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Freshman enrollment sees first growth in eight years

Highlights from the university's Day 10 census data

BY HARM VENHUIZEN
Editor-in-Chief

This year's freshman class is approximately 14.3 percent larger than last year's, according to new data released by the university this week. For these students, it's their first time in any college, or FTIAC. For Calvin, it's the end of an eight-year decline in FTIAC enrollment.

Data also showed noteworthy changes in demographic trends and denominational affiliations.

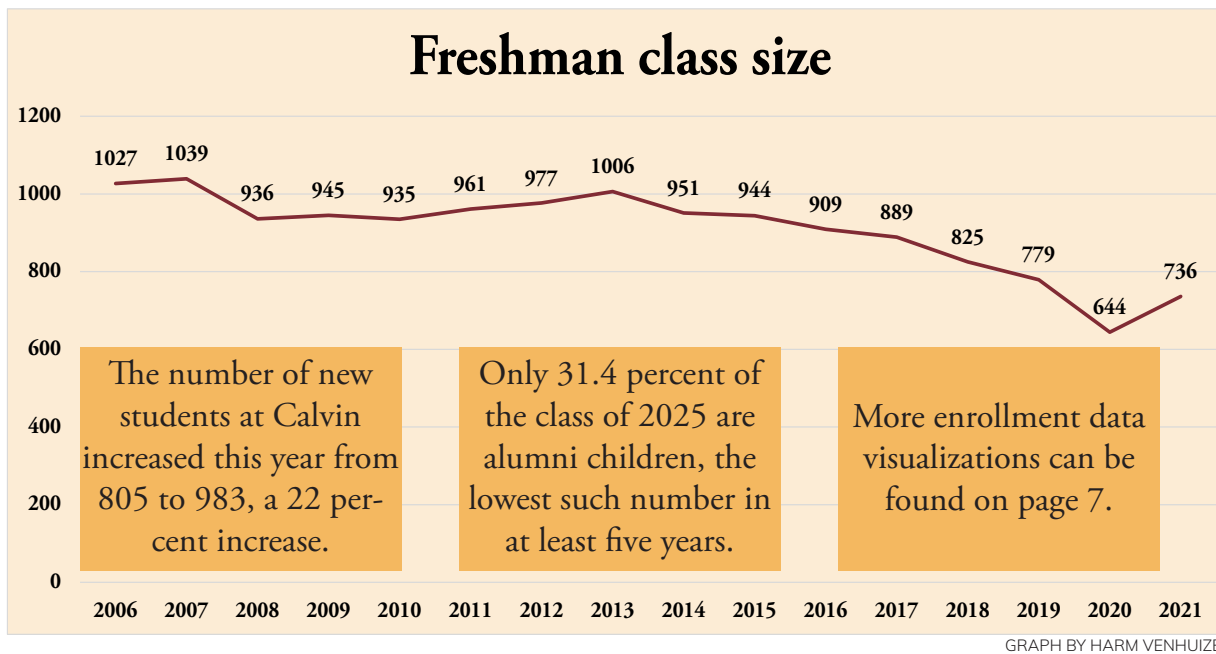
"Our enrollment strategy division worked tirelessly, and I'm so grateful for our team's innovative and collaborative work..."

This fall, the university welcomed 736 freshmen into the class of 2025. This follows a change in admissions strategy due to decreasing enrollment. Last year's FTIACs numbered 644, the lowest on record since Calvin began releasing such data online in 1997.

"We are thrilled that Calvin exceeded its aggressive enrollment growth goal this year," Vice President for Enrollment Strategy Lauren Jensen told Chimes. "... Our enrollment strategy division worked tirelessly, and I'm so grateful for our team's innovative and collaborative work throughout an incredibly unique recruitment year. Thank you to all our faculty, staff and students who helped make that possible."

The department initially set out to recruit 725 freshmen, exceeding its own goal by 11 students.

In addition to the class of 2025, Calvin also welcomed 49 transfer students and 200 other new students in graduate programs, the Ready for



Life Academy, the Calvin Prison Initiative, and more, Jensen said.

The number of new students at Calvin totaled 983, a 22 percent increase from last year's 805 incoming students.

At 77.6 percent, the class of 2025 also has a higher percentage of white students than any class in more than five years.

