

DE VRIES INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter October 2022



Matt Lundberg
Director

I recently gave a short presentation at a symposium in Indiana on the mentoring of new faculty at Christian colleges and universities. My basic point was that we need to go beyond looking at new faculty mentoring as mainly a matter of *initiating* new people to our schools, but first and foremost as an act of *inviting* them to bring their much-needed contributions to the life and learning of our educational communities. The whole symposium was a good reminder of just how important mentoring is, both for students and for newer faculty.

After one of the keynote speakers gave a stirring lecture on the importance of mentoring in the lives of young people, a member of the audience asked about how to “scale up” mentoring programs. It was a good question—if mentoring makes a big difference in the lives of students (and faculty), we should want as many of them as possible to encounter wise, committed, encouraging mentors.

But transformative mentoring is not really something that can be “scaled.” It requires time. It requires patience. It requires one-on-one investment in relationships. In other words, good mentoring may be inherently *inefficient*.

Though it’s inefficient, mentoring is worth it, especially if we keep the long-term well-being of our schools in mind. For Christians involved in higher education, giving of our time, sharing our stories, and listening carefully to the hopes, struggles, disappointments, and dreams of newer members of our communities is a way to live the academic life as an act of faith, a way to love one another.

Welcome to Calvin's Postdoctoral Fellows

The de Vries Institute has been honored to play a leading role in a new postdoc program at Calvin University. The de Vries Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship provides an opportunity for newly minted Ph.Ds across various academic disciplines to gain vital teaching experience and participate in an intentional professional development sequence focused on undergraduate instruction and scholarship.

We ended up hiring four scholars for 2022-24. They are currently teaching undergrad classes at Calvin and meeting weekly with dVI director Matt Lundberg to explore issues related to teaching, scholarship, and the broader scholarly vocation, with focus on the role of Christian faith in the academic calling. For example, recently the cohort heard from a [panel of experienced Calvin faculty](#) about how to teach sensitive topics effectively and faithfully. Learn more about this program [here](#), and meet the inaugural cohort:



Tucker Adkins (History) recently earned his Ph.D from Florida State University. He is a historian of religion in early America, with particular interest in lay religious experience in the eighteenth-century British Atlantic world.



Michael Dirksen (Politics) is nearly finished with his Ph.D work at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He studies the intersection of water and politics in a variety of contexts; he looks specifically at how water is priced and distributed, and how political parties differ in how they make those decisions.



Joseph Shin (Philosophy) recently earned his Ph.D from the University of Michigan. His research interests lie at the intersection of ethics, moral psychology, and epistemology.



Jae Yang (Religion) recently earned his Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary. His teaching and research interests include systematic (more specifically, modern) theology, the theology of Wolfhart Pannenberg, public theology, and Asian American studies/theology.

Calvin Digital Commons

Ever looking for documents like working papers, conference papers, master's theses, etc? [Calvin Digital Commons](#), a service of Hekman Library, serves as an online institutional repository for Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary. This resource houses a wide variety of digitized archival material related to the university, seminary, and the Christian Reformed Church. The repository incorporates work by individuals, teams, and programs across the [many fields of teaching, learning, and scholarship](#). Hekman Library provides this service as part of a commitment to public scholarship. It seeks to communicate the intellectual and artistic vitality of a Christian faith informed by the Reformed theological tradition. As a new initiative from the Calvin community, this digital resource will be growing quickly over time. Keep checking it out when you're looking for scholarly materials.



De Vries Institute for Global Faculty Development

Helping Christian academics around the world integrate faith and learning in transformative ways.
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Calvin University School of Business Grand Opening

Calvin celebrated the opening of a new [School of Business](#) building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept 14. "We are delighted to open the School of Business doors to the west Michigan community," said Jim Ludema, dean of the school. "We see this as a space where business leaders, faculty, students, and alumni will



a space where business leaders, faculty, students, and alumni will gather to explore and collaborate in ways that inspire innovation and ethical business practices. Its state-of-the-art technology and building design will enable us to further advance our position as a global leader in Christian business education.”

The School of Business at Calvin was established following a \$22.25 million anonymous gift. Approximately half of the gift was used to build the 15,000-square foot building. The remaining funding will support growth initiatives, serving as a catalyst for academic programs intended to serve new populations of students at Calvin. The School of Business recently launched new offerings both at the graduate and undergraduate levels, along with a new incubator, the **Calvin Startup Garage**. Among these new offerings is a program in **supply chain management**, which is a timely new opportunity in view of the changing shape of the global economy.

“We are excited to continue to expand our offerings as we meet the needs of the market,” said Wiebe Boer, president of Calvin University. “Whether one is seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree or a certificate in business, what they will find at Calvin are excellent faculty, many of whom came from Fortune 500 companies, who are ready to equip students with Christian business principles and ethics for an ever-changing business landscape. This new building now provides an incredible space for our students to learn, network, grow, and excel as future business leaders.”

