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Micah Watson, Director
Ellen Lanser Hekman
Program Coordinator /
Newsletter Editor

www.henry.calvin.edu/
616.526.6870
email: henry@calvin.edu
Hiemenga Hall
3201 Burton St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

-  facebook.com/HenryInstitute
-  [Twitter: @henry_institute](https://twitter.com/@henry_institute)
-  vimeo.com/channels/henryinstitute

Institute (Re-)Opens for Business

The busy-ness of the summer of 2021 stands in stark contrast to the sort of busy-ness many of us experienced in the summer of 2020. Most travel and academic events were canceled last summer, and we were prepping to make the best of things in a very different classroom environment. Until recently, I had hoped and even expected that this upcoming Fall would mark a “return to normal.” I still hope, but my expectations have been tempered to say the least.

Still, this summer I was fortunate enough to engage in a number of trips, talks, and seminars, and in so doing took Calvin and the Henry Institute on the road: teaching a class on justice for our students in the Calvin Prison Initiative in Ionia, Michigan; an afternoon seminar on religious liberty with up-and-coming young scholars in Dallas, Texas; a paper presentation with a former student and very lively debate with fellow panelists on criminal justice at a conference in Nashville; a talk on C.S. Lewis here in Grand Rapids; a week-long seminar on Plato and Aristotle with gifted high school students in New Jersey, and another conference presentation on the future of evangelical political thought in San Diego with colleagues from Westmont and Wheaton.

This last event continues what has been something of a theme for the Henry Institute: the relationship between evangelical Christianity and political life. The Institute’s founding director and Senior Research Fellow, Corwin Smidt, is a recognized expert on evangelical politics and continues an active publishing and speaking regimen on the subject. My predecessor Kevin den Dulk has published scores of articles and given several talks on evangelicalism and populism, legal reform, GOP politics, and more. And it would be difficult to overestimate Senior Research Fellow Rich Mouw’s contributions, not only for understanding evangelicalism as an object of study, but also helping self-identifying evangelicals who seek to live faithfully amidst a particularly disruptive and difficult season.

Part of this difficult season has been the self-inflicted wounds from evangelical institutions and elites. One can read about these wounds from the critical historical perspective of my colleague Kristin Kobes Du Mez as chronicled in her *Jesus and John Wayne* book, or the more internal perspective of *Christianity Today’s* “The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill” podcast. I am actively working

with my fellow political theorists Jesse Covington (Westmont) and Bryan McGraw (Wheaton) on a project considering the “future of evangelical political thought”. We begin with the assumption that, despite the difficulty of defining them with academic precision, evangelicals are a definitive group, and that one factor contributing to a tumultuous relationship with the political is their lack of a biblically grounded tradition of political thought.

Jesse, Bryan, and I are working on an approach that draws from the traditional evangelical commitment to scripture as well as the broader Christian tradition of natural law. We hope to provide resources for pastors and laypeople as they think and act with regard to earthly citizenship as informed by our citizenship in the kingdom of God. This will sound like a tall order to many inside and outside of evangelicalism, though it’s an endeavor worth pursuing, given the costs of an ad hoc approach to both political efficacy and gospel witness. And, I’m comforted that we’re in good company – Paul Henry himself promoted natural law thinking as consonant with biblical faith and witness, writing his doctoral dissertation on the topic and addressing the subject in later writings in his career (and disagreeing with his father’s dismissive attitude toward

natural law to boot!). This project is one modest way the Henry Institute “promotes serious reflection on the interplay between Christianity and public life.” But if it’s not your cup of tea, there are many other

things going on this year as we ramp up our programming again while keeping a close eye on Covid. We are sponsoring students serving as research assistants to Calvin faculty, hosting lectures and book events throughout the year, supporting programming for Politics, Philosophy, and Economics students, and from April 7-9 we hope to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Henry Institute by hosting another Henry Symposium here in Grand Rapids. We are grateful for your interest in and support of the Henry Institute and the work of Calvin University. Given the contours of our faith and the difficult realities of life together in a fallen world, this work is as timely as the principles that undergird it are timeless. ~



*Henry Institute
Director Micah Watson*

“The relationship between evangelical Christianity and political life has been something of a theme for the Institute.”

—Micah Watson

Dr. Jordan Ballor has been appointed as Associate Director of the Henry Institute for the 2021-22 academic year. He holds a Doktorat in Theologie from Universität Zürich, and a PhD from Calvin Theological Seminary. Ballor has written extensively, both books and articles, about Abraham Kuyper, reformed theology, faith and economics, and much more. His interest in the intersection of Christianity and political economy, as well as his work in the area of Reformed public theology correspond to the Institute’s mission to examine and promote the role of religion in public life.

“I see the Henry Institute as a significant convener of necessary conversations in the academy as well as society more broadly,” noted Ballor. “A meaningful part of this conversation involves the distinction between the mandate of the institutional church and how we, as individual Christians, are called to follow Christ in our

“It is an honor to help advance the critically important mission of the Henry Institute
—Jordan Ballor

daily lives. In my view, this distinction is absolutely essential to addressing the manifold challenges we face today. I believe that the relationship between

gospel proclamation in all its dimensions and faithfulness – individually as well as institutionally – is key.”

In his role as Associate Director, Ballor will be actively involved in the Institute’s work to sponsor a number of events. He will continue his ongoing research, writing and scholarship, will meet periodically with students in discussion groups and other settings, and will coordinate the Kuyper Conference at Calvin in the spring.

“I look forward to working with Jordan closely in this formal role within the Institute,” said Institute Director Micah Watson. “We have collaborated on numerous projects and had ongoing discussions about matters related to reformed faith, economics, Kuyper, and other topics – all resulting in thought-provoking conversations. I have no doubt that this new relationship will be fruitful and positive.”

“I am enthusiastic about joining the Henry Institute in a capacity that will allow for greater collaboration and coherence with my work as coordinator of the Kuyper Conference, as well as my own broader research program,” said Ballor. “It is an honor to help advance the critically important mission of the Institute.” ~



Institute Helps Fund Research for Upcoming Publication

Two Calvin students have spent this summer assisting with research for a forthcoming book by Calvin University’s Doug Koopman and Wheaton College’s Amy Black, tentatively titled *Once No People: Trusting Pluralism in a Chosen Nation*.

Abigail Ham and John Hong worked with Koopman and Black as part of Calvin’s McGregor Scholars program, with funding supplied by the Henry Institute to support the summer work. The students helped to complete initial research and shape the themes included in the book, which explores what it has meant through history and today to have a religious nation that, for the most part, tolerates a variety of faith perspectives within and beyond

Authors Amy Black and Doug Koopman



Christianity. The volume is tentatively scheduled for publication in the fall of 2022 through Cambridge Press.

