



CALVIN

College

Parent Resource Guide  
2011-2012

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**PARENT RESOURCE GUIDE**

**2011-2012**

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# PARENT CALENDAR 2011-2012

<b>August</b>	31	Residence halls open for first-year students 9 a.m. QUEST (fall orientation for new students) begins
<b>September</b>	1	Tuition, room and board payment due
	2	Residence halls open for returning students 9 a.m.
	6	<b>First day of fall semester</b> ; classes begin 8 a.m.
<b>October</b>	20	Tuition, room and board payment due
	21–22	Family Weekend and Homecoming
	25	Registration for interim and spring semester begins
	25–26	Academic advising for interim and spring semester
<b>November</b>	21	Tuition, room and board payment due
	23	<b>Thanksgiving break</b> begins 5 p.m.
	28	Classes resume 8 a.m.
<b>December</b>	9	<b>Last day of fall semester</b> ; classes end 10 p.m.
	10	Reading Recess
	12	<b>Exams begin</b> 9 a.m.
	16	<b>Exams end; Christmas break begins</b> 10 p.m.
	17	On-campus housing closes 10 a.m.
<b>January</b>	3	On-campus housing opens 10 a.m.
	4	<b>Interim term begins</b> 8 a.m.
	5	Tuition, room and board payment due
	24	<b>Interim term ends</b> 5 p.m.
	30	<b>First day of spring semester</b> ; classes begin 8 a.m.
<b>February</b>	1	Spring semester ReGathering Convocation
	24–25	Siblings Weekend
<b>March</b>	15	Tuition, room and board payment due
	16	<b>Spring break</b> begins 5 p.m.
	17	Residence halls close for spring break 10 a.m.
	25	Residence halls re-open 12 noon
	26	Classes resume 8 a.m.
<b>April</b>	6	Good Friday; no classes
	18	Honors Convocation
	20	Tuition, room and board payment due
	24	Registration for fall semester begins
	24–25	Academic advising
<b>May</b>	9	<b>Last day of spring semester</b> ; classes end 10 p.m.
	10	Reading Recess
	11	<b>Exams begin</b> 9 a.m.
	16	<b>Exams end</b> 10 p.m.
	17	Residence halls close for the year 10 a.m.
	17–19	Commencement Weekend
	19	Commencement 2 p.m.

# INTRODUCTION TO CALVIN

## Welcome from the Parent Relations Team



We are pleased to present this *Parent Resource Guide* as part of your welcome and orientation to the Calvin community. The Calvin experience is full of new discoveries, opportunities, challenges and adjustments. This is also true for parents and family members, especially when an oldest child begins college. This guide is designed to better acquaint you with the many services and resources available at Calvin. The more you know about Calvin, the better equipped you will be to support your student and the educational process.

I serve on a three-person parent relations team that is delighted to facilitate helpful conversation and a genuine partnership between Calvin parents and the college. My colleagues, Susan Buist and Jennifer Penning, meet with me regularly to discuss ways of informing and assisting parents to enrich the Calvin experience. Here are some of the ways we try to help:

- Welcoming parents and families as full members of the Calvin community through events, publications and Web-based communications
- Including Calvin parents and families in the full life of the campus
- Developing leadership opportunities for Calvin parents through formal structures such as the Calvin Parent Council and through informal avenues such as volunteer projects
- Increasing the financial support from Calvin parents to assist in meeting the college's development goals
- Assisting the college's academic departments and administrative offices as they relate to Calvin parents and families
- Inspiring Calvin parents as ambassadors for the college in their local areas, supporting Calvin in strategic ways

Please know that your input, insights and inquiries are highly valued by us at Calvin. If you ever have a question or concern or if you want to talk with someone at Calvin and you're not sure where to begin that conversation, please call our team at (616) 526-6142 or e-mail [parents@calvin.edu](mailto:parents@calvin.edu). We eagerly await the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Van Denend

Director of alumni, parent and community relations

# College Leadership



Gaylen Byker  
President  
*offcpres@calvin.edu*



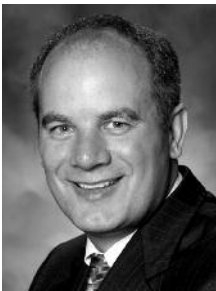
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VP for Enrollment Management  
*rjb42@calvin.edu*



Henry DeVries II  
VP for Administration, Finance  
and Information Services  
*hdevries@calvin.edu*



Ken Erffmeyer  
VP for Advancement  
*kde2@calvin.edu*



Shirley Vogelzang Hoogstra  
VP for Student Life  
*shoogstr@calvin.edu*



## **The Mission of the College**

### **Vision**

Calvin College is a comprehensive liberal arts college in the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity. Through our learning, we seek to be agents of renewal in the academy, church and society. We pledge fidelity to Jesus Christ, offering our hearts and lives to do God's work in God's world.

### **Purpose**

- To engage in vigorous liberal arts education that promotes lifelong Christian service.
- To produce substantial and challenging art and scholarship.
- To perform all our tasks as a caring and diverse educational community.

### **Commitment**

We profess the authority of Scripture and the witness of the ecumenical creeds. We affirm the confessions and respect the rich traditions of Reformed believers worldwide and, in particular, those of the Christian Reformed Church. We aim to enhance the cultural life around us and to address local needs. In all we say and do, wherever we may be, we hope to follow and further the ways of God on earth.

# Calvin's Goals for New Students

*Adapted from the student life division mission statement*

Calvin's programs are designed with the hope that students will:

1. Practice regularly the spiritual disciplines required to become increasingly aware of God's presence, power and love, thus to model more and more the life of Jesus Christ (faith formation and ecclesiastical development).
2. Make sense of their pre-college lives and develop patterns that increase self-understanding and whole health (emotional and physical development).
3. Understand and cultivate relationships of integrity with other humans made in God's own image, including family members, friends, neighbors, strangers and those different from themselves in any way (relational development).
4. Discover and profess what they believe as true in the midst of what others, past and present, believe and profess as true (cognitive development).
5. Frame their future working lives in the context of calling and vocation (vocational development).
6. Cherish their obligation to be citizens in the public square whose importance and impact must count for justice and shalom (political/communal development).
7. Practice wisdom in spending and giving as well as caring for local and world environments (stewardship development).
8. Experience with revelry and wonder the delightful nuances inherent in God's good creation (aesthetic development).



# CAMPUS DIRECTORY

- Toll Free Number .....1-800-688-0122
- #1 Admissions Office
  - #2 Admitted students needing help setting up portal and e-mail accounts
  - #3 Housing Office
  - #4 Financial Aid Office
  - #5 Financial Services Office
  - #6 Office of Academic Services
  - #7 Graduate Studies Office
  - #8 Health Services Office

If you need a number that is not listed below, please consult  
the switchboard: .....(616) 526-6000

- Academic Services .....(616) 526-6155 .....*acadservices@calvin.edu*  
Admissions .....(616) 526-6106 .....*admissions@calvin.edu*  
or (800) 688-0122 (#1)
- Alumni Relations Office .....(616) 526-6142 .....*alumni@calvin.edu*  
Broene Counseling Center ..(616) 526-6123 .....*broene@calvin.edu*  
Campus Ministries.....(616) 526-8861 .....*janet.glassford@calvin.edu*  
Campus Store .....(616) 526-6376 .....*campus-store@calvin.edu*  
Campus Safety .....(616) 526-6451 .....*safety@calvin.edu*  
Career Development.....(616) 526-6485 .....*career@calvin.edu*  
Commencement Hotline.....(800) 560-6391 .....*events@calvin.edu*  
Conferences, Campus Events  
and Box Office .....(616) 526-6280 .....*tickets@calvin.edu*  
Event Information Line (616) 526-8585  
Ticket Orders .....(616) 526-6282 .....*tickets@calvin.edu*  
Development Office .....(616) 526-6090 .....*development@calvin.edu*  
Financial Aid .....(616) 526-6134 .....*finaid@calvin.edu*  
(Scholarships,  
Grants, Loans) or (800) 688-0122 (#4)
- Financial Services .....(616) 526-6127 .....*finserve@calvin.edu*  
(Bills, Payments) or (800) 688-0122 (#5)
- Food Service .....(616) 526-6383 .....*rbalfour@calvin.edu*  
Graduate Studies .....(616) 526-6158 .....*choekstr@calvin.edu*  
or (800) 688-0122 (#7)
- Health Services .....(616) 526-6187 .....*health@calvin.edu*  
or (800) 688-0122 (#8)
- Hekman Library.....(616) 526-7197 .....*kdemey@calvin.edu*  
Honors Program .....(616) 526-6296 .....*kbratt@calvin.edu*  
Housing Office .....(616) 526-6120 .....*housing@calvin.edu*  
or (800) 688-0122 (#3)
- Information Technology .....(616) 526-8555 .....*helpdesk@calvin.edu*  
Center

International .....(616) 526-6515.....*lbosch@calvin.edu*  
 Student Advisor

Lost and Found .....(616) 526-6451.....*safety@calvin.edu*  
 (Campus Safety)

Mail Services .....(616) 526-6154.....*rvanwyk@calvin.edu*

Media Relations .....(616) 526-8935 .....*msk23@calvin.edu*

Multicultural Student .....(616) 526-6081.....*jrhodes@calvin.edu*  
 Development Office

Off-Campus Programs .....(616) 526-6382 .....*off-campus@calvin.edu*

Parent Relations.....(616) 526-6142 .....*parents@calvin.edu*

President's Office .....(616) 526-6100 .....*offcpres@calvin.edu*

Prince Conference Center ... (616) 526-7200 .....*prince-reserve@calvin.edu*  
 (866) 526-7200 toll free US

Provost's Office .....(616) 526-8604 .....*provost@calvin.edu*

Registrar's Office .....(616) 526-6155 .....*acadservices@calvin.edu*  
 (Academic Services) or (800) 688-0122 (#6)

Residence Halls

Beets-Veenstra .....(616) 526-6997 .....(RD, 616-526-6996)

Boer-Bennink .....(616) 526-6931 .....(RD, 616-526-6930)

Bolt-Heyns-Timmer .....(616) 526-6731 .....(RD, 616-526-7032)