Though new numbers look promising, the university's total undergraduate enrollment still decreased this year from 3,181 to 3,068, due to the smaller-than-average sizes of the sophomore, junior and senior classes.

A sustained growth rate of 983 new students per year would see Calvin at a hypothetical total enrollment of 3,932 students by the fall of

2024, numbers the university hasn't seen since 2016.

Race, ethnicity and geography
Enrollment data is publicly available in the Office of Enrollment Research's Day 10 reports, which, in addition to a headcount, include information about student demographics and majors.

Most changes observed in the data were incremental when viewing statistics about the whole student body, but when stratified by class level, it's clear that this year's freshman class has some remarkable differences from previous classes.

The number of FTIAC students from Michigan increased 3.5 percentage points over last year's class. The numbers of students from the Eastern and Southern U.S. also increased by 1.3 and 1 percentage points respectively.

The number of international FTIAC students decreased 3.9 per-

centage points between the class of 2024 and the class of 2025.

"Decreases in alumni children and students from other Reformed denominations suggest a noteworthy shift from Calvin's traditional audience"

At 77.6 percent, the class of 2025 also has a higher percentage of white students than any class in more than five years.

Meanwhile, there were small decreases in the percent of Hispanic/Latino and non-resident alien FTIACs on campus this year.

Jensen was not immediately able to comment on whether the noticeable shifts in geography, race and

ethnicity were the results of Calvin's new admissions strategy.

Affiliations and majors
The percentage of Christian Reformed students remained relatively consistent with numbers from the past five years, despite significant declines in the population of CRC Calvin students in recent history.

This year's freshman class includes 52 Roman Catholic students, an increase of one percentage point over last year's class and the largest proportion of Roman Catholic FTIACs in at least the past ten years.

The class of 2025 also has the highest number of non-alumni children in at least five years, with only 31.4 percent of students coming from a household where at least one parent attended Calvin.

Decreases in alumni children and students from other Reformed denominations suggest a noteworthy shift from Calvin's traditional audience towards new populations.

The number of graduate students at Calvin this fall also shows a notable increase over years past. The Day 10 report boasts 89 total grad students, 75 of whom are full-time equivalent. Last year's graduate students numbered 41 in the fall, with 34 FTEs.

The only academic programs to see increases from last year in number of majors were philosophy, kinesiology, engineering and congregational and ministry studies.

Many programs, however, did not experience proportional decreases and only experienced losses in total numbers of majors due to declining overall enrollment.

More information on the university's demographics and the full dataset are available on the Office of Enrollment Research's website.

SEE ENROLLMENT, PAGE 7 ▶

Calvin puts up historic numbers in 13-0 win over Finlandia

Ten players score in biggest win since 2015



PHOTO COURTESY CALVINKNIGHTS.COM

BY JAMISON VAN ANDEL
Sports Editor

Just four games into the fall season, members of the 2021 men's soccer team have left their mark on Calvin's record books with an emphatic 13-0 victory over Finlandia Tuesday night. In an offensive clinic, the Knights set marks for goals, shot attempts and number of players with goals that haven't been equaled in at least the last six years.

Though the game remained knotted at zero for the first 10 minutes, things quickly unravelled for the visiting Lions. Junior midfielder Chris Schau opened the scoring for Calvin 11:35 into the first half with a goal that was assisted by senior Sam Twigg. Sophomore forward Oliver Akintade doubled Calvin's lead just 17 seconds later after another pass from Twigg, giving the senior two assists on the night. Twigg would add two goals of his own in the following minutes, turning the game into a blowout.

Junior midfielder Jon Szydlowski tacked on two goals for the Knights, and freshman Tyler Swineheart tallied two assists. Goalkeeper Daniel Wunder had a fairly easy night, needing

to make just two saves en route to a clean sheet.

The Knights managed to get off a blistering 44 shots, the most they've had since calvinknights.com began recording game-by-game shot statistics in 2007. Twenty-six of the 44 shots were on target. The team's 13 goals were the most they've scored in a single game since 2015, when they won 14-0 in a matchup against Great Lake Christian.