According to Koopman, “We think that a good way to view American civil religion is as a dinner table, with different religious traditions having a chair or place-setting at that table – provided they can accept, and are accepted by, those already at the table. Mainline Protestants, Evangelical Protestants, the Black Church, Catholics, and other religious traditions have had places at that table – most, but not all, since America’s founding. One way to look at the Catholic experience, for example, is that they lost some ground during the early 19th century, and slowly made their way back to full acceptance in the 1950s. Today’s interesting questions are about the unaffiliated/seculars. With nearly half of Americans not having any church affiliation or self-identifying as secular, do they get a place at the table? With both a historical and contemporary

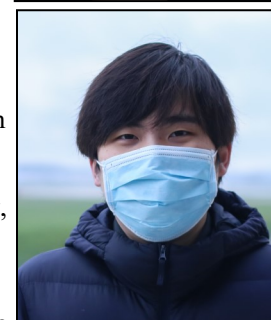
eye, the book explores the nation’s faith traditions and their intersections with politics and culture, civil religion, and other tensions that shape the intersection of religion and politics.”

During her summer work, Abigail Ham focused on exploring information related to the ‘nones’ as a group of unaffiliated and secular citizens. Ham (who will be a junior at Calvin this fall) is from Vermont and is majoring in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) and Writing, with minors in Classics and Sociology. She noted, “Through my research, I learned how to analyze data and increased my familiarity with research databases, gaining exposure to a wide variety of perspectives on American political life from various disciplines, including political science, sociology, theology, philosophy, economics, history, and psychology. The work affirmed my decision to select an interdisciplinary major.”

John Hong is from South Korea (will be a Calvin senior in the fall) and is majoring in International Relations with minors in Economics and Data Science. “I enjoyed being part of the process of academic writing, being able to see collaboration firsthand,” said Hong. “I was also able to learn about the nuanced role religion has played in United States history, both being affected by and affecting the political culture – something I wouldn’t have been able to really focus on without being part of this research project.”

Funding to support a student research assistant for the project will continue through the upcoming academic year, due to a generous donation to the Institute from Lyle and Barb Voskuil. ~

Student Researchers Abigail Ham and John Hong



Summer Filled with Sessions and Teaching for Institute Director

Henry Institute Executive Director Micah Watson was actively involved in numerous conferences and events across the country during the summer months involving students, academic groups, seminars and teaching.



Sam Poortenga

At the beginning of the summer, Watson presented a paper with Sam Poortenga, a former Calvin honors student who majored in Political Science and Economics and is now attending the University of Michigan Law School. *Rehabilitative Retribution: Human Dignity & Respect in Criminal Justice* drew much of its content from Poortenga's undergraduate honors thesis at Calvin, with an examination of theories of criminal justice. "My paper was originally prompted by both my volunteer efforts with the Calvin Prison

Initiative and from reading an essay by C.S. Lewis," noted Poortenga. "The opportunity to co-author a paper on those same topics with Dr. Watson (himself a Lewis scholar and a teacher for the Calvin Prison Initiative) was an excellent way to continue to pursue a more philosophical view of some of the things I am now learning in law school. The relationships between faculty and students is something that I valued most about my time at Calvin. It is very rewarding to be able to continue that mentoring and interaction beyond graduation."

Watson then traveled to New Jersey, where he taught a summer session for high school seniors at the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton. *Moral Life and the Classical Tradition* is a week-long program for rising high school juniors and seniors. The coursework includes a focus on ancient philosophical traditions and how they contribute to our lives today. Last summer's pandemic caused the cancellation of the annual event, so this year's program included participants from last year and those selected for the 2021 session. Earlier in the year, Watson also taught a three-session online program on Alexis de Tocqueville for high school students through the Witherspoon Institute's November session.

As part of the Acton Institute's Acton University four-day conference in late June, Watson presented a session on *C.S. Lewis, Law, and Liberty*. According to Watson, contrary to conventional wisdom, Lewis had a lot to say about law and politics, and the lecture explored Lewis's views on criminal justice and the natural

law. The Acton Institute explores the intersection between faith and free markets, and Acton U is designed to explore how citizens can connect good intentions with sound economics.

Mid-summer found Watson in Texas leading a session for the Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy's *Seminar on Religious Liberty and Constitutional Law*. The Center annually hosts a group of fellows over the summer to work on significant research projects with scholars; each week, the fellows have assigned readings and attend a seminar led by visiting guests. As part of the 2021 program, Watson led a session considering John Locke's *Letter Concerning Toleration* and several related Supreme Court cases.

At the American Enterprise Institute's Summer Faculty Retreat in San Diego, Watson was invited to present a plenary session on *The Future of Evangelical Political Thought*, with Jesse Covington (Westmont College) and Bryan McGraw (Wheaton College), continuing a long-term collaborative relationship between the three academics. They are currently working on a book of the same topic.

In addition to these presentations, Watson also taught *Foundations of Political Community* for the Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI). The CPI is a unique program that partners Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary with the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan. Twenty



Watson teaching at the Witherspoon Institute

prisoners from around Michigan are chosen annually to enroll in the 5-year Christian liberal arts program, culminating in a bachelor of arts degree in Faith and Community Leadership. Eighty-four inmates are currently enrolled in the program, taking the same liberal arts core courses as students on Calvin's campus, along with additional courses specifically related to faith and community leadership.

Watson reported that "it was a busy but rewarding summer. I enjoyed teaching and presenting to individuals from a broad age range, from different backgrounds, and with a variety of opinions. From teaching bright, eager high school students about Plato and Aristotle, to considering political and moral controversies with Handlon Prison students, to sharing my passion for C.S. Lewis with other scholars, my summer provided excellent opportunities to explore ideas and concepts that inform our faithful citizenship in the divine city while still here in the earthly cities God has called us to. ~

[For more about the Calvin Prison Initiative: <https://calvin.edu/prison-initiative/>]

Upcoming Conference:

Christian Teaching and Learning for the Common Good

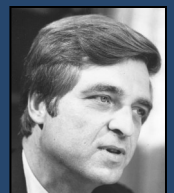
Registration is open for the first Kuyers Institute/International Network for Christian Higher Education (INCHE) online mini-conference on *Christian Teaching and Learning for the Common Good*, from October 6-8, 2021. Join conference participants for three plenary talks, including one live talk each day which will be recorded and available to registrants after the event. There will also be Q&A sessions and informal opportunities to talk with colleagues online.

For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/3s3aYau>, and scroll to the blue button noting: Register Now on Whova. This link also contains registration information for the conference.

The Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics

The Henry Institute is a research and civic engagement center that focuses on the interplay of faith and public life. Founded at Calvin University in 1997, the Institute is dedicated to convening scholars and practitioners, encouraging high-quality research and active public commentary, and fostering citizen involvement through public outreach and education.