Kalsbeek-Huizenga-.....(616) 526-8400 .....(RD, 616-526-7161)  
 van Reken

Noordewier- .....(616) 526-6863 .....(RD, 616-526-6862)  
 VanderWerp

Rooks-VanDellen .....(616) 526-6665 .....(RD, 616-526-6664)

Schultze-Eldersveld .....(616) 526-6797 .....(RD, 616-526-6796)

Knollcrest East.....(616) 526-7070 .....(RD, 616-526-0222)

Residence Life Office .....(616) 526-6546.....*housing@calvin.edu*

Rhetoric Center .....(616) 526-7088 .....*rhetoric@calvin.edu*

Service-Learning Center .....(616) 526-6455 .....*slc@calvin.edu*

Spoelhof Fieldhouse .....(616) 526-6176  
 Complex

Sports Information.....(616) 526-6169 .....*jfebus@calvin.edu*

Student Activities Office.....(616) 526-6064 .....*kheffner@calvin.edu*

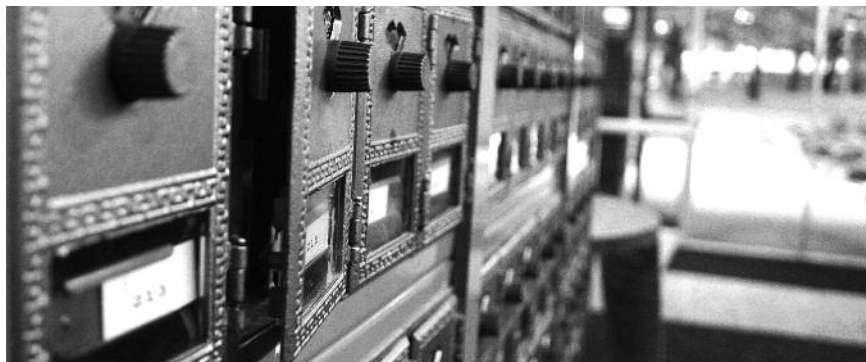
Student Development .....(616) 526-6165 .....*rcrow@calvin.edu*  
 and Student Organizations

Student Employment .....(616) 526-7000 .....*jobshop@calvin.edu*

Student Life Office .....(616) 526-6453 .....*jphaneuf@calvin.edu*

Student Treats Orders .....(616) 526-6142 .....*parents@calvin.edu*

**ON-CAMPUS EMERGENCIES: CALL x3-3333 (Campus Safety) or 911**



## Postal Mail and Packages

### Proper address format:

Full name of student (avoid nicknames)  
 Calvin College  
 Residence hall name and room number (e.g., Bolt 123)  
 Street address (of residence hall, see list below)  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546

### Street addresses for Calvin residence halls:

Beets/Veenstra .....3275 Knight Way SE  
 Bolt/Heyns/Timmer .....3200 Knight Way SE  
 Boer/Bennink.....3255 Knight Way SE  
 Kalsbeek/Huizenga/van Reken .....3245 Knight Way SE  
 Noordewier/VanderWerp .....3235 Knight Way SE  
 Rooks/VanDellen .....3220 Knight Way SE  
 Schultze/Eldersveld .....3260 Knight Way SE

### Street addresses for Calvin Knollcrest East apartment buildings:

Alpha .....3425 Burton St. SE  
 Beta .....3435 Burton St. SE  
 Delta .....3455 Burton St. SE  
 Gamma .....3445 Burton St. SE  
 Kappa .....3465 Burton St. SE  
 Phi-Chi.....3495 East Campus Drive SE  
 Theta-Epsilon.....3475 Burton St. SE  
 Zeta-Lambda.....3485 Burton St. SE

### The default address of the college:

Calvin College  
 3201 Burton Street SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546

### Fax: (616) 526-8551

Include on-campus  
 address or have students  
 pick up at mail services.

Mail is delivered on campus from Monday through Friday.

# Calvin Lingo

Members of the Calvin community often make use of acronyms, phrases and other references that new students or parents might not be familiar with. Here are a few “glossary” definitions to help you translate what you might hear Calvin students and staff members say.

- AC:** Activity Coordinator, a student volunteer who assists the RA in planning social activities for the residents.
- AER:** Academic Evaluation Report, a reference tool which shows graduation requirements for the core curriculum and a student’s major(s) along with student progress toward completing those required courses.
- Barnabas:** A student volunteer for each residence hall floor or campus apartment committed to walk alongside and encourage their peers by initiating Bible studies and being a friend and mentor.
- BB:** Boer-Bennink (Calvin residence hall).
- BHT:** Bolt-Heyns-Timmer (Calvin residence hall).
- BV:** Beets-Veenstra (Calvin residence hall).
- CalvinLink:** A Web resource for students who are interested in on-campus, off-campus or long term employment.
- Campus Safety Report:** A Web resource that keeps the Calvin community informed of recent incidents occurring on campus.
- CD:** Cultural Discerner, a student volunteer within the residence halls who plans student activities in cooperation with the student activities office.
- CFAC:** Covenant Fine Arts Center building.
- Chimes:** Weekly student newspaper.
- CJ:** Community “John.” In addition to the bathrooms located in each residence hall suite, each floor also includes a community bathroom.
- CLC:** Community Life Council, the entire student leadership team within the residence halls.
- Cold Knight Club:** The annual February tradition of jumping into the icy seminary pond.
- Core Curriculum:** Classes that each student takes while at Calvin, regardless of his or her major.
- Course Catalog:** A booklet that lists the classes offered by each department and outlines the requirements for all the available majors/minors at Calvin. The Calvin College catalog is also available online.

- CPC:** Community Partnership Coordinator, a student within the residence halls who plans service projects in cooperation with the S-LC.
- CRC:** Common abbreviation for the Christian Reformed Church, the evangelical denomination that founded and owns Calvin College.
- Creative Dining:** The food service company that services Calvin College.
- Credit Hour:** An hour of class; for example, a class that meets three times a week for an hour will earn three credit hours for that semester.
- CTC:** Calvin Theatre Company.
- DCM:** Developing a Christian Mind, a first-year core course, typically taken during the January Interim, which introduces students to the central intellectual project of Calvin College—the development of a Christian worldview—and a faith-based engagement with culture.
- Dialogue:** Monthly student arts publication.
- Dormulator:** An interactive Web resource that allows students to configure various furniture arrangements for their residence hall room before they move into their room in September.
- FEN:** The FEN document, *From Every Nation*, was formally adopted by the faculty in 2004 and is a strategic plan that guides efforts of racial justice, reconciliation and cross-cultural engagement at Calvin College.
- GR:** Grand Rapids.
- Interim:** During January, students take up to four credit hours only, focusing on one course, and also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of off-campus programs.
- ITC:** Information Technology Center, a computer lab located on the lower level of the Hekman Library.
- KE:** Knollcrest East apartment complex, an on-campus residence community for upperclass students.
- KHvR:** Kalsbeek-Huizenga-van Reken (Calvin residence hall).
- LOFT:** Living Our Faith Together, a Sunday night student-led worship service on campus.
- MAC:** Multicultural Activities Coordinator, a student volunteer within the residence halls who plans activities in cooperation with the multicultural student development office.

- Moodle:** An online learning management system where professors supplement their classroom material with documents, quizzes and grading.
- NVW:** Noordewier-VanderWerp (Calvin residence hall).
- Portal:** The website providing students access to administrative transactions such as financial statements, course registration, and grades as well as Calvin-specific discussion boards and other internal campus information.
- Prelude:** A first-year core course that introduces students to Calvin College as a Christian community of inquiry.
- RA:** Resident Assistant, an upper-class student selected, trained and supervised by RDs and residence life staff to assist residence hall and Knollcrest East residents.
- RD:** Resident Director, a full-time Calvin professional who serves as the live-in administrator of a residence hall.
- Rangeela:** Annual international student variety show.
- Reading Recess:** A day placed at the end of the semester during which classes are not scheduled, allowing students an opportunity to complete reading and assignments.
- RVD:** Rooks-VanDellen (Calvin residence hall).
- SAO:** The student activities office.
- SE:** Schultze-Eldersveld (Calvin residence hall).
- Sem Pond:** The small pond between the seminary and President Byker's house (see "Cold Knight Club").
- SFC:** The Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex.
- S-LC:** The Service-Learning Center.
- Syllabus:** A course outline presented to the class by the professor at the beginning of the semester which outlines all policies and important dates/deadlines.
- The Rivalry:** The Rivalry refers to the classic, long-standing basketball rivalry between Calvin and Hope College.
- TNT:** The Huizenga Tennis and Track Center.
- Tuition Certificates:** A program which allows parents, grandparents and others to purchase tuition certificates at current tuition rates which may be redeemed at any time in the future.
- WA:** Worship Apprentice, a student team involved in planning and leading chapel services, LOFT and more.

# PARENTING A COLLEGE STUDENT

## A Time of Transition for You, Too

*By Bob Crow, dean of student development*



This is a significant time in the life of your family. And while most of the attention is rightly directed toward your son or daughter and the transition that he or she will be making in coming to Calvin College, the primary purpose of this resource guide is to equip you with some tools that might come in handy as you adjust to this transition yourself.

Perhaps the most important fact for you to remember is that you are still the parent, and your daughter or son still needs you! Moreover, while we will care deeply for your child, in no way can Calvin College assume your role as parent. There is no way that we can.

Calvin College is a learning community that is not content to distance itself from students or to allow these young adults to flounder. These are our students. These are image bearers in God's wonderful creation. And while they may be legally classified as adults, for traditional-aged students (18-24 years of age), we more often refer to them as emerging or novice adults. They are making the important transition from youthfulness into adulthood. And we believe they need to do this in a challenging yet supportive environment.

Colleges that do the best educating are those that have a healthy tension between challenging students and supporting students. At Calvin, we work deliberately to balance our support with appropriate challenge. At times this will mean an embrace; at other times it will mean a firm word. Your student can count on an environment of love, concern, support and counsel from faculty, staff and administrators who are seeking the very best for him or her. And finally, here is some quick wisdom in a nutshell for you to consider as you think of your son or daughter's smooth transition into Calvin College:

**C – Communicate regularly.** As in every relationship, communication is key. And what we hear from students is that written communication is most valuable to them. Write a letter or e-mail them regularly with news from the home front.