Ten different players had goals for Calvin: Akintade, Schau, Twigg, Szydlowski, Swinehart, Seamus Kilgallon, Ethan Brown, David Torres, Nathan Van Harn and Jack Kilgallon. Tuesday's game marked the first time in over 16 years that Calvin had 10 or more different players score. Torres and Van Harn notched their first career goals for Calvin.

The matchup was the first meeting between Calvin and Finlandia, which hails from Hancock, MI, in the Upper Peninsula and has an enrollment of 390. Finlandia competes in the Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference, which also boasts the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater side that the Knights dispatched 1-0 in NCAA tournament play in 2019.

The Knights celebrated a record-setting night on Tuesday.

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Chimes reports the news and opinion of the Calvin community while fostering dialogue, promoting accountability, and providing practical learning experiences.

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CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

September 13, 2021 | Page 2 | WWW.CALVINCHIMES.ORG

Student organizations experience loss in numbers due to COVID-19, chartering process confusion

BY GRACE TOMA
Staff Writer

Twelve student organizations won't be returning to Calvin this semester, an "abnormally high number" compared to the Campus Involvement and Leadership office's typical five to six losses each semester, according to John Britton, associate dean of CIL. Britton attributed the unusually high number of losses to the impacts of COVID-19.

According to Britton, the challenge of adapting to online-based events and students' mental health vulnerability resulted in a low activity rate last year; these factors also played into a lack of new student leaders stepping up. Additionally, a number of event-based clubs and close-contact sports organizations were forced to put activities on hold due to COVID restrictions. Britton said this ultimately led some clubs to "self-select" out of the rechartering process held at the end of spring 2021, while other clubs could not meet the rechartering deadline.

"We were very lenient in our expectations around last year. We didn't really push the criteria, we didn't cut anybody, there was no red zone — just because of the nature of last year," said Britton.

All student organizations were allowed to return for the fall regardless of their performance, provided they completed the rechartering forms by the given deadline. The CIL office did not charter any new clubs due to fall 2021 budgetary measures.

Friday Night Soccer, according to President Damola Shobowale, did not receive the leniency they were expecting after they failed to recharter on time. The organization took a hard hit last year due to COVID restrictions against close contact. Given his club's active history, Shobowale expressed disappointment that the group was not given grace after accepting re-

sponsibility for missing the deadline to recharter.

"I am accepting responsibility," Shobowale said, "but don't close us down when we have over a hundred people relying on us."

Shobowale said that despite missing out on Cokes and Clubs attendance and club funding, the organization would continue to host soccer games on Fridays.

Other organizations, such as the Calvin Linguistics and Language Club (formerly the Linguistics Club), found the process of rechartering for the fall to be unclear. The club's chair, Michelle Merritt, said there seemed to be a miscommunication about the process last year and the club only learned they were unchartered three days before the fall 2021 Cokes and Clubs.

"Our organization has been quite successful, especially considering last year. It was so hard to get people to come to events, but we had multiple online events that had like 40, 50, 60 people attending," Merritt said. Like other organizations that missed the deadline, Linguistics Club did not make an intentional decision not to recharter.

Merritt said that as the club officially works out the logistics to return in spring 2022, the English department has decided to sponsor the club this semester, enabling them to continue to function, albeit unofficially.

Calvin Democrats did not recharter for fall 2021. According to Chair Isabel Vander Molen, the club went through major leadership and sponsorship changes last year and missed the deadline to recharter in the process of handling immediate housekeeping needs.

"I feel upset that I let a lot of people down by not getting us formally rechartered," Vander Molen said in an email to Chimes. "But at the same time, it's definitely not the end of the Calvin Democrats on campus." According to Vander Molen, being unchartered this fall will grant the Calvin Democrats "opportunities to go at our own pace, practice fundraising, and get experience running



an independent organization." The club is also working with Britton to make a comeback in the spring.

Calvin Esports rechartered for fall 2021 after having a successful debut last spring. Club President Trace Rutman said, "Three out of the four of us on the leadership team are on the student org council so we were always in the loop on the process and what was expected of us... we were very on top of things when the process began in the spring."

Despite the drop in numbers, CIL remains optimistic about club activity and student participation for the fall. Britton said, "We're trying to

make it so... even though there's a pretty limited amount of organizations, that they're all pretty active on campus."