We are inspired in our work by the life and legacy of educator and public servant Paul B. Henry, who committed his life to seeking justice through his deeply held convictions and thoughtful practice. ~





With the start of a new academic year in the fall of 2020 that was accompanied by significant restrictions on face-to-face events, Henry Institute staff began to think about additional alternative programming. The resulting *Henry Conversations* podcast series provides interesting and thought-provoking exchanges between

Institute Director Micah Watson and featured guests from across the political and religious spectrum considering timely – and timeless – issues related to faith, politics, and culture.

Five podcasts have been released, with plans to continue the series in the fall. The podcasts are available on several platforms, including Spotify and Apple, with links included at the end of this article.

For the first conversation, Watson interviewed Calvin Professor Dr. James Skillen (Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies, Global Development Studies and Director of Calvin’s Ecosystem Preserve). Skillen’s recently published book *This Land is My Land: Rebellion in the West* was the subject of their discussion, considering the history of militant resistance to federal authority in the Western United States. The conversation provides helpful context on how ordinary political conflict can become radicalized and makes for a timely contribution to understanding the events that occurred in Washington D.C. on January 6th.

Professor Susan McWilliams Barndt of Pomona College joined Watson for the second recording. The two covered a range of topics including why people are attracted to QAnon, the link between stories and politics, and whether it still makes sense to speak of an American identity.

The next episode featured Robert P. George of Princeton University in a discussion of the true meaning of American exceptionalism, the future of the Democratic and Republican parties, and friendship across deep political and moral difference.

Dr. Josh Packard (Executive Director of Springtide Research Institute) was the featured guest for the fourth recorded podcast. Packard and Watson considered Springtide’s research into the religious views and practices of young people, the consequence of those views for professors and clergy who work with young adults, increasing skepticism about reliable information and news, and whether social sciences can contribute to and alleviate that suspicion.

The final session recorded was a conversation with Nathan Leamer, Calvin University alumnus who is the Vice President of Targeted Victory. He worked with FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai prior to his current position, and the podcast discussion included Leamer’s work in tech policy, pros and cons of technology, the Federal Communications Commission, and what it means to be a faithful Christian witness in the fields of big tech, public policy, and politics. ~

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5BNQRpgwBn6K19kVatc2DE>

Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/henry-conversations/id1552909928>

Senior Research Fellows Active Through Year

Corwin Smidt has continued his career long after his official 2012 retirement from the position as Director of the Henry Institute and a professor of Political Science at Calvin University. He immediately joined the Institute as a Senior Research Fellow, and his ongoing research and involvement in issues pertaining to faith and public life is evidenced by regular writing, consultation, interviews, and speaking engagements. Some of his activities during the past year include:

- Authorship of two journal articles (for *Politics and Religion* and *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*)
- Media Interviews with Faith Colloquium, the British Broadcasting Service, the Associated Press, *Deseret News* and the Dutch Newspaper *Reformatorisch Dagblad*
- Serving on the Advisory Board for the Political Studies Forum in Romania and on the Editorial Board for the *Review of Religious Research*
- Reviewing one book and eleven manuscripts for *The Reformed Journal*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Sociological Forum*, *Journal of Church and State*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, Palgrave Press, Columbia University Press, and Temple University Press, as well as other publishers
- Delivering a 4-part lecture series on the 2020 Presidential Election for the Calvin Academy of Lifelong Learning, and a lecture on *Religion, Civic Morality, and Democratic Life* for the University of the West in Romania



Richard Mouw has served as a Senior Research Fellow for the Henry Institute since the fall of 2020, a position he assumed after formally retiring as the Director of the Institute of Faith and Public Life at Fuller Theological Seminary, where he was also President Emeritus. His first year of affiliation with the Institute included considerable activity, including:

- Completion of *How to be a Patriotic Christian* (forthcoming from InterVarsity Press in 2022)
- Participating in webinars, seminars and podcasts on issues relating to electoral campaigns for various congregations, pastors’ groups, and a denominational gathering
- Teaching a course on *Political Discipleship* for the Calvin Academy of Lifelong Learning
- Serving on two PhD defense committees and mentoring five Fuller Theological Seminary doctoral students as they progress through the final stages of their dissertation projects
- Media interviews with *Christianity Today*, *Christian Post*, *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and the *Economist*, and also writing two op-ed pieces for the *Dallas Morning News*
- Serving on an interfaith panel on Muslim-Evangelical cooperation in public life, working with the Evangelical Theological Society ~

“The Henry Institute is very fortunate to have these two renowned Christian scholars working with us. Both are known as experts on faith, politics, and public life on a broad scale. Their dedication to a life of exploring the intersection of faith and life is exemplary, and they clearly contribute to the mission of the Henry Institute.”

—Institute Director Micah Watson

Providing Faculty Research Assistance and Promoting Student Opportunities

Beginning in 2015 when the Henry Institute founded the Civitas Lab, we have fostered student learning and promoted scholarship by providing financial support for research projects that paired a faculty mentor with student research assistants. The Institute's goal of stimulating scholarship, encouraging student development, and understanding the interaction of faith and public life was enhanced for more than 100 Calvin University students and 17 Calvin faculty members through these years. The Civitas Lab was an outgrowth of the Institute's earlier Student Research Fellow initiatives, which started in 2003, demonstrating the Henry Institute's commitment to providing faculty research assistance and promoting student opportunities with a total of 18 years of programming and financial support. Last summer's Henry Institute newsletter included former student participants' perspectives as they reflected on how their participation in the Civitas Lab had impacted their life and path after Calvin. For this year's edition, we focus on comments about the value of the Civitas Lab from several of the professors who have participated regularly in the program.



Jason VanHorn (Geography) Kevin den Dulk (Global Campus; Political Science)



The Civitas Lab through the Henry Institute has been vital to the initial and ongoing success of our cross-disciplinary research on Restorative Justice. Over the last five years, we have worked with Calvin University students to build a mapping application to assist citizens who are returning from prison (<https://gis.calvin.edu/re>). Not only has this benefited those we serve, our students have learned rich research skills, used their knowledge to springboard into influential positions beyond Calvin, and interfaced with numerous public officials, especially within the Michigan Department of Corrections and engaged public servants interested in criminal justice reform and improving offender success as they re-enter into society. Without the Civitas Lab and the dedicated mission of the Henry Institute to communicate and promote information about Christianity and public life, this project would have been impossible. On behalf of the many students and faculty who have worked on this project, we want to express our deepest appreciation for the formation of the Civitas Lab and its ongoing efforts.

Former student researcher updates: Julie Bylsma is using her extensive GIS skills to map health disparities and outcomes for a large health network; Jason Entingh is teaching English and working on community development initiatives while on a Fulbright Scholarship in Bulgaria; Skyler Rich formed his own non-profit to work on restorative justice efforts; Annalane Miller is a research assistant for a crisis/emergency consulting firm; Jennifer Randall is working with a community NGO.

