

The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, May 20, 2016

Hope and Love

In her poem titled “Hope and Love,” Jane Hirshfield writes these words: “I know that hope is the hardest love we carry.” At graduation on Saturday, our hopes are more likely to feel like Emily Dickenson’s thing with feathers that follows the graduates out of the arena and stands alongside them as they take up their good work in God’s world. But for many this year, hope has felt heavy and maybe even difficult to continue to carry as we yearned for good outcomes for colleagues who have been affected by prioritization, for racial reconciliation, for thriving departments, for increased enrollments (and strong budgets), for joy in our work. Hoping for such things in challenging times is weighty work, and yet it is exactly when hope weighs heaviest that we most need to carry it and to share it. I have been so grateful for you who have shared your hopes for our students and for our work with me. And every hopeful thing that has been accomplished this year has depended on the hard work and support of all of you. I am deeply grateful to be blessed to work with so many excellent colleagues. Thank you for sharing your hope.

Cheryl Brandsen, provost

Core Update

Some of you have asked “What’s next?” with core revision, given the outcome of the faculty vote on EPC’s proposed revision to core. The next step is to begin the work we need to do to assess core. This work will include revisiting and possibly updating the descriptions of current core categories and perhaps, in some places, tidying up those categories. We also need to consider how the student learning outcomes for each category align with the six core outcomes. To that end, the chairs of the Core Curriculum Committee and the Educational Policy Committee, along with some of their committee members, have agreed to set aside time this summer to work collaboratively with faculty who teach in each category. Stay tuned.

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Carolyn Anderson (Chemistry and Biochemistry), “New Methods for the Synthesis of N-Substituted 2-Pyridone” (lecture, U of Notre Dame Seminar Series, South Bend, IN, April 20, 2016).
- Kevin den Dulk (Political Science), “A Christian Voice in the Politics of Water,” *Capital Commentary* (February 1, 2016), http://www.cpjustice.org/public/capital_commentary/article/1323.
- Carl Plantinga (Communication Arts and Sciences), “Discussion of ‘Tangerines’ Chiaroscuro International Film Series” (panelist, Urban Institute for the Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI, 02/28/2016)

Be sure to [fill out](#) your Faculty Activity Reports regularly. If you have questions, see the [FAQ page](#).

Note: *FEN* activities are now called Intercultural Competency Professional Development Activities and are entered in a new system—not as FARs. You can report these types of activities via [this new link](#). Contact diversity@calvin.edu if you have questions.

Coming Up on Campus

Tuesday, May 24

- Building Cultural Intelligence workshop. 9:00 a.m., Commons Annex Alumni Board Room
- Summer session 1 begins .8:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 26

- Final semester grades due. 12:00 noon.
- Scholarship planning workshop. 1:00–3:00 p.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m. CFAC 115