometimes say things that sound like unsolicited advice but really aren't. Sometimes telling a friend they should take a nap is a way of expressing concern, not dictating their choices.

Since I think unsolicited advice is so disrespectful to other people's agency, you may be wondering why I wrote an entire article essentially giving you all unsolicited advice to not give other people unsolicited advice.

I have no defense — I am being entirely hypocritical. Respecting other people's autonomy means that I should respect other people's decisions to express themselves through unsolicited advice.

I do think it is true that giving other people unsolicited advice is ineffective at best and disrespectful at worst. Hopefully that information is at all useful to you, but you're never under any obligation to do as I tell you.

~jdm

OPINION AND EDITORIAL

Obedience is costly

Biblical sacrifice is not cliché, it's scary

BY ABBY PATERNOSTER
Op-Ed Editor

This past summer I worked as a youth ministry intern at my home church, a job that included sharing the teaching responsibilities for the middle school youth group.

One of the lessons I taught was on the story of Gideon. Gideon was a nobody by most standards, not the most likely hero in all of Israel. Then one day an angel showed up and told him that he would be used by God to bring freedom to the oppressed Israelites. The angel burns up the food Gideon gave him and disappears.

The rest of Gideon's story involves God asking Gideon to trust him over and over and over again as he cuts down his army and provides him with musical instruments and household objects for weapons. You can read all about it in Judges 6-7.

But the part of Gideon's story that I always come back to is a moment in Judges 7:19, when Gideon and his 300 men come to the outskirts of the Midianites' valley camp and are looking out over this massive army that is spreading out as far as they can see. They have no idea what's next, but there they are, with torches, jars and trumpets because that's where God told them to be.

When I was eight years old I committed my life to a God much bigger than I could imagine. I said I would submit myself to his will for my life and leave my selfish desires at the foot of the cross.

As an eight year old I had no idea what that might mean. As a 19 year old I'm only beginning to understand how terrifying that can be. Yeah, I said it. Terrifying.

Being brought to my knees in utter dependence on God over recent years has led me to ask the question, “Is there

too much for God to ask of me?”

I said I would do anything God called me to, but isn't that what all the other kids in catechism class were saying? I said I didn't need my material “stuff” but isn't that what my parents told me when they wanted me to share with my brothers? I said I would completely hand over my dreams and fears and desires to the Lord of all creation, but isn't that exactly what we were taught in Sunday school?

When God asks me for all I have and more, when he calls me to fight an army larger than can fit into my field of vision, how will I respond?

When I hold back and refuse to trust that God will not abandon me when I follow his voice into what appears to be darkness, am I not saying that everything he has done for me has not been enough?

Time and again, God has met my needs and more. Money has appeared out of nowhere. Healing has come in the midst of pain. Brokenness has given way to beauty.

When I hold back and refuse to trust that God will not abandon me when I follow his voice into what appears to be darkness, am I not saying that everything he has done for me has not been enough?

My plans have rarely panned out in the way I expected, but usually I find out my plans weren't the best ones out there. Imagine that — God actually did know what I needed better than I did.

These are the clichés we've grown up with and heard thousands of times. But these have already been the realities of daily life for some of us here at Calvin and will be for all of us at some point in life. Do we really believe that following Christ is worth any cost?

Social media introduces novel legal issues

BY PETER WIDITZ
Staff Writer

According to the Pew Research Center, social media sites have skyrocketed in popularity over the last five years, with 73 percent of adults on at least one social media site. Despite the fact that these sites have helped many of us stay in contact with people far away, these same sites are often abused by people who spout spiteful rhetoric that often goes too far. The internet is filled with snapshots of Twitter and Facebook comments that contain inappropriate, vulgar and insulting statements that might provoke a lawsuit if printed.

Many people seem to believe that for some reason Facebook and Twitter are designated safe zones where they can proclaim into cyberspace whatever they feel like saying without any consequences or repercussions. We hear all the time in the news how

crimes were prevented or solved because the suspect posted a statement proclaiming guilt via social media sites. Often these posts are used as evidence against the accused, since they are admissible in court.