Jesse Holcomb (English; Communication)

Some academics are specialists, but my interests and projects are all over the place. Over the past few years, the Civitas Lab has become a place that has helped tie all these threads together and anchor them in one place. Through Civitas Lab, I've been able to recruit and work with some of Calvin's brightest student scholars, and in the process, build a little bit of community too. Since 2018, my Civitas Lab research assistants and I have designed survey questions for the Gallup/Knight Foundation's Trust, Media and Democracy research program; studied the information needs of American parents of color as they navigate a K-12 education system disrupted by a pandemic; and fielded the largest study to date on the emerging nonprofit journalism sector. This work, and this community, have been tremendously rewarding.

Former student researcher updates: Yejae Kim is currently doing research with the Center for Social Research; Ivanna Rodriguez Lobo has worked as a Legal Analytics intern for the ACLU and is a Data Analyst at the University of Michigan Youth Policy Lab.



Kristin Kobes DuMez (History; Gender Studies)



"How were you able to do the immense amount of research required to write this book?" This is a question I'm frequently asked when speaking about *Jesus and John Wayne*, and I'm always eager to answer it because the answer is simple: my research assistants. Through the Civitas Lab program, I was able to work with three student researchers for more than two years. They provided meticulous and essential research support that resulted in a deeply researched historical narrative that has reached more than 100,000 readers across the world in its first year of publication. They also provided a sense of community as we slogged through difficult research and often dark stories of corruption and abuse. Not only did my research assistants make this book possible, but they also gained experience and skills they took with them after they graduated from Calvin. It has been an absolute joy to watch each of them find their own personal and professional paths, and I am enormously grateful to them – and to the Civitas program – for the essential role they played in my own work.

Former student researcher updates: Kelly Loomans is about to embark on graduate studies in data science and public policy at Georgetown University. Josh Parks completed a master's at Western Michigan University and is beginning graduate work at Princeton Theological Seminary. He has also continued to publish work based on the research he did as part of the Civitas project and is considering writing a related book. Kathryn Post finished graduate work at Harvard Divinity School and accepted a religion journalist position at *Religion News Service*.

Mark Mulder (Sociology)



The Civitas Lab has been crucial in sustaining the research for the *Rust Belt Religion* project – a study that considers rural identity and how it might intersect with faith commitments. The students I have had the opportunity to work with have done everything from unearthing Marquette University polling data, to transcription of interviews, to coding and analysis. Through their good work and critical thinking, they have helped refine the contours of the research and made it both more accessible and interesting. It's my hope that Elena, Eleanor, Karolyn, and Elias have glimpsed both the grind and the deep satisfaction of doing social science research through their Civitas Lab work.

Former student researcher updates: Elena Van Stee is currently in the Sociology PhD program at University of Pennsylvania; Karolyn DeKam works with the Office of Social Justice for a protestant church denomination.

Dr. Richard Mouw to Deliver Next Paul B. Henry Lecture

The Henry Institute is pleased to announce that Dr. Richard Mouw will be the featured speaker for the upcoming Henry Lecture, which will be held in April of 2022.

Mouw retired from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2020, after serving as the President, teaching at the institution, and directing Fuller's Institute of Faith and Public Life. Prior to his time at Fuller, Mouw was a Philosophy professor at Calvin

University, where he began the five decades that he dedicated to his academic career. He is now a Senior Research Fellow for the Henry Institute, continuing his work and research within



the context of Reformed political thought.

Mouw's longstanding background and connections with the Henry Institute date back to the early 1970's as then Calvin professor Mouw helped recruit Paul Henry to teach at Calvin. When Henry joined the Political Science Department at the college, the two became good friends and worked together on several projects during their time at the institution. Both

Mouw and Henry eventually left Calvin as Mouw moved to Fuller Theological Seminary and Paul Henry began his full-time political career, but they stayed in touch through the years until Henry's

untimely death in 1993.

"I am pleased to be on the staff of a research center established to honor Paul's contributions to the Kingdom, and I'm honored to be asked to give this annual lecture, which recognizes his vision of integrating the Christian faith into public life," said Mouw.

The 2022 Henry Lecture will be given in conjunction with the Institute's biennial Symposium on Religion and Public Life [see related article below]. While the event date has not been finalized, the lecture will be held the evening of April 7 or 8, on the Calvin University campus. More details will be published on the Institute webpage as they become available. Recordings of many of the prior Henry Lectures are also available on the website.

~
<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/programs/paul-b-henry-lecture/index.html>

Past Henry Lecturers include...

Senator Mark Hatfield
 Senator Paul Simon
 Senator Dan Coats
 Congressman John Lewis
 Representative Paul Hillemonds
 Stephen Monsma
 Tim Goeglein
 Robert Edgar

Allen Hertzke
 John DiIulio
 Michael McConnell
 Dean Koldenhoven
 Michael Cromartie
 Michael Gerson
 David Campbell
 Beth Bandstra Decker

Corwin Smidt
 Joshua DuBois
 Ross Douthat
 Ben Sasse
 Melissa Rogers
 Faith, Democracy and the Media panel
 including Michael McCurry, Elizabeth Dias, Emma Green, Amy Sullivan, and Ken Woodward

Symposium on Religion and Public Life to Return in April 2022



Due to pandemic restrictions during 2021, the Henry Institute's biennial Symposium on Religion and Public Life was not held this past spring but has been rescheduled for April 7-9, 2022. The event will include roundtables and panels on a wide variety of topics, as well as sessions with academic scholars presenting their research. We will also commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Henry Institute with some special guests and events, including a remembrance of Paul Henry.

The Symposium regularly includes special evening lectures by prominent thinkers and practitioners and will feature the annual 2022 Henry Lecture, with Dr. Richard Mouw as the guest speaker.

The Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life is held biennially at the Prince Conference Center on the campus of Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The event provides opportunities to share current research, foster personal and professional networks, facilitate joint research endeavors, and learn about research opportunities in the field.



Attendance at the Symposium is open to anyone interested in the intersection of religion and public life.

The Symposium will be directly preceded by the annual Kuyper Conference which is scheduled for April 5-7, and will feature sessions that promote a broad exploration, engagement, and development of the legacy of Dutch Reformed theologian and statesman Abraham Kuyper and the tradition he helped to form (commonly known as Neo-Calvinism). Speakers will address the impact of this tradition on theology and public life today across the globe.

The Call for Papers for both the Henry Institute Symposium on Religion and Public Life and for the Kuyper Conference will be released in the fall, and registration will

open in early 2022. Additional information about sessions and lectures will be available at the Henry Institute website, and registration details will also be included there. ~

<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/programs/symposium/index.html>



Ten students braved Washington D.C. in spite of significant COVID restrictions to participate in the annual Semester in Washington D.C. Program during the spring. They experienced a very different semester than Calvin students usually encounter but reported that their 13

around the city, getting oriented and comfortable with Washington. But with everything closed at the beginning of the 2021 program, those visits and traveling was pushed to the end of the semester. By mid-March, restaurants were beginning to serve at partial capacity, several museums had opened with lowered attendance allowances, and as temperatures rose, more outdoor activities became possible.