**A – Always pray.** You have invested yourselves in the lives of your children. Never forget that your most important role now is to pray for them. And, I might add, please pray for us, asking that God would enable us to be faithful to Him in our work as members of this Christian institution of higher learning.

- L – Listen.** More than your advice, your son or daughter needs not only to have your ear when he or she talks with you but also to know that you hear what is being said (not what you want to hear). Ask open-ended questions and then provide the space for your son or daughter to respond...without interruptions, without your telling him or her exactly what to do.
- V – Voice your support and encouragement.** Instead of telling your son or daughter what to do, bite your lip, hold the majority of your opinions, and emphasize that you believe in him or her and are confident in his or her ability to make the right choices.
- I – Inspire your son or daughter.** Demonstrate interest in what he or she is learning. Be a role model, demonstrating that learning is a lifelong, joyful quest. Ask penetrating questions about what has most surprised them or what has most challenged them through their classes or co-curricular activities.
- N – Never forget that life is a marathon, not a sprint.** Remember when your children first learned to walk? They fell a few times, right? So, too, with their college experience; they will make some mistakes. Allow them the grace and the room to fall.



# Common Questions for College Student Parents

*Observations from the staff of the Broene Counseling Center*

Can you believe it? Your son or daughter is a college student! You've gone through other milestones: the first steps, the first day of kindergarten, the first soccer game, the first date and so on. But this milestone—this thing called college—well, this is different. If you are like most parents, you are excited but apprehensive, proud but nervous. You may feel ready for this stage, but may also be sad about how fast the time has passed.

You've actually been going through the process of "letting go" for quite some time. You don't kiss and bandage skinned knees anymore. You aren't as much of a taxi driver as you were a couple of years ago. You don't always know where your son or daughter is or what they are doing. Maybe you've noticed that your son or daughter doesn't seem to need you as much when they are struggling.

And what now? How do you parent a college student? What does he or she need from you? What do you need? It is our belief that your parenting is definitely not over. It's just changing. Your son or daughter still needs you, just in a different way. What follows are common questions parents have about this time of transition.

## **What is Josh likely to be thinking or feeling about coming to Calvin?**

Josh is probably experiencing feelings that are similar to what you are experiencing. There is excitement about a new adventure. There may also be considerable apprehension about all the unknowns and new challenges that are before him—both academic challenges and social challenges. There may also be some normal sadness about separating from friends and family. It's likely to be a real "mixed bag" for both Josh and you as parents. Be aware, however, that talking with Josh about these issues may not be that productive. Don't expect Josh to verbalize many of his pre-college feelings. To be sure, he will have them, but getting him to talk about them will be something else.

## **Will Sarah change while at Calvin, and if so, how?**

We hope and pray that Sarah indeed will change! For most Calvin students, college initiates a new "growth spurt" of sorts. Calvin is a dynamic and rich environment ripe with opportunities to meet interesting people and engage in new activities. Sarah will be challenged to take ownership of her faith, making it both personal and genuine. She will likely develop a clearer sense of who she is. She may very well develop a passion for a career and/or a major. Like most growth, however, it usually comes with some tension and struggle. College students are likely to struggle with many questions central to identity and purpose. These might include:

Who really am I? What do I really value?

Do I have my own Christian faith, or is it just the faith of my parents?

How is God calling me to serve Him?  
Do my values and beliefs make sense?  
What career fits me?

Although the separation between Sarah and people important to her is sometimes painful, it is only through this process that she can begin to know herself more clearly and establish her own sense of identity. These changes are slow, but it is truly gratifying for parents to witness over time their children forging their own way and becoming their own person.

### **How can I make sure Josh gets to class or goes to church?**

Well, you really can't. At this point, we parents rest on the assurance that despite our mistakes and imperfections, we've provided our children with the right foundation to do the right things based upon solid values. We also pray that God will guide, direct and sustain. Josh will be challenged by many choices while at Calvin. Do I go to class or just skip it? Can I afford to put off studying for my biology test and go out with my friends? What about that party I keep hearing about? How important is getting up Sunday morning to go to church? If Josh is like most students, he'll rise to the occasion. He'll learn how to manage his time. He'll also grow in his own Christian faith and will critically examine the faith of his parents. While this may be anxiety-provoking for some parents, it is a necessary step for the cultivation of a personal and vibrant Christian life.

### **I'm aware that Calvin has a Dutch, Christian Reformed history, and I'm worried that Sarah won't fit in at Calvin.**

Sarah's fitting in at Calvin will probably have more to do with how willing she is to make friends and get involved with college activities than anything else. Calvin's cultural tradition is certainly present, and it has much to offer. However, Calvin is increasingly becoming more diverse. For example, more than half of our students do not come from Christian Reformed backgrounds. Students have told us that they felt more like they "fit" or belonged when they took action. Most start with their residence hall activities. Resident assistants (RAs) are a great resource to help students new to Calvin. Or, if Sarah resides off campus, she should get involved with the commuter student organization and spend time around the student development office, another great resource for students who live off campus.

### **How often should I call, visit or e-mail Josh?**

There is really no standard rule for this. You might want to talk with Josh in advance about this and see if he has any sense of what he would like. In general, call once or twice a week during the first couple of weeks, less frequently later. If you live reasonably close, do not visit frequently and do not

drop in unannounced. Our experience is that giving Josh space is important at this point, while also assuring him that you are still available. Use care packages to help him know you are thinking about him. Students love them. Be careful about e-mail. It's wonderful technology, but because it is so easy, it's sometimes overused. Don't be surprised or offended if Josh doesn't respond to all of your writing or e-mails. He may need his distance.

**When we call or e-mail Sarah, are there general tips about what should or should not be discussed?**

Good question. It's best to respect the process that Sarah is undergoing. She is slowly separating from you and becoming her own person. She is likely to feel somewhat nervous about that, but she also takes some pride in forging her own way. To that end, resist the time-honored parental urge to ask if she is getting enough rest. Don't ask if she is eating properly. Don't give advice unless she asks for it. Try to do more listening than talking. Tell Sarah about what has been going on with family members. Try not to inquire too much about grades. You will most likely be somewhat anxious about how Sarah will handle the academic demands, but appreciate the fact that she will most likely become quickly aware of what it takes to succeed academically at Calvin.

**Is Josh likely to be homesick?**

Maybe, maybe not. For all first-year students, the adjustment to college life is stressful. There are new people to meet, new routines to learn, new academic demands, new roommates and new pressures. It's a real challenge! Thankfully, most new students get through it and begin to thrive in this community relatively quickly. If you hear from Josh and he sounds homesick, we'd suggest you simply listen. Resist the urge to label what he's feeling as "homesickness." Tell him that you understand that this adjustment is not easy. Promise to pray for him. Suggest he talk with an RA or a friend. Remind him again that you believe in him. Encourage him to take the initiative to seek out people and activities, even if he is not really feeling like it yet.

**What if Sarah calls in a panic and sounds really upset?**

Listen, and don't allow yourself to panic. Adjusting to college life creates some level of self-doubt in just about all students. We in the counseling office hear students talk about whether they have what it takes socially or academically to make it at Calvin. New students are most likely to feel overwhelmed the first couple of weeks as they adjust and then again at the time of mid-term examinations in October. Mid-terms are anxiety-provoking for students because they're not sure about how they will do. It resurrects or exacerbates the normal self-doubt or insecurity that is already present. Thankfully, this soon passes, and they do, too!

**I keep reading articles about college life and how so many students are using alcohol or other drugs. This frightens me. Will Josh be exposed to this at Calvin? How can we minimize this in his life?**

It is safe to say that no college campus is immune from some problems with alcohol. Calvin is no exception. Although our data suggest that Calvin students are significantly less likely to drink and use other drugs than students at other colleges and universities, it happens here, too. Josh will certainly hear about parties and may even be invited to some. He will hear about students' drinking. Those temptations will be present, and he will be faced with choices. You won't be able to monitor his behavior or make those choices for him. It's time to rest in the assurance that you have imparted to Josh the kind of values that are best. You must trust his judgment and have faith that he will make the right decisions. Calvin does have clear policies regarding substance use and other dangerous behaviors, and we enforce those policies. When we become aware of an alcohol violation, for example, the discipline process affords another opportunity for growth for the student.

**Sometimes Sarah seems so irresponsible. I'm afraid she's not ready for college. How can I know that she'll be OK?**

It may comfort you to know that many parents have the same concern. They have seen their children fail to pick up after themselves, forget doctor's appointments, arrive late for school or not turn in college forms on time. It's natural to wonder (and fret!) whether your child will be ready to get up on time, hand in homework, get to class and budget their time. It should also be comforting to you that many parents see remarkable changes quite early in their children. It seems that most students "wake up" right away and realize that such responsibilities are up to them. It is likely that the same thing will happen for Sarah. When she is confronted by the reality that responsibility comes with freedom, she will probably step up to the plate and surprise you! This is all about growth and maturing!

**What do I do if I have any other questions or concerns?**

Contact us. Included in this *Parent Resource Guide* are the names and phone numbers of key offices that can assist you as we partner to make this an exhilarating educational experience for your son or daughter. In addition, you can always e-mail the parent relations office at [parents@calvin.edu](mailto:parents@calvin.edu).

# GETTING STARTED AT CALVIN

## New Student Orientation

Calvin offers two orientation programs which prepare students for their Calvin experience. The summer orientation program is called PASSPORT and is designed for students and their parents. The fall orientation program, QUEST, is designed just for students and takes place immediately prior to the start of fall semester classes.

### **PASSPORT**

All first-year students must register to attend one of four PASSPORT sessions. You are invited and encouraged to attend one of the PASSPORT summer programs with your son or daughter. During the day-and-a-half program, you will have the opportunity to meet other parents, attend workshops and a college class, and become more familiar with the mission of the college.

The Wilderness Orientation program is an optional session which happens immediately before or after a PASSPORT session. Students participate in outdoor activities and use the experience to better understand their transition to the Calvin community. Additional fees apply. For more information, see [www.calvin.edu/orientation](http://www.calvin.edu/orientation).