Britton also said he is working with clubs like Men's Rugby and Calvin Outdoor Adventure that did not recharter for this semester to facilitate their registration for the spring 2022 semester.



PHOTO BY LAUREN DEVRIES

Twelve student organizations did not table at Cokes and Clubs after failing to recharter for fall 2021.

CRT, Student Senate respond to COVID policy pushback

BY JOCELYN NUÑEZ-COLÓN
C&C Co-Editor

Following weeks of mixed reactions to Calvin's COVID-19 mandates, a six-member CRT panel addressed HIPAA privacy issues, the decision-making process for COVID rules and adjustments to quarantine policy in a town hall hosted by Student Senate on Sept. 9.

"We have heard multiple points of view expressed within the student body, and we believe having an open dialogue will bring people with differing perspectives together to help foster understanding," Student Senate said in an Aug. 29 Instagram post announcing the town hall.

According to Sarah Visser, chair of the CRT, COVID-19 mandates for the 2021-2022 school year were determined by higher-ups such as the presidential cabinet in collaboration with the CRT, not by the CRT itself.

The CRT addressed concerns of privacy surrounding vaccination status and COVID-19 test results. Dr. Laura Champion, director of Health Services, stated that only two people are aware of vaccination statuses submitted by students. Positive COVID test results are also only known by Dr. Champion and other COVID-19 response team mem-

bers; these privacy measures are in place to comply with HIPAA and FERPA standards.

According to John Witte, dean of Student Life, quarantined students are now able to cut their isolation in half and students in isolation can now test out of complete isolation on the eighth day of their quarantine if their test results are negative.

Junior David Cremer felt that the town hall did not satisfactorily address all concerns.

"These COVID policies are something that we all have a stake in because it affects all of us. There were some things that were unsure and didn't make sense. I want things to make sense," said Cremer. "I was hoping to get either clarity or a solution that would make sense to some of these COVID inconsistencies. Unfortunately, that didn't happen."

The town hall meetings began in June 2020 as a way for students to express their concerns and questions about Calvin policies surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic following the transition from fully remote to hybrid learning.

"It's important for students to receive transparent communication about what is happening at Calvin regarding the COVID-19 pandemic," said Sean Salamun, Student Senate's vice president of operations. "The town halls allow for students to have their questions answered by



PHOTO BY JOCELYN NUÑEZ-COLÓN

COVID Response Team addressed Calvin community concerns during town hall on Sept. 9.

the people who work to keep Calvin safe and healthy."

Those who are interested in learning more about Calvin's COVID-19 policies are encouraged to contact responseteam@calvin.edu with questions or concerns.

Presidential Search Committee hunts for new hire

BY ABIGAIL HAM
Managing Editor

In preparation for President Michael Le Roy's 2022 departure, a Presidential Search Committee has been formed to guide the university's search for a new highest administrator. The PSC is composed of 16-members: trustees, faculty, external community, alumni, administrators, a student and a representative of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Members were selected by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, which "solicited nominations and input from all Calvin constituencies," according to an Aug. 9 email from the PSC.

As Calvin's 10th president, Le Roy took office in 2012 after the retirement of former president Gaylen Byker, who had served since 1995. His decade at Calvin has seen the development of the university's Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, as well as the campus master plan and an educational framework based on learning, faith, citizenship and vocation. Le Roy announced his upcoming departure in June 2021.

Committee work timeline
To help formulate a process for the search and reach a large pool of applicants, the PSC hired a search firm, AGB Search. The firm specializes in leading administrative hiring searches in higher education.

The next step is a community survey, sent out in a campus-wide email on Sept. 10, which will solicit opinions regarding the direction of the search from students, faculty, staff and friends of Calvin. The survey will be open for one week. Using these responses, the committee will write a position profile, a document outlining the position the university is looking to fill and describing the skills and abilities being sought.

The release of the position profile sometime around October will officially open the search. According to Craig Lubben, the committee's vice chair, the goal is to be able to recommend a candidate to the Board of Trustees around February.

The PSC hopes to have their recommendation accepted by the Board of Trustees soon enough for the new hire's transition to be eased by overlap with Le Roy, whose tenure ends at the end of June 2022.

A website providing more frequent updates on the search is set to

be developed this month.