Group visiting Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson

week-long experience in the city was valuable and worthwhile. When the group arrived at the end of January, the city was enforcing significant masking, distancing, testing, and site closures, but over the course of the spring, some restrictions lessened, allowing the group to experience more of the city.

The students worked at internships four days of the week and took two classes on the fifth weekday. They were remote participants in *American Elections and Mass Media* being taught on Calvin’s campus by Prof. Doug Koopman. The second class met in the living room at Greystone and was led by Henry Institute program coordinator and D.C. Semester Director Ellen Hekman, with sessions centered around Civic Hospitality. The class considered the value of being responsible citizens who practice listening, tolerance, and acceptance for others who hold different opinions and values. Several speakers were invited for the each weekly session, with the guests presenting widely varying opinions, political views, racial identity, gender identity, religious beliefs, occupations, and career paths.

In the past, the first week of the semester was spent on site visits and traveling

“While we were unable to enjoy any of the Smithsonian museums, or attend plays or concerts during the Semester due to closures, the students made the best of what was available as they explored the city, and went to outdoor sites such as the Mall, monuments, and gardens,” noted Hekman. “We were also able to take a day-long trip to Monticello and to Baltimore’s Inner Harbor – activities that hadn’t been done on the former D.C. Semesters, but that the students really enjoyed.”

The students lived together at Greystone, a large house in the middle of D.C. With nearly all internships being conducted remotely, they spent the vast majority of their time at the ten-bedroom house, completing work from their assigned bedroom spaces. Two students had hybrid internships, working half of their time in the office and half remotely.

“The students were very responsible about following COVID protocols and were diligent about making sure that each individual and the entire group stayed healthy the entire semester,” according to Hekman. “I appreciated their conscientious attitudes and believe that their concern for each other clearly contributed to a successful program. While it wasn’t the semester that any of us had hoped for when we signed up for it, all of the students reported that their internships had provided valuable experience and learning, and that they had enjoyed being in D.C. for the semester.” ~

“Being in D.C. during COVID turned out to be an amazing experience. While I wish that more had been open when we were there, we definitely made the most of our time in the city and were able to really enjoy the semester.



“Despite its online nature, my internship was extremely valuable and taught me transferrable skills I will use in the future. Doing online internships in a house with nine other people definitely brought its challenges, but I also think this brought us together as a group and formed some strong friendships. I really valued how much I learned from my fellow Calvin students through what they were doing in their internships, as well as sharing life experiences and aspirations. Another valuable aspect was having numerous informational interviews with both Calvin alumni and other connections I gained through my internship. By listening to others’ experiences, I learned far more about the fields I am interested in and was able to get good advice in terms of grad school and working in Washington.

“Many of us were intentional about finding fun and safe things to do in the city even during the pandemic, and despite many closures, I gained great knowledge of D.C. Instead of the typical tourist experience of only going to museums and monuments, we were able to explore neighborhoods, bookstores, restaurants, and much more.”

—Esther Lagerwey

2021 Student Internships

- Anointing Aki
- Research Methods Made Easy
- Carson Ellis
- Chief of Staff for
- Congresswoman Katie Porter
- Juan Hernandez Arias
- Inter-American Dialogue
- Emily Kempster
- Mary’s Center
- Esther Lagerwey
- Center for Public Justice
- Seongmin Lim
- Amnesty International
- Peter Olson
- Congressman Tim Walberg
- Abigail Roy
- Lutheran Social Services
- Benjamin White
- Congressman Bill Huizenga
- Maxim Ziskie
- Victims of Communism Foundation

Semester in Washington D.C. Scholarships

Each year, the Henry Institute provides scholarships for Semester in Washington D.C. students. During 2021, the recipients were Juan Hernandez and Carson Ellis. Hernandez interned in the Migration, Remittances, and Development Program for Inter-American Dialogue; Ellis did research and specific assignments for Jordan Wood, Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Katie Porter. Both Hernandez and Ellis graduated from Calvin in May and have returned to work in Washington – Juan in the Americas Program at Albright Stonebridge Group and Carson as a Digital Strategist at Mothership Strategies.



Juan Hernandez



Carson Ellis

—reflections from former participants

The Henry Institute's Semester in Washington D.C. Program began more than 20 years ago, with 370 students interning in the nation's capital since Calvin's Program started in 2000. The next pages include reflections from former participants on their experience and how the Program impacted their life and careers.

Jonathan Eigege was part of Calvin's class of 2015, graduating with a major in International Relations, and a minor in Business. He participated in the D.C. Semester during Spring 2014, completing an internship with the Washington D.C. Mayor's Office of African Affairs (OAA) – the part of the D.C. Government focused on fostering connections with Africa and ensuring that D.C.'s African immigrant population has access to government services.



Jona's post-college path looked much different than he anticipated. When leaving Calvin as an International Relations graduate, he thought law school was the inevitable end after one or two years of professional work. However, his D.C. semester experience lit a fire for Africa-focused work in him, and he returned to Washington for another Africa-focused internship, eventually getting a Masters in Africa Studies and International Economics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in 2018. He now works for the Africa Practice at Albright Stonebridge Group (ASG), a Washington D.C.-based, emerging markets-focused consulting firm. Jona is also a member of Calvin's Board of Trustees.

"The D.C. semester was a major inflection point for me. In hindsight, I can see many throughlines from that experience to what I do now. I fell in love with D.C. during the semester and worked to return following graduation. Six years later, I am still here, and I feel like there is more to learn, more people to meet, and more potential impact to have here. I draw on the skills I learned during the D.C. experience every day in my current work – my role is just now more "high-stakes" and more visible. I am eternally grateful to Calvin and the Henry Institute for this unique opportunity and all it has meant for me.

"In my opinion, the D.C. program is one of the most well-thought out educational experiences at Calvin University," Jona continued. "The blend of site visits, cultural immersion, and practical experience gave me a platform to activate the skills, theories, and frameworks that I had picked up in three years of liberal arts education to that point. I am grateful for the "test run" that I had during the semester, before I was fully launched into student leadership as Student Body President on Calvin's campus during my senior year and then into a career post-graduation.

"In hindsight, I have also come to deeply appreciate the program's emphasis on our internships as education, as that brought a certain intentionality to the experience that may not have occurred if it were not a Calvin-run program.

"Finally, I am thankful for the opportunity I got to live in community with other Calvin students, especially those from other departments like Social Work, Education, and History. They brought really fresh perspectives to the program, and I am grateful that I was able to witness D.C. through their eyes. That, for me, was one of the biggest takeaways from the semester. Many of my housemates are still close friends and continue to push me personally, spiritually, and professionally as we all work to navigate what it means to be agents of renewal in D.C."