Calvin College has approximately 200 students who are citizens of other countries and about 100 American or Canadian students who have spent much of their lives overseas. International students participate in International Passport, a five-day orientation, before the fall semester.

### **QUEST**

QUEST is the fall orientation program required of all first-year students, as well as of any transfer students who do not attend PASSPORT III. There are several events scheduled the first afternoon just for family members, including a welcome reception, worship service and cookout, before family members have to say goodbye. QUEST officially begins after the cookout. Because all new students are required to attend QUEST, they do not need to register for the program. They will be registered automatically. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please see [www.calvin.edu/orientation](http://www.calvin.edu/orientation).

## **Textbooks**

The campus store provides many options for students to purchase their required textbooks. In the textbook department students will find new books, used books, rental titles, e-book options and used books being sold by other students. Books can also be reserved online ([www.calvin.edu/campus-store](http://www.calvin.edu/campus-store)) beginning several weeks before each semester; these orders are packed and delivered to the student. Textbooks can be returned for a full refund through the first week of classes, and purchases are always guaranteed against class or book cancellations and dropped classes. At the end of the semester, students can sell their used books back to the campus store (if the professor plans to use the book again), to a used book wholesaler or to other students.

## **Vehicle Registration**

Motor vehicles owned or operated by Calvin students must be properly registered with campus safety and must carry an official college vehicle permit. Annual and temporary permits must be purchased from the campus safety office. Motor vehicles may be parked only in approved student parking areas. Drivers will be fined if they park elsewhere. Because parking areas are limited, parking regulations are stringently enforced. In addition to any college driving or parking regulations, the driving regulations and requirements of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code also apply to any vehicle on campus.

## **Health Insurance/KnightCare**

New students are required to complete all health information and insurance forms and provide signed proof of their vaccination status prior to arrival on campus. Students are also required to have medical insurance while enrolled at the college. KnightCare, an insurance plan designed specifically for Calvin students, provides year-round coverage at a reasonable cost. Detailed information about the plan is available by calling the health services office front desk or visiting [www.calvin.edu/admin/health](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/health).

# STUDENT LIFE AND CAMPUS SERVICES

## College-Parent Communications

As parents of a new student at Calvin, you know that, whether your son or daughter lives on campus or continues to live at home, your relationship with him or her will change. In either case, your child will enlarge his or her circle by being part of residence hall, classroom and student organization communities within the larger educational institution. This transition represents one of the biggest steps for parents in the natural process of letting go. For many parents, it also carries a healthy dose of trepidation, even though they know it is an essential step in a student's maturation and transition into adulthood. We at Calvin College want to highlight some key factors to ease your concerns and balance your expectations.

- 1. We work hard at Calvin to develop Christian community** within classrooms, organizations and residence halls. We take seriously our responsibility to model, teach and encourage responsible Christian behavior. We will try to be students' wise friends. When students fall short, we will use a variety of means to challenge them to do better, sometimes through the use of consequences.
- 2. The primary link of communication between the college and you is your child.** We believe that if students are to be successful in their transition into adulthood, we need to increasingly treat them as adults. We communicate directly with your student regarding a variety of matters, and we encourage you to do the same. These topics include (but are not limited to):
  - Tuition, room and board payments
  - Miscellaneous charges statements
  - Academic progress (grades)
  - Enrollment verification requests
  - Academic services and accommodations
  - Health and wellness
  - Personal counseling matters
  - Minor disciplinary sanctions
- 3. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) also provides guidelines that support and direct the college's communications policies.** FERPA helps to protect the privacy of student records. The act provides for the right of students to inspect and review education records, the right to seek to amend those records and the right to limit disclosure of information from the records. Students who are currently enrolled at Calvin College, regardless of their age or status in regard to parental dependence, are protected under FERPA. The act does state that parents of a student currently claimed as a dependent for income tax purposes may have access to the student's educational records. However, out of

common courtesy and respect for the student and his or her rights, parents should still request access to those records and statements through the student, who would then authorize that the requested information be released to the parents. For more information go to [www.calvin.edu/academic/services/ferpa](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/services/ferpa).

4. **Even though communication through students to parents is the operative principle, it is not an absolute one.** There are some exceptions. For example, when a student receives a serious disciplinary sanction for a violation of our conduct code (e.g., most cases resulting in disciplinary probation and cases of suspension), we will ensure that parents are notified. Our preferred method is to give the student a short but reasonable time frame in which to make the first contact with his or her parents. Parents are then asked by their son or daughter to contact the college for further discussion with the resident director or dean. Other exceptions include suicide attempts and hospitalizations. (Typically, the hospital that admits the student contacts the parents. College officials would make a follow-up call or provide assistance directly to parents at the hospital.)
5. Even though our primary relationship is with the students, **college staff members are available to consult with parents about their concerns.** We encourage students or parents to let us know of previous struggles and victories so that together we can plan a strategy to support the students' successes in lifestyle choices.
6. Calvin College holds itself to the command that **we bear one another's burdens.** So remember, we're in this together.



# Academics

## Academic Requirements

Calvin is a liberal arts college, which means that in order to earn a degree students are required to take a variety of courses, not just the courses that apply to their specific major/minor. Certain programs will have some variation in core requirements because of the demands of certain majors or minors (for example, some professional programs have a reduction in the number of language courses required).

The academic requirements in the core curriculum include a variety of courses within the humanities, sciences, social sciences and competencies (e.g., English, physical education, rhetoric and foreign languages). If you are interested in more information regarding the core curriculum, please refer to the Calvin College catalog.

## Grades

Students will be evaluated at the conclusion of each semester and the interim. First-year students will also receive a mid-term grade halfway through first semester. This can be a wake-up call for many students, as they find out that higher education is much more challenging than high school academics. Classes at Calvin are not typically graded on a curve. Students, during their first class session, are given a syllabus, which lays out the responsibilities in the class and outlines how that class will be graded. Class tests and exams will generally make up the largest proportion of the grade, but participation, projects, journals and attendance can also factor into students' grades.

## Academic Services (616-526-6113, TTY 616-526-8481)

The office of academic services offers many programs and services designed to help students succeed in their college learning and academic achievement.

### Advisors

All students are assigned to an individual advisor. The faculty advisor is generally a member of the department in which the student wishes to major. Students who have not declared a major will be assigned to a staff advisor. All faculty advisors keep office hours, during which time they are available to assist students in making decisions about courses and programs. Academic advising days are set aside just prior to registration for classes in October and April. This is a designated time for students to meet individually with an advisor to review plans for the coming semester.

### Tutors

Tutoring by trained students is available for many 100- and 200-level courses. This service is free for any student whose professor agrees that it could be helpful. In addition to individual tutoring, drop-in programs for some courses are provided through this office. Students are encouraged

to request a tutor as early in the semester as they become aware of a need. A closing date is listed in the Calvin calendar and posted in the student-news e-mail listserv.

### **Coaching Program**

The coaching program is for students with learning disabilities or attention disorders and any other students who specifically need assistance with time management and study skills. Students meet regularly with their coach to work on specific learning strategies and to develop better organizational and time management skills. First-year students are encouraged to participate.

### **Academic Counseling and Testing**

Instructors provide academic counseling for students who need assistance with time management, study habits or other aspects of college learning. This academic counseling may lead to further assessment of learning difficulties. For those who simply need a few tips on adapting to college academic life, the resource area in the office has free literature on topics such as time management, writing and reading strategies, test- and note-taking methods, and techniques for studying for specific courses.

### **Academic Probation Services**

A student whose GPA is below the academic standards set by the college is subject to dismissal or probation by the academic review committee. For those students on probation, special academic assistance and counseling are provided to help them recover good-standing status.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Calvin College is committed to making the campus physically accessible and providing accommodations that enable students with disabilities to participate in a Christian liberal arts education. All of the services described elsewhere in this guide are available to students with disabilities. Disability coordinators assist students in accessing accommodations. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities that limit daily life or functioning in one or more of the following areas: low vision/blindness, hard of hearing/deafness, psychiatric disorders, learning disabilities, attention deficits, brain injuries, mobility impairments and chronic health impairments. Individual plans for academic support may include accommodations such as extended time, electronic texts, volunteer note-takers, sign language interpreters and testing accommodations. Additional academic programming may include secondary academic advising, priority registration, diagnostic screening and a coaching program. Services are available to assist students with temporary disabilities, such as in the case of unanticipated injury or illness, even though these students are not covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students who experience an unanticipated injury, illness or other condition which prevents them from attending classes or completing academic assignments during the semester should contact

the office of academic services as soon as possible. Staff members will assist each student by developing a plan to communicate with the student's professors regarding the condition and, if necessary, to defer or postpone academic assignments as allowed by college policy.

### **AHANA Student Services**

Services to AHANA (African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American) students focus on developing academic leaders by assisting them in their adjustments to college demands. The AHANA advisor is available to assist students throughout their time at Calvin. The focus of academic counseling is to provide academic guidance and offer social support. This program partners with other programs and offices across the college to create a seamless network of opportunity and support.

### **International Student Services**

An enhanced version of the core Written Rhetoric course is designed for international students who want help with American writing expectations and culture concerns. Tutoring and academic counseling are available for other courses, and the ESL coordinator is willing to coordinate individual help for students with academic or non-academic concerns regarding their experience both in and outside of the classroom. The academic services office also works with faculty to help them support international students as the students adjust to U.S. cultural expectations in learning, language and social interaction.



### **Rhetoric Center (616-526-7088)**

The Rhetoric Center, located in the Hekman Library (L207), offers free assistance with written assignments and speeches at all stages, from developing ideas to editing final drafts. Instructors often encourage students to use the RC. Students from all disciplines and at all levels of experience are welcome to drop in or call to schedule appointments.

### **Broene Counseling Center (616-526-6123)**

[www.calvin.edu/admin/broene](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/broene)

The staff of the Broene Counseling Center offer support and counseling within a Christian framework to any current student. Common issues for counseling include depression, anxiety, relationship problems, eating disorders and family difficulties, among others. Individual and group counseling options are available, as are workshops or special programs. Students can also be referred to books or pamphlets on a host of relevant topics such as relationships, anger, alcohol, anxiety, depression, stress and much more.