Committee composition

Lubben is a 1978 Calvin alumni. He graduated from Northwestern Law School in 1981 and has since worked with Miller Johnson Attorneys in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Lubben's is a familiar Calvin story: his parents went to Calvin, he met his wife at Calvin, his children went to Calvin. He ended a 9 year term on the Board of Trustees in 2020, serving as chair of the board for the last five of those years.

The PSC is chaired by the current vice chair of the Board of Trustees, Mary Tuuk Kuras. Tuuk Kuras reached out to Lubben to recruit him to serve on the committee as an "at large" member. His experience working closely with the president made him a good candidate for vice chair of the PSC. The Board of Trustees was responsible for officially appointing all committee members.

Lubben told Chimes that the makeup of the committee is largely determined by a policy for presidential searches developed by the Board of Trustees in 1994; this policy requires a committee of up to 16 people: four trustees, three faculty, two administrators, one alumni, one student, a representative of the CRCNA, and up to four at-large members.

The 2021 search committee has three at-large members: Lubben, Heather Templeton Dill and Sidney Jansma.

Templeton Dill serves as president of The Templeton Foundation, which awarded the Templeton Prize to Calvin's Al Plantinga in 2017. "[Dill] has a broad connection in the Christian community and the Templeton Foundation does as well," Lubben told Chimes. "...She comes from a little bit outside the Calvin community...she brings a different perspective and we thought that would be helpful."

Jansma is a founding donor of Calvin's school of business. He also currently serves as chair of the board at Wolverine Gas and Oil Company, which is responsible for one of the US's largest onshore oil discoveries in recent history.

Roughly 43 percent of the members are women, and at least 25 percent are members of racial and ethnic minorities. Alumni make up 68 percent of the committee.

Samuel Carrasco, the student representative on the committee,

is a senior studying social work. He has lived in Grand Rapids for the last 11 years and heard about Calvin through his teachers at Potter's House Christian School. He told Chimes he came to Calvin for financial aid, but stayed for the community he found.

Through Carrasco's work with the Students of Color Presidential Advisory Group, he had an opportunity last year to speak to the trustees. According to Carrasco, that opportunity led Tuuk Kuras to reach out to him about serving on the committee.

"How do we make sure we're being inclusive of all people while still maintaining the core values of Calvin and what we want Calvin to be?"

As the only student on the committee, Carrasco said he wants "to make sure that I'm doing my best to represent not only myself and the people close to me and how I want to see Calvin, but also making sure that everyone feels like they're being heard...I want to make sure everyone is like 'okay, I can resonate with the president in some way'...that they feel like this is their home."

Carrasco spoke to the delicate balance between moving the university forward and sticking to its roots: "We understand we're moving forward as a society," Carrasco said of the committee, "and so it's like how much do we go along with society and how much do we hold onto our roots? How do we make sure we're being inclusive of all people while still maintaining the core values of Calvin and what we want Calvin to be?"

Lubben also spoke to the need for putting a high premium on inclusion.

"The board itself is concerned about its diversity in terms of gender and race and that's a factor that we continue to work on," Lubben said. "Calvin, as you know, is governed by the CRC. I submit that there are few churches that are more focused on diversity and inclusion than the CRCNA. The church recognizes

that the kingdom of God is made up of all kinds of people and therefore if we as a church want to be effective we need to look like the kingdom of God...That's our goal for Calvin as well... and we're always trying to get better."

Hopes for the future

According to Lubben, the committee is looking for someone who is deeply committed both to the faith and to Calvin's mission.

"I believe God's got the right candidate picked out for us already. And our job is to find that person," Lubben said. "I think we're going to do that. I think we've set forth a process that's going to allow us to make a broad and inclusive search and I think we're going to find the right person."

Asked if "commitment to the faith" would limit the search to candidates within the CRC, within the Reformed tradition, or simply within a Christian tradition, Lubben responded, "I don't know."

"I think when the search committee started the search that led to President Le Roy they didn't start out by saying 'we want someone who's Christian Reformed,'" Lubben said. "They started by saying 'this is the position' and they looked at the applicants. President Le Roy, as you may know, was Presbyterian when he applied for the position. I do think...I think I'll leave it at that."

"I hope that our next president has a deep love for the Reformed tradition..."