Lauren Moose was a student in the Semester in Washington D.C. Program in 2019, just prior to her graduation from Calvin with degrees in Literature and Political Science. While in the program, Lauren was the Executive Office Intern at the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

Lauren stayed in Washington after graduating and was hired at LSC as the Executive Office Coordinator. After two years in that position, she has recently started a Masters in Public Administration at Syracuse University's Maxwell School in New York.

"The D.C. Semester was extremely formative for me. I loved attending all the cultural events throughout the city, had an amazing internship that became a job, and learned a lot about myself. Without the D.C. Program, I likely never would have gotten my job at LSC or have realized I wanted to get a MPA. I think the D.C. Semester's biggest strength is that it helps with the transition from student to working professional. The post-grad adjustment is difficult, but considerably easier if you've already worked in the field you want to pursue. It also helps build a network of contacts and mentors, which is extremely important for getting a full-time job, especially in Washington."



Lindsay Marks graduated from Calvin in 2011 with a major in Political Science. During the spring preceding her graduation she participated in the D.C. Semester, interning with the Democratic National Committee.

After graduating from Calvin, Lindsay spent several years working in Democratic politics, including a year as a legislative assistant for a congressman in the House of Representatives, and then decided to go to law school. While studying for the LSAT and applying to schools, she worked as a paralegal for a Chicago law firm. Lindsay



attended George Washington University Law School, and after graduating, joined the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, where she currently works in the Office of Consumer Protection.

"The D.C. semester was a good introduction to Washington and its culture. My internship helped me build connections that allowed me to get my first job in politics. The semester also connected me with other Calvin students who were interested in moving to the city after graduation.

"One of the great aspects of the D.C. Program is the mentoring, matching each current student with an alumni mentor. It provides a great opportunity to connect students with alumni who have recently gone through the process of moving to D.C. and starting a career. As a mentor, I enjoy meeting students who are enthusiastic about making a difference in the world and who might benefit from my past experiences."



Reflections on the Semester in Washington D.C. (continued from page 8)



Grace Aylmer Boucher graduated in 2014 with a Social Work major and spent her D.C. Semester that spring working in Senator Debbie Stabenow's office on Capitol Hill as a legislative intern, assisting policy advisors on defense, foreign affairs, judiciary affairs, trade, and immigration, along with other internship duties.

After graduating from Calvin, Grace followed the advice she received from Senator Stabenow's chief of staff: if she wanted a career in politics, the best thing she could do was to get campaign experience. Grace worked on the South Carolina gubernatorial race, moving back to D.C. once the cycle was complete to become the

Special Assistant for Generation Progress (the youth arm of the Center for American Progress). In partnership with the Obama White House, she worked as the Special Assistant for the *It's On Us* campaign, a national effort to stop sexual assault, then moved to the CAP's political war room as a State Advocacy Associate, and on to Public Citizen as their Campaign Coordinator, focusing on climate policy and financial reform advocacy as part of the U.S. Chamber Watch program. For the past 4 years, Grace has focused on engagement campaigns and evaluation for large philanthropic institutions and plans to soon move back to D.C. to take a role in the Biden Administration.

"It's hard to put into words how much the D.C. semester meant to me and how it has shaped my career path. I cannot imagine a better way to prepare students for the real world than this semester. The personal and professional contacts I made during my internship have been involved in nearly every career choice I've made since. As students, we were so fortunate to get a taste of what it would be like to be in the workforce post-graduation. I felt like it gave me a leg-up on others who were graduating and looking for jobs at the same time. Along with the incredible professional experiences, the semester also led to lifelong friendships, cultural experiences, and the ability to explore one of the most incredible cities in the U.S.

"I remember my mentor telling me as a student how important it was that Calvin strives to give students the ability to think critically, and that skill would be something that interviewers would look for in jobs to come. She wasn't wrong! Years later I was able to be a mentor for a D.C. Semester student myself, and again, I can't quite explain how meaningful I believe this program to be! Washington is an incredibly intimidating city to move to. Having a Calvin alum who can show you the ropes of public transit, applying for jobs, how to dress professionally, how to budget, recommend churches, and serve as a reference is priceless."

Some places where Calvin students have interned:

Capitol Hill
Stimson Center
Embassies
State Department
DCI Group
Heritage Foundation
McLaughlin Group
ABC News
Delphi Automotive
Sojourners
Atlantic Council
New Hope Housing
CNN
Middle East Institute
Bread for the World
Federalist Society
ONE Campaign
Isaiah House
PublicSquare.net
U.S.-Asia Institute
For Love of Children
InterAction
NPR
Berkley Center
Ford's Theater

Hans Leisman graduated from Calvin in 2019 with majors in Political Science and Environmental Studies. His experience with the D.C. Semester Program in 2019 included an internship in Senator Gary Peters's office where he led constituent tours of the Capitol, assisted with legislative correspondence and research, answered constituent calls, and processed mail.

After graduation, Hans was hired in Senator Debbie Stabenow's West Michigan office, and started working remotely in March of 2020. As a Staff Assistant, he works on constituent issue and casework calls, follows local press reports, tracks grants, and also handles education casework for the office. This fall, Hans will be starting a master's program in Environment and Sustainability in Environmental Policy and Planning (through the SEAS school) at the University of Michigan. He will also continue to work remotely for Senator Stabenow.

"The D.C. Semester exposed me to the work that goes on in Senate offices. I don't think I grasped how much the Senate staff actually does before I interned on the Hill. My time during the D.C. Semester gave me experience and skills that I was able to take to my next job in Senator Stabenow's office, and I've been able to further build those abilities as I continue my career. I also found that the D.C. Semester provided an opportunity to experience the culture and feel of Washington; students are able to visit and get to see many interesting and unique places. The D.C. Semester definitely provides Calvin students with a distinctive opportunity that broadens your horizon."



With a double major in Political Science and Philosophy, **Andrew Oppong** graduated from Calvin in 2018. He interned with the Constitution Project in Washington D.C. in 2017, working closely with attorneys heading national security and criminal justice programs, including significant work with the Oklahoma death penalty review commission.



Since graduating, Andrew has devoted his time to faith-based advocacy and organizing on a variety of social justice issues. He is currently employed for the Christian Reformed Church's denominational Office of Social Justice, where he equips congregations and individuals to develop a deeper understanding of and response to God's call to let justice flow like a river in both personal and communal life, as well as within the structures of society.

"The Washington D.C. Semester was an exceptionally formative experience for me. It was not only the impetus of my current career path, but it presented me with the rare opportunity to actualize and implement my political science background in none other than the epicenter of American politics. The opportunity to work closely with attorneys on issues of social justice and now finding myself using the same tools I learned from that experience in my current role is nothing short of a wonderful full-circle moment for me. I am very grateful for the experience.