Counselors are available by appointment. In addition, there are daily walk-in times when students can meet with a counselor without a previously arranged appointment. Counseling services are available throughout the entire calendar year. Appointments can be made by phone or by stopping in at the center. All student concerns are kept confidential.

### **Campus Ministries [www.calvin.edu/faith](http://www.calvin.edu/faith)**

Calvin College seeks to develop in its students a love for the Lord Jesus Christ and a desire to serve Him with heart, mind, soul and strength.

#### **Chapel**

Every morning at 10 a.m., students, faculty and staff gather in the college chapel for worship. The daily chapel program is diverse—as diverse as our community itself. Prayer and teaching, music and drama, art and testimony—these, and much more, are part of our worship as we renew our devotion to God and hear, again and again, his promises and commands. Weekly chapel services are also held in French, German, Spanish and Dutch languages. All-campus evening hymn sings and nights of prayer occur occasionally throughout the year.

**Tip:** Watch or listen to chapel and LOFT online (live or archived) at [www.calvin.edu/faith/worship](http://www.calvin.edu/faith/worship).



### **Sunday Observance**

Every Sunday evening at 8 p.m. students fill the college chapel for LOFT (Living Our Faith Together), which is an informal, contemporary worship service specially geared to our college population. Lively singing, group and individual prayer, and a spirited homily comprise this weekly evening service. In addition to LOFT, Calvin has partnerships with many local congregations, and many students regularly attend worship off campus.

### **Mentoring**

For any student who requests it, the college pledges to help him or her identify and secure a mentor—a wise Christian friend—from among the ranks of the faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Calvin College.

### **Other Activities**

In the residence halls, numerous opportunities exist for fellowship and worship, including frequent devotionals called “Late Nights,” weekly dorm worship on Wednesday nights and monthly outreach activities. In addition, every hall floor has a Bible study which meets regularly. A large number of students also join college or local church programs dedicated to Christian witness in the community.

## **Campus Safety (616-526-6451)**

***[www.calvin.edu/admin/campus-safety](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/campus-safety)***

The campus safety department provides 24-hour security service that patrols the campus and parking lots. Campus safety also offers an escort service for those walking alone during the hours of darkness (dusk to dawn). Questions regarding vehicle registration or parking tickets should be directed to the campus safety office during weekday business hours. In an emergency, campus safety can be reached 24 hours a day at 616-526-3333 (x3-3333 from on-campus phones). For non-emergencies, campus safety dispatch can be reached 24 hours a day at 616-526-6452.

The college has a campus-wide card-access system that provides students with entry to their respective residence halls. A comprehensive safety brochure is available on request from the student life division or campus safety office. In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 and the Higher Education Amendments of 2008, Calvin College publishes the crime statistics for the previous three years, which are available online.

## **Career Development (616-526-6485) *[www.calvin.edu/admin/career](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/career)***

The career development office helps Calvin students and alumni explore a wide variety of careers, determine and develop skills needed in those fields and excel in the job searching process. Services include career assessments, major selection, internships, career counseling and job search strategizing. The office uses the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Strong Interest Inventory and StrengthsFinder assessments and provides personal guidance on résumé writing, networking and interviewing skills.

Students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of internship and experiential education opportunities available through the career development office. These hands-on experiences provide students with the opportunity to explore multiple career options during their college years. Around 80% of Calvin students take part in at least one internship by the time they graduate.

The career development office uses CalvinLink to coordinate job postings and on-campus interviewing. This program enables students to upload résumés, search for jobs and select on-campus interview times.

The career resource center on the second floor of the Hekman Library contains a collection of print and computerized resources, including updated information on occupations, employers and employment opportunities throughout the world, in addition to graduate school information.

A one-time \$40 career services fee is charged to first-year students, which covers all career services throughout their experience at Calvin. Of that fee,



\$15 is refunded via a campus store gift certificate to students who report a job or graduate school plans within six months of graduation.

Career counselors are available by appointment or during walk-in times. Services are available year round.

### **Dining Services (616-526-6383) [www.calvin.edu/admin/food](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/food)**

Calvin dining services' number one goal is to serve the Calvin community flavorful and nutritious meals. Weekly menus feature fresh fruit, fresh natural juices, fresh baked goods, salad bars with numerous toppings, vegetarian offerings and a wide variety of delicious entrees served at each meal. With two dining halls, Commons and Knollcrest, and several retail outlets located on campus, students may choose from a variety of venues and menus.

### **Meal Plans**

Three meal plans are offered: 10, 15 or 21 meals per week. The 10-meal plan is not an option during the first semester for first-year students. In addition to the allotted meals per week, each meal plan features Bonus Bucks of \$25, \$50 or \$75 per semester, depending on the meal plan selected. Bonus Bucks may be used at any of the food venues on campus.

### **Calvin Credit**

Students may also use their student I.D. card as a credit card to purchase food items. Financial services will add each purchase to the student's miscellaneous charges statement, which is paid at the end of each month.

## Dining Dollars

Students may prefer to set up a Dining Dollars account where purchases are subtracted from the Dining Dollars account balance.

## Community Dining Plan

Commuter students and Knollcrest East residents can purchase blocks of 30, 60, 100 or 150 traditional dining hall meals per semester. These can be used for any meal period, and multiple deductions can be used at the same meal to enable a student to invite friends or faculty members to eat with them.

**Tip:** Students make changes to their meal plans by contacting the housing office.

## Financial Aid and Scholarships (616-526-6134)

[www.calvin.edu/finaid](http://www.calvin.edu/finaid)

The financial aid programs available at Calvin fall into four categories:

1. Academic scholarships
2. Grants
3. Loans
4. Work opportunities

Academic scholarships are awarded based on the student's admission application and essays; renewal is based on his or her continued academic performance. Grants and some types of loans are awarded on the basis of financial need. Non-need-based loans are also available. On-campus jobs are open to all students, and many students find that part-time employment is a good way to assist with college expenses.

A family's eligibility for financial aid is determined by a careful need analysis using information provided by students and parents on their financial aid application(s). Steps to apply for financial aid are outlined at [www.calvin.edu/finaid/apply](http://www.calvin.edu/finaid/apply), and all required forms can also be found here or at the office of admissions and financial aid.

## Financial Services (616-526-6127) [www.calvin.edu/admin/fsrv](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/fsrv)

The financial services office processes all business transactions for Calvin College.

## Expectations for Calvin Students

Calvin places the primary financial responsibility on the students. This means that it is their responsibility to

- File financial aid forms for the start of the academic year and follow up on any necessary items that need to be handled in relation to financial aid throughout the school year.

- Contact their parents about each bill if parents have agreed to pay some or all college costs.
- Contact the financial services office if they are having difficulties meeting a due date.

### Statements

The *tuition, room, and board statement* itemizes charges for tuition, room, board, course-related fees, technology access, and student activity fees and off-campus semester charges. These total charges are divided into three payments per semester. An e-mail notification that a statement has been posted in their Calvin portal account is sent to the student approximately three weeks prior to each due date. Students can also enable e-mail distribution (e-statements) of the statement to parents, guardians or others.

The *miscellaneous charges statement* itemizes charges for campus store purchases, telephone service, parking violations, career development fees, health services, off-campus interim trips and all other charges that do not appear on the tuition, room and board statement. An e-mail notification that a statement has been posted in the portal is sent to the student around the 15th of each month. Payments are due on the first of each month. Miscellaneous expenses are expected to be paid in full each month. Students can also enable e-mail distribution of the statement to parents, guardians or others.

**Tip:** Students can request to have tuition and miscellaneous charges statements sent to their parents by selecting the “statement subscription” option on their Calvin portal student account page.

## Health Services (616-526-6187) [www.calvin.edu/admin/health](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/health)

Calvin health services supports all students of the college by providing outpatient medical and immunization services in a convenient campus setting. All registered students are invited to use our services. Visits are scheduled by appointment unless immediate care is necessary. Health care is provided by nurse practitioners, registered nurses and part-time physicians. We can also assist in making referrals to area providers for additional services.

### Primary Care Services

- Evaluation and treatment of common illnesses and injuries
- Allergy injections
- Women’s health exams, including pap and pelvic
- STD testing and treatment
- Pregnancy testing and counseling
- HIV testing and counseling
- Men’s health and wellness exams
- Smoking cessation



- Nutrition counseling
- Mental health evaluation and treatment in collaboration with the Broene Counseling Center
- Physical exams for sports, travel and employment
- Laboratory and medication services
- Health and wellness presentations for individuals and groups

### **Travel Health and Immunization (THI) Services**

Calvin requires all students to be fully vaccinated while enrolled at the college. Our THI staff provides comprehensive vaccination services for general health and for travel abroad. We also offer pre- and post-travel consultations, prescriptions for global travel and tips on staying healthy while abroad.

### **Health Forms and Student Health Insurance**

New students are required to complete all health information and insurance forms and provide signed proof of their vaccination status prior to arrival on campus. Students are also required to have medical insurance while enrolled at the college. KnightCare, an insurance plan designed specifically for Calvin students, provides year-round coverage at a reasonable cost. Detailed information about the plan is available by calling our front desk or visiting [www.calvin.edu/admin/health](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/health).

### **Self-Care**

Students are invited to access the first-aid kits located at residence hall front desks. Kits contain disposable thermometers as well as basic supplies to treat minor cuts and abrasions. Students may purchase over-the-counter medications at the campus store and in vending machines located in the residence halls, apartments and the Commons.

## **Summer Services**

We are open daily for information and medical records. Medical appointments are available only to students who carry the college student health insurance plan (KnightCare).

## **After Hours and Emergency Care**

During the summer or any time after hours, students should seek medical or injury care at a physician's office, med center or hospital emergency department. For further information and locations of area facilities visit [www.calvin.edu/admin/health/after-hours.html](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/health/after-hours.html).

## **Eligibility and Charges**

Services are available to all registered students of Calvin College. We are happy to provide referral information for students' spouses and children. Reasonable fees are charged for office visits, medications, supplies and laboratory tests. Payment is expected at the time of each visit or may be charged to the student's miscellaneous charges account. An itemized statement is issued at each visit and may be submitted to the student's private insurance for reimbursement. Students with the college student health insurance plan, KnightCare, have a special benefit for on-campus health services.