"To the extent that the mission is tied to the Reformed tradition," Lubben said, "that leads me to think you're going to have to have someone who's committed to the Reformed tradition. But I don't know, we'll see what God does."

Reverend Scott Greenway, senior pastor of Caledonia Christian Reformed Church and a 1986 graduate of Calvin, is the CRC's representative on the committee. "I believe the ideal candidate will be a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and excited about the historic mission of Calvin University," Greenway told Chimes. "And I also believe it's important in the selection process to listen to those who care deeply about Calvin University. And we are doing just

that. We are listening carefully, discerningly, to staff, faculty, and alumni as we seek God's will in this."

Faculty echoed Lubben and Greenway's hope for a new hire dedicated to Calvin's mission.

"Our next president needs the courage to chart a course true to Calvin's mission—one deeply rooted in Reformed Christianity and committed to a broad liberal arts education, and one that refuses to capitulate to the commodification of higher education or to culture wars categories that impede our ability to think deeply, act justly, and serve as agents of renewal in society, and as a beacon of faithful intellectual life for the church," history professor Kristen Du Mez told Chimes.

Philosophy professor Kevin Timpe said: "I hope that whoever the next person is, they are strongly committed to a robust liberal arts vision for Calvin's future, given how central such a vision is to our heritage and identity. I'd also love to see us live out what we say about diversity being important—not just racial diversity per the FEN document, but also in terms of sex, ability status, class, etc..."

"I hope that our next president has a deep love for the Reformed tradition, a real calling to distinctively Christian higher education, a wide-ranging curiosity, a firm grasp of the liberal arts, an appreciation for the wonderful things already going on at Calvin coupled with an innovative institutional imagination," Provost Noah Toly told Chimes, "and, finally, a hopeful confidence in what God is doing in the world."

Carrasco emphasized interpersonal relationships in his ideas for the new hire, saying he hopes the new president will be "someone who's willing to take the time to understand where people are coming from...someone who's constantly challenging themselves to do better, someone who's confident yet humble...someone who's active in the community...someone who can bring a room together." Carrasco also said he hopes the new president will be "willing to admit when they don't know or when they've wronged anything or anyone," and will follow the biblical teaching to "be the salt" of the world.

Chimes' Jocelyn Nuñez-Colón contributed to this story.

SPORTS & ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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AJR brings the collective joy of live music to Grand Rapids



AJR plays with visual effects at Grand Rapids concert.

PHOTO BY JAMISON VAN ANDEL

BY ELLIE JONES
Guest Writer

An AJR concert at the DeltaPlex Arena attracted a flock of Calvin students on Sept. 8. The band of brothers performed their “OK Orchestra” album with a few other fan-favorites interspersed throughout. The concert looked and sounded phenomenal, and it seemed to have a theme of collective experience.

“Being at this concert highlighted the collectiveness of this experience which has felt so isolating.”

The first opening act, Daisy the Great, was an indie pop band that has collaborated on a song with AJR. The two frontwomen sang harmonies to almost all of the words for their songs, creating a wonderful, raw sound that reminded me of Calvin student Adelyn Roush’s duo Adelyn & Ava, who can be found on Spotify. Daisy the Great were quite transparent in terms of nerves and gratitude, making connections with the audience by pointing out that this was the first concert most of us had attended or performed since the pandemic hit. There is no denying that the past 18 months have been quite difficult. Being at this concert highlighted the collectiveness of this experience which has felt so isolating, as well as the collective excitement and yearning for normal, for fun — and specifically — for live music.

The next opener was an artist named Sasha Alex Sloan. She had an amazing voice and an incredibly calm stage presence. Her vocal style sounded like the soft pop that you would hear on America’s Got Talent. The issue was, all of her songs sounded like that. She was a great singer, but after 45 minutes, there was a lull in the crowd. After over an hour of openers, everyone was ready to finally hear AJR.

