

Library duo among top 'movers and shakers'

National publication honors Calvin employees

A pair of Calvin College library employees were among 55 individuals (mostly librarians) honored in the March 15 issue of *Library Journal* as "Movers & Shakers," people who are "changing their environments to serve users dynamically and to empower them to help themselves."

Calvin's Greg Sennema and Jed Koops were deemed by *Library Journal* to fit the bill. In fact, the publication calls them "an unbeatable combination."

Characteristically, both Sennema and Koops were humbled by the award.

Said Sennema: "It is an honor to be recognized, especially considering the relatively small size of Calvin compared to some of the other honorees. Hopefully this recognition will assure Calvin's students, faculty and staff that the staff at the Hekman Library are committed to offering the best research resources possible using cutting-edge Web-based technology. It also reminds us that we need to continue developing Web-based technologies in order to offer straightforward access to high-cost and high-quality scholarly information in order to compete with the perceived advantages of advertisement-supported Web search tools like Google."

Koops added: "It was an incredible surprise and honor to receive this award. It's been a lot of fun to work with Greg, and I've learned a ton of things in the process. We



owe a big thanks to Diane Vanderpol for putting together the nomination proposal, which obviously was well written, since it got us in!"

Library Journal profiled Koops and Sennema in the March 15 issue, calling Sennema "a big-

picture guy, with an insatiable imagination." And Koops is the master programmer, turning Sennema's ideas into reality.

One of Sennema's first assignments at Calvin was to redesign the library's Web site, a task that first brought the Sennema/Koops partnership into being. Sennema realized that maintaining thousands of linked resources from static Web pages could be never ending. So Koops developed a Web-based content-management system known as Hobbes that allows easy management of the Hekman Library Web page content, while also providing quick access to such things as archives, subscription database content and more.

Koops, whose title is library systems programmer, graduated from Calvin in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in music theory and composition. He currently is working on a master's in composition at Michigan State University. Sennema's title is digital resources and reference/instruction librarian. He earned a master's in information studies from the University of Toronto in 1996, and his first job was as a librarian for the *Toronto Globe and Mail*.

Library Journal is the oldest independent national library publication. Founded in 1876, the same year as Calvin, the magazine is read by over 100,000 library directors, administrators and others in public, academic and special libraries. ❖

Calvin dance prof turns inventor

Cancer survivor finds way to help herself and others

After Ellen Van't Hof survived a bilateral mastectomy, six months of chemotherapy and two months of radiation, she thought that, perhaps, the worst was behind her.

And then she noticed her right arm was becoming swollen. The verdict: lymphedema, an accumulation of lymphatic fluid. The culprit: the removal of 21 lymph nodes and radiation on her right side as part of the treatment for her cancer.

Little did she know that the diagnosis eventually would lead to her name on a patent and a product that could help numerous lymphedema patients around the world.

Van't Hof, a Calvin College dance professor, has a bachelor's degree in art from Calvin. She's also a lifelong seamstress. And her father was an engineer and inventor. Add to the mix

Van't Hof's unwillingness to accept the status quo and a healthy bit of fighting spirit (during her chemo and radiation she never missed a Calvin class), and you have the recipe for a great story, albeit one that Van't Hof tells with more than a bit of sheepishness.

The story began with her doctor telling her that those missing lymph nodes had caused a key change in her body's lymphatic transport capacity and that the swelling in her right arm was a result of the protein-rich lymphatic fluid collecting in the tissues of the arm. Left untreated, this stagnant fluid could reduce oxygen in the transport system, interfere with wound healing and provide a breeding ground for bacteria.

Brad Kuipers, Van't Hof's physical therapist, gave her further bad news. She would need an hour of physical therapy a day for

four weeks — essentially an arm massage to move fluids back into the lymphatic system. And she would need to wear a compression sleeve during the day and a series of bandages on her arm at night for the rest of her life. At that moment, Van't Hof admits, she cried.

But her sadness lasted only a moment. Soon after, she began scheming about ways in which to improve her situation, specifically, she began to look for an alternative to the bandage regimen prescribed for all lymphedema patients, a regimen she grew tired of in very short order. "The bandages are put on after the massage," said Van't Hof, "to keep the fluids from returning to the arm. And they are complicated to wrap. They need to be tighter at the bottom and then become less tight as they go up the arm. They're also very fragile bandages. They