## **Confidentiality**

We are committed to protecting the privacy of our clients and the confidentiality of their personal health information. Students are welcome to discuss their personal health concerns with family members or guardians. Except in emergencies or as guided by public health code, health services staff cannot release or discuss student health information without the student's consent.

## **Information Technology (616-526-8555) [www.calvin.edu/it](http://www.calvin.edu/it)**

Calvin Information Technology (CIT) provides computing, printing and telecommunication services to students, faculty and staff of the college.

The Information Technology Center (ITC) lab offers Windows and Mac computers attached to the college network and the Internet, scanners, black-and-white and color printers and several computer classrooms. Each residence hall complex has a computer lab that is open 24/7, and many departments have student computer labs as well. Most computer labs provide access to the college network and the Internet, Microsoft Office, student e-mail, library research tools and a wide variety of academic software. Campus classrooms are equipped with technology for instructor and student presentations.

Students have access to black-and-white printing in all computer labs on campus and to color printing in the ITC lab. Each student is allotted a printing quota each semester that is equivalent to 500 black-and-white pages (one ream of paper). Any printing over the quota is included in the student's miscellaneous charges statement at the end of the semester.



Calvin provides a Novell account to each Calvin student as a location to store academic documents on Calvin's network. A student can access his or her Novell account by logging in to Novell on campus or via the Internet off campus. Students are also given a Calvin e-mail account along with access to Calvin's portal and Moodle. Through Moodle students have access to course material and other academic resources placed online by their professors. The Calvin portal gives students access to administrative transactions (e.g. course registration, financial statements and grades) as well as Calvin-specific discussion boards and other campus information. The Calvin portal and Moodle are accessible from any Web browser. All student accounts remain active as long as they are registered for classes and until October 1 following graduation.

Students who bring a personal computer have access to the college network and the Internet from their residence hall room through the ResNet (wired) or CalvinStudents (wireless) network. CalvinStudents (wireless) is available to all students in many locations on campus. In order to connect to ResNet or CalvinStudents, students must have antivirus software installed and maintain up-to-date definition files. Calvin provides Symantec Endpoint to all Calvin students free of charge, but certain other antivirus programs are also ac-

**Tip:** For a detailed list of hardware and operating system requirements for using ResNet and CalvinStudents, see [www.calvin.edu/it](http://www.calvin.edu/it).

**Tip:** The Calvin HelpDesk offers "first-aid stations" at the start of the school year to help students get connected to the wireless network.

cepted. Support for connecting to ResNet and CalvinStudents is available from the CIT HelpDesk at [helpdesk@calvin.edu](mailto:helpdesk@calvin.edu).

Each residence hall room has one telephone, multiple phone jacks and multiple Ethernet jacks. Local calling is provided at no charge. Students needing to make long distance calls must make other arrangements.

## **Residence Life (616-526-6116)**

***[www.calvin.edu/housing/about](http://www.calvin.edu/housing/about)***

The learning experience that Calvin offers extends beyond the classroom and into the lives of students in the residence halls and on-campus apartments. As the author and creator of relationships and communities, God calls us to establish friendships, to exercise responsible citizenship and to encourage one another in our faith and learning. Calvin's residence life program exists to promote learning in these and other areas of students' lives.

A leadership team directed toward this end serves in each residence hall and in the Knollcrest East apartments. Through their work, the teams model and encourage commitments to faith and learning in all areas of life, including friendships, community responsibility, conflict resolution and mutual respect. They work to form relationships with and among residents by planning educational programming, social events, Bible studies, retreats and service-learning opportunities. The residence life office is responsible for the hiring, supervision and programmatic efforts of all the professional and student staff members who make up these teams. In conjunction with the judicial affairs office, the residence life office also oversees the student disciplinary process for violations of the student conduct code by resident students. Our goal is to help students develop a commitment to responsible freedom, where a godly conscience develops through accountability for lifestyle choices within the community.

### **Housing Office (616-526-6120) *[www.calvin.edu/admin/housing](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/housing)***

Calvin's housing office assists students with information on housing contracts, roommate matching, move-in and move-out dates, maintenance issues, meal plans and questions about housing charges.

## **Student Development (616-526-6165) *[www.calvin.edu/sdo](http://www.calvin.edu/sdo)***

The student development department is made up of five distinct areas: student development office, multicultural student development, international student development, service-learning and student activities. The office leaders (dean of student development and associate dean of student development) will be some of the first people your student will meet once he or she matriculates to Calvin. They plan and implement the orientation programs of the college, namely PASSPORT, INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT, QUEST and TRANSITIONS



(mid-year program). The office staff also provides a wide range of services for off-campus students, as well as leadership and administration to the more than 60 student organizations on campus.

### **International Student Development Office (616-526-6515)**

**[www.calvin.edu/student-life/isdo](http://www.calvin.edu/student-life/isdo)**

Along with International PASSPORT, activities for Calvin's international students include monthly dinners, field trips, a retreat and other social activities. In February, international students perform in Rangeela, a show of songs, dances and skits from around the world. An immigration coordinator advises international students on immigration issues. The international student advisor organizes the orientation program, coordinates programming and regularly meets with students regarding academic and social adjustment issues.

### **Multicultural Student Development (616-526-8702) [www.calvin.edu/msdo](http://www.calvin.edu/msdo)**

The multicultural student development office strives to support the college's mission to become a genuinely multicultural, anti-racist, Christian academic community by offering programs and support services for all students. These programs are designed to address the student life goals outlined in the *From Every Nation* document by providing forums for discussion and springboards to activism. Students are encouraged to increase their understanding of the historical underpinnings of today's society and be able to discern manifestations of systemic racism. As a result, the MSDO hopes to contribute to a generation of citizens convicted by faith to restore global justice and shalom.

### **Service-Learning Center (S-LC) (616-526-6455) [www.calvin.edu/admin/slc](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/slc)**

Each year Calvin students log thousands of hours of community service. Among colleges and universities nationwide, Calvin is a model for its success at integrating service-learning into its academic programs. Students begin their academic lives at Calvin in an atmosphere of service, and the S-LC offers an array of civic

engagement opportunities to students seeking to embed service-learning into their collegiate experience. Beginning with StreetFest, and continuing into residence hall based service opportunities, offering servant leadership opportunities both within the center and the greater Grand Rapids community, the S-LC is ground zero for connecting with justice-oriented service opportunities. The S-LC's motto is "Learning to Serve—Serving to Learn." Service-learning refers to the wide range of activities designed to meet needs within the local community while simultaneously developing knowledge, skills and virtues in participating students.

### **Student Activities Office (616-526-6064) [www.calvin.edu/sao](http://www.calvin.edu/sao)**

The SAO seeks to help students engage with popular culture and to discern the positive and negative messages contained within. We attempt to perform this critical Christian service by equipping our students with the tools and experiences necessary to begin discerning culture. We strive to provide a season of concerts, films, lectures and other programs that allow Calvin students to interact with the best and the brightest artists of a wide array of genres.

### **Student Organizations [www.calvin.edu/admin/student-org](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/student-org)**

Student organizations are an integral part of campus life at Calvin. Involvement in student organizations is a great opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills, expand their interests and build relationships. Students are encouraged to create new student organizations that reflect their interests and to get involved with existing organizations that suit their interests and fit their schedules. All student organizations must have a faculty advisor, but they are run by the students. The student life committee, the dean and associate dean of student development, and the coordinator of student organizations oversee and support the activities of student organizations. There are more than 60 student organizations, ranging from *Chimes* (the student newspaper), to the Environmental Stewardship Coalition, to the IMPROV team.

## **Student Employment Services (616-526-7001)**

**[www.calvin.edu/admin/studentemployment](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/studentemployment)**

The student employment office (SEO) is committed to providing a professional work experience for students through on and off campus employment and community service opportunities. Students may find job opportunities both on and off campus by using CalvinLink, available via the student employment website. The SEO manages the job posting service, assists students with the completion of W-4 and I-9 forms, offers training programs for the supervisors of student workers and coordinates the Student Employee of the Year recognition program each spring. The SEO holds job fairs each year for students seeking employment at area businesses. Community service options are available through the Federal Work Study Program; eligible students receive information via e-mail on how to apply. The office is involved in several sessions during Passport, and those interested in student employment opportunities are encouraged to attend those presentations.

# PARENT RELATIONS PROGRAMS

## Welcome from the Parent Council Co-chairs

Dear parents,

On behalf of the parent council we wish to welcome you to the Calvin College community. Whether your knowledge of Calvin comes recently and is your first contact with Calvin or whether it stems from a long association you or your family have with the college, our prayer is that you find this place and this experience one in which your child grows in the grace and knowledge of God. We have found it such a place for our children. Furthermore, we have also found a great deal of change has taken place in the time since we were both students here some years ago. This change has expanded the ability of the college to provide an environment to meet the needs and expectations of a more diverse student population and has enlarged the opportunities, programs and challenges in which students are immersed during their time at Calvin.



*Ryan '15, Rose and Ray Koopman (back row),  
Rachel '11 and Amanda and Derek DeBoer  
(both '09)*

So if you are seeking new knowledge of Calvin as a parent of a first-time student or wish to know how things have changed since your own student days at Calvin, members of the parent council are one information resource with a particularly parent-focused perspective. Calvin established the parent council in part to provide this sort of information link to current and prospective parents. Another important role for this group is to serve as a consultancy for the college to provide insight, perspective, information and feedback. The time we have spent as members of the parent council has provided us with current information on many academic, residential, spiritual, athletic and leadership development programs and has given us a keen sense of the motivation and drive of the faculty and staff to teach, guide and encourage our daughters and sons to be vibrant and effective members of God's kingdom.

As your children begin their Calvin experience we welcome you to this community and we join with you in praying for God's blessing on the students, faculty, staff and supporters of Calvin College.

Sincerely,

Ray and Rose (Schoo) Koopman  
Class of 1981  
Rochester, Mich.