When AJR did come on, the energy soared. They opened with their song, “Bummerland,” which solidified the feeling that after the season we’ve all had, “we’re only going up from here.” The sensational Arnetta Johnson, a trumpeter who collaborates with AJR, made her first trumpet appearance on “Three O’Clock Things,” which kept the energy high. The visual effects to this song were impressive and well-rehearsed, as the musicians interacted with the special effects on the screens. The lyrics spoke poignantly of yearnings and anxieties: “Would you go running if you saw the real me? / Maybe you’d love ‘em / Yeah, maybe you’d feel me / But I’ll never ask you, no that’s super scary.” This captured a shared excitement as well as a shared expression of the cocktail of loneliness, depression, anxiety, yearning and need for stability that is both a common human experience and a specific presence in Gen Z.

Other songs commented on tangible experiences ranging from losing your socks, to being tempted by sex and drugs, to feeling like someone and no one at the same time. Arnetta Johnson then made a return with a trumpet compilation of famous AJR songs that had the audience enthralled. AJR also brought opener Daisy the Great back out, and they performed “Record Player,” the song on which they collaborated — which was also the focus of a recent TikTok trend.

The remaining acts of the show continued the theme of both yearning and excitement. “World’s Smallest Violin” commented on the need to feel heard and seen in the mediocrity and lack of impact that we sometimes feel our lives have: “The world’s smallest violin / Really needs an audience ... / Just let me play my violin for you.” On the other hand, they played hits like “Bang!” that were screamed by every audience member as the arena bounced in unison. They performed “My Play” in which they talk about putting on plays for their parents in the living room as kids and use it as an extended metaphor for what it felt like when their parents got divorced, but they also played “Burn the House Down,” which was the point that everyone who hadn’t already lost their voice finally cracked. They showed their unique songwriting process through a creative way of editing the sounds of knocking on doors, but also talked about emotional topics like Jack’s OCD diagnosis.

Near the end of the show, they performed “Way Less Sad,” which celebrates being past a place of deep hurt while still yearning for a place of deep peace and fulfillment. “I’m A-okay, I’m A-okay / You say it but you just don’t mean it / You’re so insane, you’re so insane / Shut up and just enjoy this feelin’ / ... I ain’t happy yet / But I’m way less sad,” they sang. This was a timely sentiment, as this was the first time most audience members attended a concert since the pandemic hit, and it was one of the first times these artists were able to play live music to a full arena. They closed with “OK Overture,” a song styled like an overture in musical theater that contains themes from different songs. It was a show that wrapped itself up well despite no one wanting it to end. The concert as a whole was a collective experience that combined the dissonance of human suffering and joy.



PHOTO BY JAMISON VAN ANDEL

The Manistee River Trail, two hours north of campus.

Top five ways to get out and exercise while at Calvin

BY JAMISON VAN ANDEL
Sports Editor

Looking for ways to get out and exercise? Here are the top things to do on campus or in the Grand Rapids area:

1. Run or bike around Reeds Lake

If you have a free afternoon and are looking to get outside somewhere close to campus, the Reeds Lake trail is a great option. The 4.2-mile route is a favorite among Calvin students both because of its scenic stretches along the lakefront and its proximity to campus. If you’re coming from campus, it’s 6.8 miles round-trip. If running or biking isn’t for you, ditch the road altogether and head out onto the lake in a kayak!

2. Backpack the Manistee River Trail

The Manistee River Trail is located about two hours north of Calvin and offers incredible views of the Manistee River year-round. The trail winds along the river, with scenic overlooks around nearly every turn. At 8.8 miles, the trail is ideal for a two-day, one-night backpacking and camping trip. If you’re in need of backpacking gear, tents, backpacks, sleeping bags and food prep equipment are available for rent at the Calvin gear cage. If you’re looking for a lower commitment but still want to get out and hike, the Richmond Park Trail (1101 Richmond St NW) and Donald J Lamoreaux Park Loop (4585 Coit Ave NE) are both shorter options in Grand Rapids.

3. Complete the Grand Rapids tennis court circuit

Hone your tennis skills by playing on courts all over Grand Rapids. After playing at both of Calvin’s tennis courts — the Strikwerda Outdoor Tennis Center and the Indoor Tennis and Track Center — head out to one (or all) of Grand Rapids’ many tennis courts. In East Grand Rapids, the Canepa Tennis Center (2915 Hall St SE) is framed by trees and beautiful in the fall. At the corner of Franklin and Fuller, a couple of tennis courts sit entrenched in Martin Luther King Park (900 Fuller Ave SE). MacKay-Jaycees Park (2531 Kalamazoo Ave SE) offers another tennis option within 10 minutes of campus. The Gainey Athletic Center — a 10-minute walk past the Calvin nature preserve — is also a great place to play if you’re looking for a shorter commute.