"The D.C. Semester Program was one of the factors in my decision to come to Calvin, and it has many great and important aspects for Calvin students. The opportunity it provides you to bring your classroom knowledge and experience to life in practical ways is amazing. You are not only equipped to begin building the blocks for your career aspirations, but you are also guided by the experienced and seasoned mentors the program pairs you with. I can confidently say I would not be where I am today if I had not had this opportunity."



Alicia Smit Sinclair graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science (honors) and philosophy. Her D.C. Semester experience included interning at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Division in the Office of International Affairs – the office that exchanges evidence and information in criminal matters with countries having mutual legal assistance treaties (MLATs).

After graduating from Calvin, Alicia completed a Master’s in international security policy at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, with a focus on human security; while there she did an internship with the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan. After her Georgetown graduation, Alicia moved to Toronto and married her Canadian husband. While living in Canada, she worked for a boutique firm in management consulting, government relations, and strategic communications, consulting on projects in a variety of different sectors. Her job immersed her in Canadian politics at all levels of government, making everything she learned in her comparative government courses at Calvin extremely tangible, according to Alicia. Earlier this year, she moved to Cambridge, MA and is now working for Guidehouse as a consultant/contractor with the U.S. State Department, combining her consulting experience in Canada with her Master’s degree from Georgetown. Alicia is also a member of Calvin’s Board of Trustees.

“The D.C. Semester was one of the highlights of my Calvin experience and was a great stepping stone from undergrad to grad school. The fall prep course before the D.C. Semester and my internship at the DOJ gave me practical job searching skills and hands-on work experience in international affairs. I also made great connections through the Calvin Alumni Network – Calvin has so many alumni in DC doing cool and impactful work, and I still stay in touch with my internship supervisor from that semester. Finally, we had an amazing group of students in my cohort, and the 15 of us simply had lot of fun living in the Greystone house, exploring the city together, and sharing great conversations. One of my favorite memories was our tradition of trying a new cuisine from a different country every Friday night.

“I believe the D.C. Semester is a great program to participate in because it exposes students to the wide variety of career paths they can take after graduation. By searching and applying for internships in the fall, hearing about Calvin classmates’ internships during the spring, and taking the D.C. semester course, which includes site visits every Monday to different organizations, students see first-hand the diverse opportunities they can pursue after graduation.”

As a Political Science and Sociology double major, *Scott Genzink* had the opportunity to intern with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights as part of the D.C. Program in 2013. He graduated from Calvin that spring and subsequently spent 8 years working on various political campaigns between 2013 and 2020, with a brief 6-month stop to work in New Jersey state government. Scott is currently employed at the Department of Health and Human Services in Intergovernmental Affairs.



“It was great to learn what living and working in D.C. would entail, and the D.C. Semester provides an excellent starting point for any Calvin student interested in politics. While I thought at first that staying in D.C. was what I wanted, I ended up working outside of Washington in the political field for nearly a decade and had a great time doing it. I’m excited to have just moved back to the D.C. and am glad to have some familiarity from my time here with the Semester Program. Being in Washington D.C. is great, and there are a lot of additional great jobs in politics all across the country. I’ve learned that you don’t have to find a job in D.C. straight out of college to be ‘successful.’

“One aspect of the D.C. Semester Program that I think is extremely valuable is the opportunity to work close to full-time hours under the supervision of great managers and at an organization that takes their internship program seriously. I was given some really great coaching and feedback about things I needed to improve on as I prepared to enter the professional world. Also, the classes we took while in D.C. and the site visits to organizations in the city opened my eyes to many different career paths and job opportunities within the world of politics.”

Priscilla Lin graduated from Calvin in 2015 with a double –major in International Relations and Music Composition, and a minor in Film Studies. As a junior, she interned for the Financial Transparency Coalition, where she assisted with planning for the FTC 2014 international annual conference in Peru, researched news on illicit financial flows, attended World Bank events, and researched and wrote a publication on Bitcoin and its relationship to illicit financial flows.

Since graduation, Priscilla has returned to her home city of Hong Kong and has worked in the non-profit field for organizations including Teachers2Teachers Global, Kids4Kids, and eventually Oxfam Hong Kong. She recently switched careers to work as a sustainability consultant at Carbon Care Asia, a social business with the mission of achieving a zero-carbon economy for all. She is an active climate advocate outside of work as well, co-founding two organizations that mirror her passion: The Shared Meal to crowdsource meatless recipes and memories, and Solmunity, promoting community solar energy in Hong Kong.



“The D.C. Semester contributed immensely to my professional growth and interests. My time at the Financial Transparency Coalition was a really valuable experience in understanding how civil society operates internationally, which was helpful for my work at Oxfam Hong Kong to promote global citizenship education and advocacy work. It was exciting to make connections between what I had learned in class and real-life experiences during the Semester. The amount of international exposure I had in the D.C. program set me apart from others and gave me great confidence in starting my career after Calvin. I still remember my time in D.C. fondly, especially the Greystone [residence house] peers who were very supportive of each other. Washington was inspiring, and it was such a privilege to be in an environment where people are very knowledgeable in their professions and constantly looking to learn from each other.”



Nathan Maring graduated with a Calvin Political Science major in 2016 and spent the prior spring in Washington as part of the 2015 D.C. Semester. His internship was with the Metropolitan Police Department. Nate returned to D.C. after his Calvin graduation and joined the Metropolitan Police Department, working almost 4 years as a patrolman and participating in inaugurations, World Series wins, and celebrations in the very busy law enforcement office. In late 2019, he moved to Chicago with his wife (who he met in D.C.) and became a police officer for the City of Highland Park.



“The D.C. Semester provided an excellent opportunity to dive head-first into the career field I was interested in. I was able to not only observe but participate in the work that I wanted to do, helping me become more enthusiastic and passionate about my career path. Living and working in the nation's capital also helped me access new cultures, information, and experiences.

“This program gives students a chance to experience life in a major city, as well as explore interests and opportunities. Washington is more than just politics. It is home to policy groups, interest groups, new media, major businesses, government work, the arts, and more. Students have broad options for internships and cultural experiences, which very frequently turn into post-graduation opportunities.

“The D.C. Semester was a very formative experience for me. I was trying to decide if law enforcement was the career field I was meant to be a part of. This semester gave me the opportunity to dive headfirst into it and fall in love with my profession. My alumni mentor from the Semester and her family were very helpful to me when I decided to return to D.C. after graduation, giving me a place to stay and helping locate a place to live. I have made great friends, had amazing experiences, and learned so much more because I was able to participate in the Semester in D.C. Program.”