## Parent Council

The Calvin Parent Council, a leadership and advisory board, is a representative group of Calvin parents who meet to foster constructive dialogue between the college and parents, serve as ambassadors for the college and faithfully support Calvin's mission. The parent council meets twice each year, during October and February, and includes parents or step-parents of students from each graduating class. The membership of Calvin Parent Council in 2010–2011 was:



- Michael and Amy Battoclette—Cincinnati, Ohio (Anna '05, Tessa '09, Ross '12)
- Janet Espinoza—Sun City, Ariz. (DeVon '13)
- Dan and Gail Flynn—Ann Arbor, Mich. (Anna '12)
- Steve and Janelle Graber—Auburn, Ind. (Rebekah '13)
- Tom and Deb Heyboer—Kalamazoo, Mich. (Alison '06, Tommy '08, Lauren '11)
- Garvester Kelley—Lawrenceville, N.J. (Justine '13)
- Ray and Rose Koopman—Rochester, Mich. (Amanda '09, Rachel '11)
- Tom Martin—Toronto, Ont. (Richard '14)
- Paul and Charlotte Mpindi—Grand Rapids, Mich. (Karis '11, Don '13)
- Larry Seawell—Findlay, Ohio (Erin '12)
- Paul and Deb Stoep—Lyons, N.Y. (Emily '13)
- Daniel and Mary Sytsma—Wheaton, Ill. (Jonathan '12)
- Penny Triezenberg—Highland, Ind. (Allison '08, Nate '11)
- Timothy and Kathy Jaarsma Tripp—Pella, Iowa (Aemelia '13)
- Steven and Wendy Voss—Tempe, Ariz. (Taylor '08, Bailey '11)
- Michael Wissink—Big Rapids, Mich. (Matt '13, Rebekah '14)
- Lisa Workman—Saline, Mich. (Josh '14)
- Barb Zondervan—Lakewood, Calif. (Katie '08, Daniel '09, Kara '12)

Parent council members are asked to serve a term of two years, with the option of renewing their term on a year-by-year basis. Parents are invited to serve jointly on the council with a spouse, though this is not required. It is intended that the membership of the parent council reflect the demographics of the Calvin student body.

Parents are typically nominated to serve on the parent council by a Calvin faculty or staff member, though interested parents are also invited to nominate themselves. For additional information, contact the parent relations office at (616) 526-6142 or by e-mail at [parents@calvin.edu](mailto:parents@calvin.edu).

# Communications

## Internet Communications

Calvin-Parents is an e-mail newsletter designed to keep Calvin parents and family members informed of campus events, programs, news and reminders. Every Calvin parent should be a subscriber! Calvin parents consistently laud this service as their critical communication link to the college.

Calvin-Parents is provided free and is published weekly (less frequently during summer months and scheduled breaks). To subscribe to Calvin-Parents:

- Send your e-mail address to [parents@calvin.edu](mailto:parents@calvin.edu) with a request to be added to the subscription list, or
- Visit our website at [www.calvin.edu/parents](http://www.calvin.edu/parents) and follow the directions posted.

Calvin's parent and family website, [www.calvin.edu/parents](http://www.calvin.edu/parents), is the go-to site for all details related to parents and family resources.

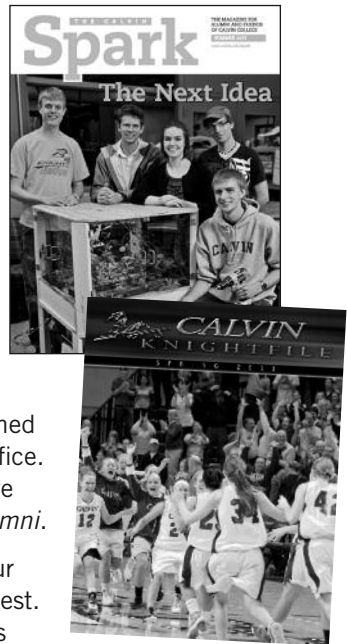
## College Publications

*The Calvin Spark*, the magazine of the Calvin Alumni Association, is mailed to the parents of all Calvin students four times a year.

*Knightfile*, an eight-page newsletter published three times a year, provides an informative recap of the highlights from each athletic season. *Knightfile* is not automatically mailed to each Calvin parent. You may request to be added to the subscription lists by calling (616) 526-6142 or e-mailing [parents@calvin.edu](mailto:parents@calvin.edu).

*Calvin-wire* is a bi-monthly e-news bulletin published by the alumni, parent and community relations office. The latest Calvin headlines are featured. To receive *Calvin-wire*, visit this website: [www.calvin.edu/alumni](http://www.calvin.edu/alumni).

*Calvin-sports* is an e-news bulletin published by our sports information director after each athletic contest. Get the latest "Knight news" by subscribing to this e-bulletin at [www.calvin.edu/sports/newsletter](http://www.calvin.edu/sports/newsletter).



## Student Treats

Calvin's student treats program provides a fun way to remember and surprise your student with something college students always appreciate—FOOD! Student treats may be ordered for any student. Students living in one of the Calvin residence halls or in the on-campus Knollcrest East apartments will have their treats delivered to their residence. Off-campus students will be notified by e-mail that they have a treat to pick up at a convenient on-campus location. You are invited to visit the student treats website at [www.calvin.edu/parents/treats](http://www.calvin.edu/parents/treats) for additional information or to access our convenient online ordering form.



## Participating

An important component of parent relations at Calvin is welcoming and including Calvin parents and families in the life of the campus—academic, spiritual, cultural, athletic and social. Here are some opportunities for Calvin parents to participate in the Calvin experience.

### **Homecoming and Family Weekend—October 21–22, 2011**

Family Weekend provides a great opportunity to visit campus and participate in your student's life at Calvin for a few days. Attend a class with your student. Participate in worship at morning chapel. Enjoy the annual Calvin Music Festival and other concerts and performances. Meet other parents and Calvin staff members at the Family Weekend dinner or ice cream social. In addition, visit with Calvin alumni who have returned for Homecoming activities including class reunions and other special offerings. For complete details or to purchase tickets online (after September 1) visit our website at [www.calvin.edu/familyweekend](http://www.calvin.edu/familyweekend).

### **Siblings Weekend—February 24–25, 2012**

Siblings Weekend is packed with exciting events for siblings (or other young relatives) of current students. Siblings may stay on campus, eat in the dining halls and participate in any of the events. Your Calvin student will receive an informational brochure later in the year with a registration form and schedule of events. Contact the residence life office for more information at (616) 526-6116 or visit [www.calvin.edu/admin/housing/siblings](http://www.calvin.edu/admin/housing/siblings).

### **The Rivalry—February 11, 2012**

The Rivalry refers to the classic basketball rivalry between Calvin and Hope College, located in neighboring Holland, Michigan. Every winter, the Calvin and Hope alumni associations sponsor Rivalry events across the U.S. and

Canada, providing a venue for alumni, parents, families and friends of the two colleges to gather for a live satellite-broadcast party, making this a near-global event! To locate the Rivalry event closest to your area, visit the website at [www.calvinhope.com](http://www.calvinhope.com). Are you unable to find a Rivalry location nearby? Call (616) 526-6431 and perhaps we can recruit you to help make local arrangements to plan a new Rivalry event in your hometown!

### **Honors Convocation—April 18, 2012**

Honors Convocation is a chance for the college community to recognize the academic success of our students. All students who made the Dean's List in either the spring or fall semester, as well as students who will graduate with honors in May, are recognized.

### **Commencement Weekend—May 17–19, 2012**

Parents of graduating seniors—be sure to reserve these dates for the celebrative activities of Commencement weekend. The weekend begins on Friday evening with a worship service in the Chapel, followed by a free cookout on the Commons lawn. On Saturday morning the graduates are busy with the Senior Breakfast. During this time, parents are invited to attend the Breakfast for Parents



of Graduates; advance purchase of tickets is required. The Commencement ceremony takes place on Saturday in Calvin's Van Noord Arena. Tickets, reserved in advance by the graduates, are required for admission. Additional information about Commencement activities can be found at [www.calvin.edu/commencement](http://www.calvin.edu/commencement).

### **Alumni Association Chapter Events**

There are over 30 chapters of the Calvin Alumni Association across the U.S. and Canada, mostly formed around geographical regions. Volunteers within the alumni chapters plan and sponsor a variety of events; Calvin parents and families are always invited, welcome and encouraged to attend! In addition to The Rivalry events, alumni chapter events provide an excellent opportunity for Calvin parents, alumni and friends to meet, network and participate in the Calvin community within your local area. For information about the Calvin alumni chapter in your area visit the website at [www.calvin.edu/alumni](http://www.calvin.edu/alumni) or call (616) 526-6431.

## **The Parent Fund**

Even though most Calvin parents help pay tuition expenses, many also choose to make an annual gift to the Calvin Parent Fund because they understand that tuition alone does not cover the cost of a Calvin education. Without the generous support from parents and donors, each Calvin student's tuition would be almost \$800 higher per year. Each gift, regardless of the amount, is an investment that ultimately affects the world we live in through our students and graduates. We invite and encourage you to consider a donation to the Calvin Parent Fund as you plan your charitable giving. For additional information contact the development office at (616) 526-6090 or (800) 968-4363 or visit [www.calvin.edu/giving](http://www.calvin.edu/giving).

## **Endowing a Calvin Scholarship**

An endowed scholarship is quite literally a gift that keeps on giving. Increasingly, Calvin parents, alumni and donors are choosing to endow a scholarship to honor a loved one, to encourage students to pursue a particular field of study and to help students access the lifelong benefits of a Calvin education. An endowed scholarship is a wonderful stewardship opportunity for your resources and will benefit generations of students, ensuring a healthy Calvin College for tomorrow. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity please contact Lois Konyndyk at (800) 968-4363 or by e-mail at [namedscholarships@calvin.edu](mailto:namedscholarships@calvin.edu).