However, up until Jan. 15, 2014, no Twitter feeds have ever been used to substantiate a case of libel and have gone to court. Singer/actress Courtney Love now represents the first person to be accused of libel on Twitter after she implied in a tweet that her lawyer had been bribed in an estate custody battle by the former managers of said estate. Love stated on the witness stand that the internet is full of “hyperboles and exaggerations” and that this particular case is not clear enough to constitute defamation of character. It has not been uncommon for celebrities to throw digital insults at each other, such as the open letter to Miley Cyrus by Sinead O'Connor. However, if Courtney Love is convicted

of libel, the rules for what is acceptable to post will drastically change. A California attorney unaffiliated with the case said, “The Courtney Love case will set a precedent that will result in, potentially, the average person being liable as well.” The phrase, ‘I didn't mean anything by it. I was joking’ will no longer be a good enough excuse to prevent a lawsuit.

I expect that there will be more lawsuits that will make it to court since precedent has already been set. It seems that many people have forgotten the preschool wisdom to not call names in order to prevent pain for the recipient and punishment for the name-caller. However, as we all grow up, the pain seems to remain the same, but the punishments get ever greater. It would be sad to see people who lose their home over an insulting Twitter comment, but based upon past performance, people will fall right into the harsh reality of the present.

Calvin students spread too thin

BY MATTHEW SCHANCK
Guest Writer

In an article earlier this year regarding the changes in the responsibilities of RAs, one of the RAs commented that there seems to be an oversaturation of events at Calvin College. This opinion seems to be shared by many students on campus. I have heard many people comment — either directly or indirectly — that there is a lot going on. Weekends at Calvin consist, especially at the beginning of the year, of at least one weekend activity, multiple sports events and many other club activities.

For many students who want to get involved but still need to get homework done, this feels rather overwhelming. This overloading comes from the intention of providing activities for all types of people, which has unfortunately created many events that most students cannot keep up with. Therefore, even students with special interests in certain activities have trouble finding out about them because there are so many activities going on.

Two prime examples of this oversaturation are student news and Cokes ‘n’ Clubs. Unfortunately, student news is set up to have organizations around campus email the server with what the event is and what is to be shown in the summary list. The event summary list in student news often fills the browser viewing screen. If students find an event title in the summary list that interests them, they have to scroll through all of the other events listed just to find the one they want. Sometimes by this point the student gives up and deletes the email or ignores it.

The second example is Cokes ‘n’ Clubs. As a leader of a student organization, I am aware of the importance of this event. The intention of this event is to inform students of all the clubs on campus, but since there are so many (at least 30 clubs were present this year) it is easy for students to miss clubs that they would be interested in or to forget about a club they were interested in because of all the other clubs. While having a variety of clubs is a good thing, I believe having all of them displayed at

one time and in the same place is a bit overkill.

There have been other times when large events on campus conflict with each other. Administration has started to fix this by combining different campus organizations under a single leader. In addition, an outlet is provided for student organizations to post events on a calendar where they can coordinate their events around other events. Despite this, there is still a lot of work to be done.

Some ways this issue can be fixed is promoting better coordination between campus events, student organizations and sports events. Another major help would be to make student news more searchable by linking each event in the summary list to the corresponding paragraph so that students do not have to scroll through all of the events.

The final problem with oversaturation of campus-wide events is that specific dorm and floor events are often limited or ignored. Also, floor bonding can be harder to achieve when friends and fellow students are all going to different campus events.

WRITING FOR OP-ED is open to all Calvin students! This is your section and we want to hear your opinions about what is happening at Calvin, in Grand Rapids, in the U.S. and in the world. Send your articles to Abby at ajp38@students.calvin.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include the writer's name and class. Letters received without a name will not be printed. The editors reserve the right to edit any letters. The length of the letter should be no longer than 250 words; longer letters may be shortened at the editor's discretion. The deadline for all letters is 5 p.m. on Tuesday for print on the following Friday. Send letters to chimes@calvin.edu with “Letter to the Editor” in the subject line, or send your comments through our website: www.calvin.edu/chimes

ANNOUNCEMENTS can be submitted by Calvin students, faculty and staff to be printed in *Chimes* at no cost. Announcements can be sent via e-mail to chimes@calvin.edu or dropped off at the *Chimes* office during the week. Announcements must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday to run in Friday's paper. Please stick to a limit of 160 characters and send with the subject line “announcement.”

Aftermath of 'Snowpocalypse' Interim 2014