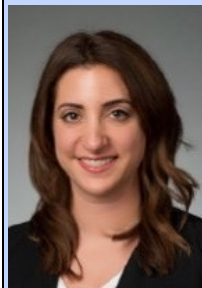
As a Political Science major and Communication minor, **Cara Overweg** participated in the Semester in Washington D.C. Program the spring before her 2014 graduation, interning for Congressman Bill Huizenga. During the Semester, Cara fell in love with the city and stayed in D.C. but pivoted away from



politics and began working in Marketing for Amtrak. During that time, she received her MBA from Johns Hopkins University, and she is now a Senior Marketing Specialist at Toll Brothers Apartment Living, where she focuses on corporate marketing and communications for the division.

“The D.C. semester allowed me to engage with people outside my main area of study. Living and studying with people from other majors provided me with varied perspectives on numerous topics and made the formal semester academic learning more engaging. To this day, I am thankful to have been a part of such a diverse learning experience. Also, studying away from the main campus in a new environment forced me to get comfortable in uncomfortable situations where I had to learn to adapt, which has helped me in numerous situations since the semester program.

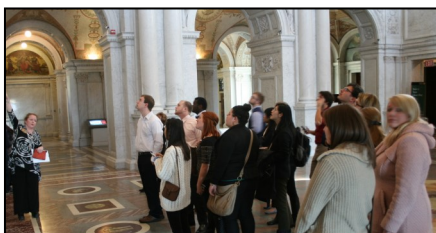
“The internship aspect of the D.C. Semester is such a formative experience. Not only are you able to study in a great city, but you also get a taste of what working is like in a bigger environment than Grand Rapids. Working at an internship also allows students to better understand what jobs in their field of study would be like. The site visits and meetings with different organizations were very insightful, giving us the opportunity to speak with people from all different backgrounds, which provided all of us with new outlooks across industries.”



Lena Halasa graduated from Calvin in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. Her time in Washington D.C. during her final semester was spent as a Programs Intern with the Middle East Institute (MEI). After graduating from Calvin, Lena worked in D.C. for 3 years: on Capitol Hill, for a government agency, and for non-profits. She then attended Howard University School of Law. Lena met her husband at Howard, and after graduation they moved to Connecticut where she is a

Global Trade Manager in International Trade Compliance for Collins Aerospace. She has also worked as a volunteer attorney for the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants.

“The Semester in Washington D.C. Program was very formative for me because it opened my eyes to the possible careers I could have after graduation with an international relations major; I also met some very impressive people (my classmates included). The D.C. Program does a great job of introducing students to many organizations, including government branches, non-profits, and lobbyist groups. I also believe Calvin’s D.C. Semester Program has a great reputation, and with that foundation many of the participating students are accepted into really good, competitive internships that provide invaluable experience and connections for them.”



More places where Calvin students have interned:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Corporate Council on Africa | Folger Shakespeare Library |
| Meridian International | MDB Communications |
| American Enterprise Institute | The Lab School |
| World Service Authority | Cato Institute |
| International Rescue Committee | National Archives |
| D.C. Rape Crisis Center | The Library of Congress |
| Center for International Policy | Veterans of Foreign Wars |
| Sasha Bruce Youthwork | K&L Gates |
| International Center for Religion & Diplomacy | The Climate Institute |
| Women’s Foreign Policy Group | Global Strategy Group |
| Susan B. Anthony Foundation | Federal Reserve |
| Africa Faith & Justice Network | Carnegie Endowment for Peace |
| National Center on Sexual Exploitation | U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum |
| American Legislative Exchange Council | Securities and Exchange Commission |
| U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops | Washington Office on Latin America |
| | Brookings Institution |

Pruis Rule of Law Endowment and Upcoming Lecture

The "rule of law" refers to the concept that no individual – ruler or private citizen – stands above the law. To safeguard that principle, modern democracies typically bind governmental authorities to written, publicly disclosed laws and procedures. The rule of law provides predictability: citizens can plan their lives because they have access to the rules of the game, and they know they can assert their rights under those rules if government acts arbitrarily. While those same laws and procedures can to some extent limit a citizen's own freedom, the rule of law holds that such limitations, if reasonable, secure political liberty and are preferable to arbitrary government.

The Prais Rule of Law Endowment was established in 2008 at Calvin University by Ed and Ruth Zeilstra to honor long-time Calvin Business professor Don Prais, who believed the rule of law was an essential cultural and legal arrangement in society. The Henry Institute generates activities that foster and promote a renewed



appreciation for this concept among students, faculty, staff, and the broader West Michigan community.

The Rule of Law Lecture series began in 2010. The annual event features speakers who are researching issues related to the rule of law or who have personally experienced issues surrounding the development of the rule of law in countries

around the world.


The next lecture in the series will feature Justin Giboney on September 29 at 6:00pm on Calvin's campus in the Recital Hall of the Covenant Fine Arts Center.


Giboney is an ordained minister, attorney and political strategist in Atlanta, GA. He is also the co-founder and president of the AND Campaign, a coalition of biblical Christians who are determined to address the sociopolitical arena with both the compassion and conviction of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He served as the co-chair of Obama for America's Gen44-Atlanta initiative, and in 2012 and 2016 Georgia's 5th congressional district elected him as a delegate for the Democratic National Convention. Giboney also served on the Urban League of Greater Atlanta Board of Directors and has written op-eds for publications such as *Christianity Today* and *The Hill*.

For additional details about the lecture, as well as recordings of prior events: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/henry-institute/programs/rule-of-law/index.html>


Civitas Lab Projects During 2020-2021

Mapping Applications for Re-entry: Continued expansion of the user-friendly intuitive map to provide state-wide information about Michigan facilities and organizations that would be indispensable to new parolees and individuals returning from incarceration.






Kevin den Dulk
Political Science;
Global Campus

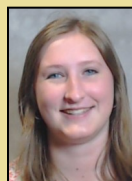


Jason VanHorn
Geology,
Geography &
Environmental
Studies

Student Research Assistants





Yejae Kim



Alaina Kwiatkowski


A Cultural History of White Christian Womanhood
Tracing the recent history (1970s to the present) of the ideal of white Christian womanhood by exploring related religious, cultural, and political manifestations.






Kristin Kobes DuMez
History;
Gender Studies

Student Research Assistants



Karalyn Aardema



Karolyn DeKam

Perspectives on Patriotism and Nationalism: A political theory, history, and theological investigation of how the love of one's nation falls within obedience to the will of God and participation in a global Christian community drawn from every "tribe, tongue, and nation."






Rich Mouw
Henry Institute
Senior Research Fellow


Student Research Assistant



Lauren Baas


Critical Information Needs in Underserved Communities: A two-part study (with financial support from the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation), consisting of a public opinion survey and media content analysis, to explore how communities of color remain informed about schools and education, and seeking to understand the role that media plays in sharing education-related information to these communities.





Jesse Holcomb
English;
Communication

Student Research Assistant



Yejae Kim