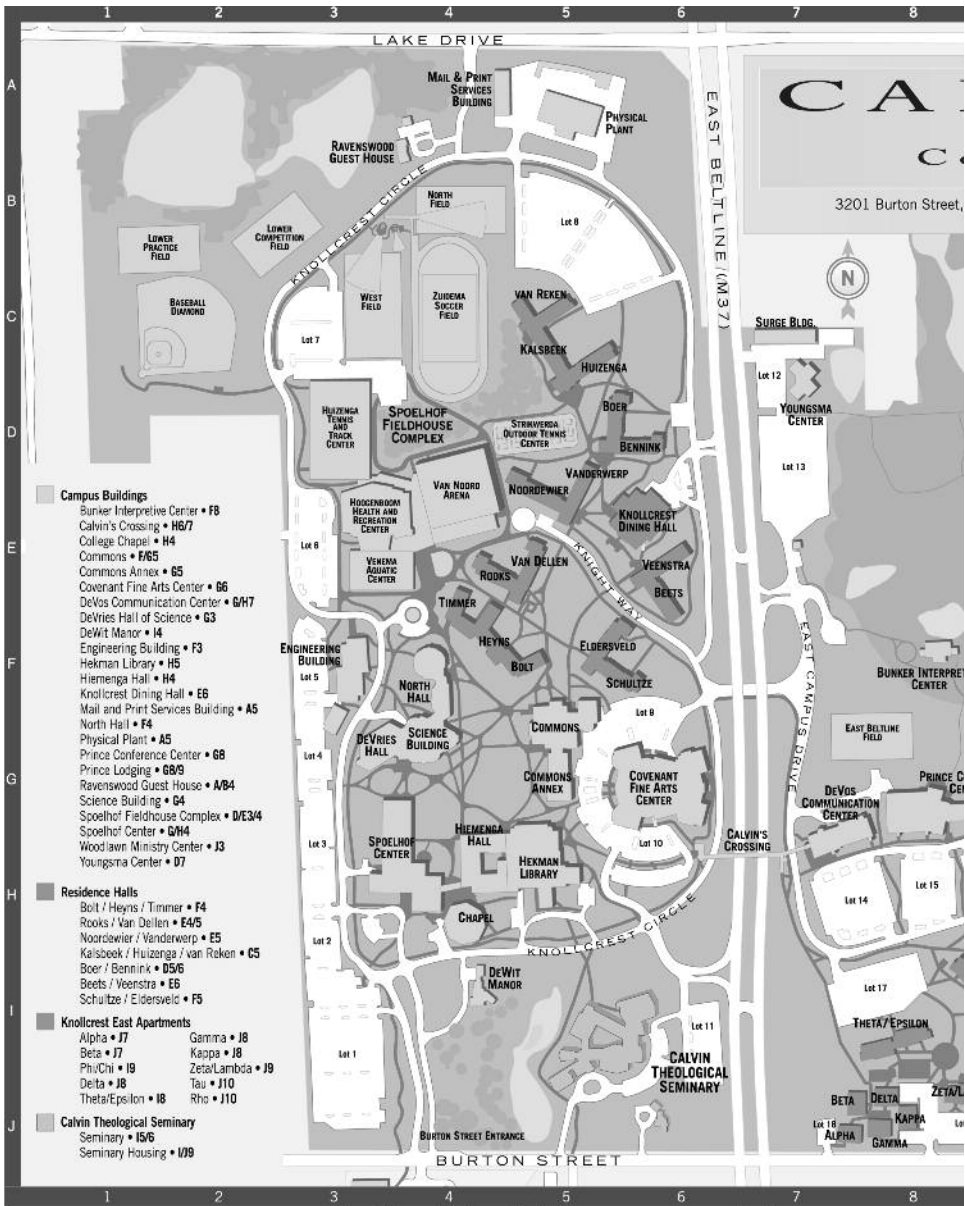
## **New Student Referrals**

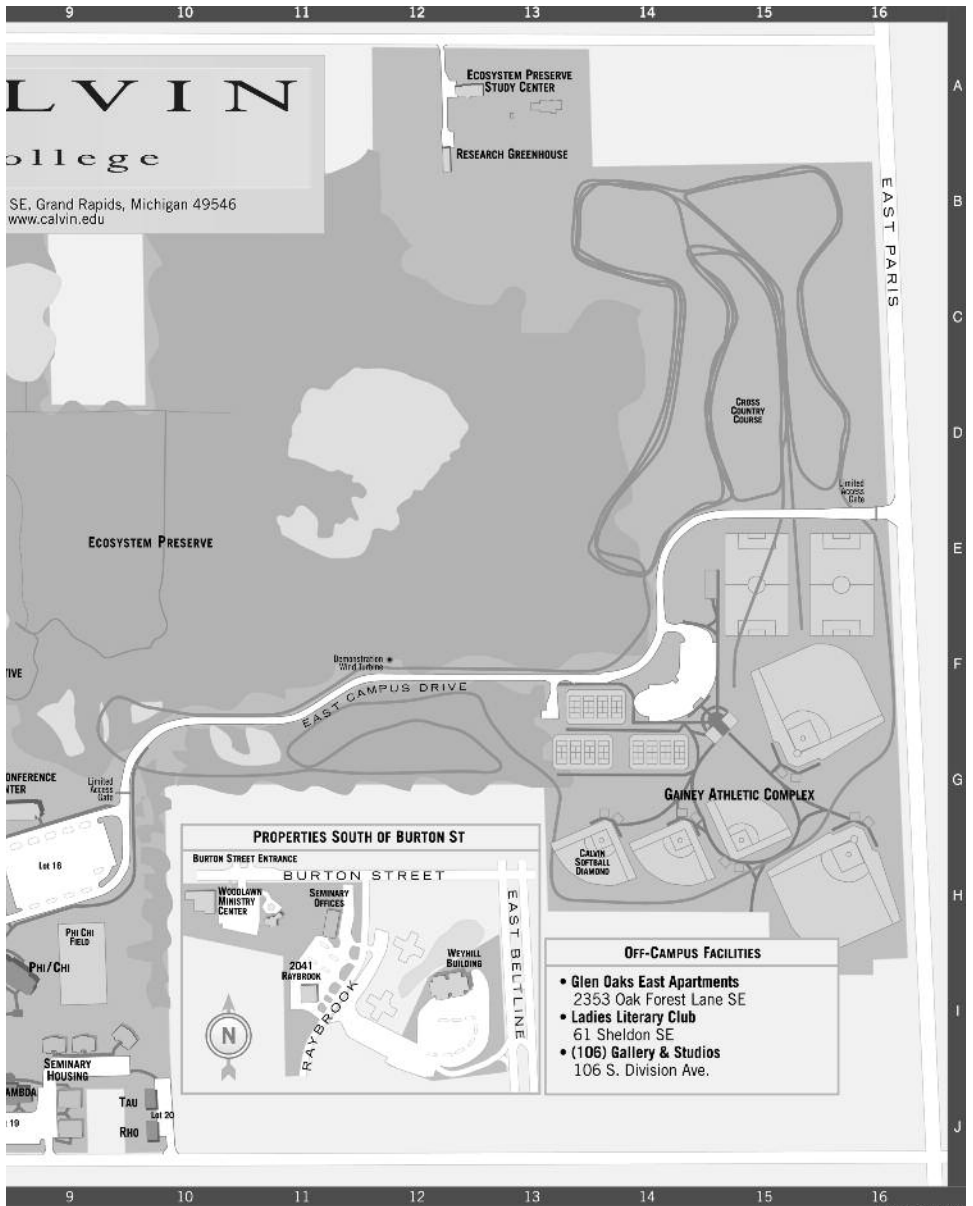
We know that many Calvin parents are in a position to recommend Calvin to a prospective student or parent. We value and encourage your efforts to help us identify prospective students who are a good match with Calvin College. Please consider the high school and potential transfer students who are within your particular sphere of influence—relatives, church families, neighbors, children of co-workers—and consider whether they might benefit from learning more about the opportunities available at Calvin. You can provide the necessary student referral information by calling us at (616) 526-6142, e-mailing us at [parents@calvin.edu](mailto:parents@calvin.edu), or completing our convenient online referral form at [www.calvin.edu/go/recommend](http://www.calvin.edu/go/recommend).

## **Hiring Calvin Grads and Interns**

If you are involved in hiring new employees within your business or organization, please consider partnering with Calvin's career development office to post your job openings and to recruit Calvin graduates and alumni. Additionally, if your organization provides internships, or would like to begin providing internship opportunities, we would love to hear from you! Call (616) 526-6485 or e-mail [career@calvin.edu](mailto:career@calvin.edu) for more information.

# CAMPUS MAP





# GRAND RAPIDS AT A GLANCE

## Location

Grand Rapids is located in southwest Michigan midway between Detroit and Chicago.

## Population

With an estimated population of 193,000, Grand Rapids is the second-largest city in Michigan. The metro region has a population of 1,300,000.

## Hospitals

Spectrum Health (Butterworth and Blodgett campuses), DeVos Children's Hospital, Metropolitan Hospital, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Kent Community Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Forest View Hospital and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services make Grand Rapids the center for medical services for western Michigan.

## Transportation

The Rapid provides citizens with regular bus routes, parking lot shuttles, and dial-a-ride service. Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR), the state's second-largest airport, handles more than 240 flights a day and provides service to over 6,000 passengers each day. Three freight carriers and Amtrak provide rail service. Calvin students can ride the Rapid at reduced cost by getting a bus card from the Service-Learning Center.

## Lodging

The Prince Conference Center on Calvin's campus offers 69 hotel rooms; reservations include a deluxe continental breakfast and airport shuttle service. See [www.calvin.edu/prince](http://www.calvin.edu/prince) for details and request the "Calvin parent" rate when making your reservation. Limited rooms are available for Family Weekend and Commencement; see Grand Rapids' visitors bureau site below for additional hotel options.

## Helpful Web Resources for Grand Rapids

- Gerald R. Ford International Airport: [www.grr.org](http://www.grr.org)
- Grand Rapids' visitors bureau site: [www.experiencegr.com](http://www.experiencegr.com)
- Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce: [www.grandrapids.org](http://www.grandrapids.org)
- Rapid Growth GR: [www.rapidgrowthmedia.com](http://www.rapidgrowthmedia.com)
- West Michigan Tourist Association: [www.wmta.org](http://www.wmta.org)

**CALVIN**  
**College**

*Office of Parent Relations  
Youngsma Center  
3201 Burton Street SE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546*