Calvin continues to emphasize business practices from a Christian perspective, such as prioritizing people over profits. We're excited to watch faith-guided approaches to business transform the lives of our graduates and those they interact with in the business community.



Upcoming Event



On October 18, the de Vries Institute is delighted to host Ted Lewis of the University of Minnesota Duluth, who will be conducting a faculty and staff workshop at Calvin on restorative practices in relation to situations of student academic dishonesty. Just as the criminal justice system can benefit from a shift from a retributive to a restorative mindset, so also can faculty members as they address situations of plagiarism and cheating with students. Lewis will present a series of models that show how restorative practices can transform how we hold students accountable for their actions and help them to learn from their mistakes.

Lewis is a restorative consultant and mediator for the Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He is also founder and coordinator of the [Restorative Church](#) project. His other activities in the area of restorative justice include service on the board of directors of the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice and as series editor for Wipf & Stock Publishers' Restorative Justice Classics series.

Self-Paced Reflecting Faith Courses

While participating in Reflecting Faith courses as a cohort and led by an instructor is valuable (ask the more than 100 Belmont University faculty who are taking Reflecting Faith courses together this fall), being able to access the coursework on demand and according to your own timeline is also helpful sometimes. Look for a discounted version of all Reflecting Faith courses to be available on-demand soon. Visit [reflecting.faith](#) to keep an eye on course registration information.

Reading Recommendations from Faith & Learning Fellows

One of the central programs of the de Vries Institute on Calvin's campus is a two installment Faith & Learning Fellowship for newer faculty members. Typically completed during their 2nd and 4th years of service on the Calvin faculty, these fellows participate in a program of mentorship, guided reading, cohort discussion, and independent reading and writing. We recently asked one of our 2022 4th Year "Fellows" to pass along a reading suggestion:

- Sung Soo Lim (Economics): "One book I enjoyed reading was *The Economy of Desire* by Daniel Bell Jr. This thought-provoking book enables readers to view capitalism through the lens of Christ."

Other Calvin University Centers & Institutes: The *Henry Institute*

The [Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics](#) contributes to the work of integrating Christian faith and politics advanced by its namesake, educator and public servant Paul B. Henry. The Institute is dedicated to providing resources for scholarship, encouraging citizen involvement and education, structuring opportunities to disseminate scholarly work, seeking avenues to communicate and promote information about Christianity and public life to the broader public, and motivating and training future scholars and leaders.

The Henry Institute is interested in how local churches mobilize citizens, ways that religious faith influences regional and national elections, and what it takes for believers to intervene in international affairs, among myriad other topics. Stepping back from day-to-day political chatter, it brings excellent scholars and other public thinkers into thoughtful public conversation. It is particularly dedicated to shaping a new generation of scholars and public servants who understand their work as a Christian calling. Henry Institute director Micah Watson has recently been involved in a class on American politics being broadcast in Ukraine, which includes some Ukrainian soldiers on the front taking the class.

Follow the [Henry Institute's podcast](#), where you'll hear interesting conversations on an array of topics related to faith and politics, including an upcoming episode featuring the de Vries Institute's director Matt Lundberg talking about his recent book on Christian faith and war.

DVI Team Member Profile: Margie Styf

Margie Styf is the administrative assistant for the de Vries Institute, although the institute only gets a third of her time, since she also serves on several other teams. We asked her a few questions to get to know her better.

How long have you been at Calvin University, and what roles have you held over the years?

I've been at Calvin for nearly 7 years, hired in as the part-time administrative assistant for the [Political Science department](#) and the coordinator for the Model UN program. I also temporarily supported the [Speech Pathology](#) and [Communication](#) departments at different times. In 2021, I moved over to the de Vries Institute [CCCS/The Calvin Press](#) and [Calvin Global Campus](#) and started working full-time



Vries Institute, CCCS/The Calvin Press, and Calvin Global Campus and started working full-time.



Margie Styf
administrative assistant

Describe the work you do for Calvin now

I am pretty much interruption driven. As requests and assignments come in that is what I do. My work for de Vries ranges from tracking the budget, helping pull the Kuyper Conference together, coordinating the Reflecting Faith platform, ordering books, to managing the mail list. My responsibilities for the other centers/teams that I work for mirror a number of the things that I do for de Vries so I am not totally relearning systems, just applying them to each assignment. Matching needs with resources is what I do a lot of.

What do you like best about your job?

It is the most fun when I am able to give someone an answer that they are looking for or make their job easier.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Depends on the day, but I do enjoy a good book and sitting in the sunshine.

Contact us

Have a question? Contact dvi@calvin.edu.