4. Join a Calvin intramural team

Intramurals are a low-commitment way to meet people, play sports and get into a routine of getting out and active on a weekly basis. Calvin’s fall intramural offerings include basketball, volleyball, soccer, spikeball and flag football. Other sport options will be available in winter and spring. If a whole intramural season is too long for you, the Intramurals Office also hosts several one-day tournaments throughout the year, most of which are just show-up-and-play.

5. Ice skate at Rosa Parks Circle

As temperatures drop and your eagerness to get out drops along with them, be on the lookout for opportunities to ice skate at Rosa Parks Circle (135 Monroe Center St NW), which in the winter features a small ice rink tucked neatly into the center of the downtown area. The rink is small, making for a nice communal skating experience. Skating is super cheap (\$1 for kids, \$3 for 18+), and the atmosphere in downtown Grand Rapids is unmatched. Tickets sell out fast, so be sure to book yours early.

New art installations offer break from first semester stress

BY EZRA CRAKER
A&E Editor

School is back in session. With the flurry — or maybe more accurately, the avalanche — of new schedules, assignments and commitments, it can be easy to forget to look around and appreciate one’s surroundings. But this semester, students won’t want to miss all the new art beautifying campus.

Over the summer, Calvin’s Director of Exhibitions Brent Williams and Betty Sanderson, the visual and performing art department’s administrative assistant, installed several works of art around campus, including nearly half of Calvin’s private collection.

“We do our best to take into consideration the location of the work in relation to the academic interests of the surrounding offices and classrooms,” Williams said. The new display locations include the new Politics and Economics offices in

Hiemenga Hall, outside the new Social Work and Sociology offices, in the AV hallway in Hiemenga Hall and on the ground level of the Spoelhof University Center.

Gallery assistant and student designer Izzy Nuñez has been enjoying the newly installed woodblock prints in the Art Hub printing room. Nuñez called “Papillon 001” and “Papillon 002,” which were made by 2018 Calvin graduate Madeleine Wiering, “a creative nod to the history of printmaking.”

Also on display outside of the Center Art Gallery is senior Gabrielle Eisma’s project for the McGregor Undergraduate Research Program. As the first visual arts student to participate in the program, Eisma created an artistic guide to the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve using inks entirely made from materials in the preserve — leaves, berries, soil and more.

“[The exhibition] will help you to see both art and the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve in new ways,” said Mark Bjelland, professor of geography and director of the McGregor program. “However, you should not put off your visit until some distant future date,

because the artwork is ephemeral.” Due to their natural materials, Eisma’s illustrations will fade over time.

In the Center Art Gallery, community members can view mokume gane — or mixed metal laminate — vessels created by artists David Huang and David Barnhill in an exhibition called “Beauty by Design.”

“[The exhibition] is peaceful and luminous and transforms the space,” said Paula Manni-Pohler, Calvin’s arts programming assistant. “The gallery is one of the best study spots on campus, and that’s especially true right now with Huang and Barnhill’s vessels on view.”

The vessels, which will be displayed until Nov. 25, are full of textures and surprises: a bumpy brown acorn-shaped sculpture reflecting gold from the inside, a knobby silver shape evoking both thorns and medieval armor, a tiny, elegant turquoise creation that looks like a teacup for an ethereal being. With art on every corner of Calvin’s campus, students have plenty of opportunities to pause the mayhem.

NSF grant funds STEM ambassadors, builds interdepartmental community

BY TIMOTHY LIN
Staff Reporter

When Calvin received a National Science Foundation grant in 2019 for “recruiting and retaining students in STEM at Calvin,” part of the funding was used to create two STEM ambassadors positions. Tasked with promoting and building community in STEM at Calvin, the positions are open to students in their sophomore year or above.

According to Anna Giboney, a former STEM ambassador in her junior year majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in business, “[STEM ambassadors] recruit, retain, and build community within the STEM departments at Calvin.” Giboney and Andrew Burt were the first pair of Calvin’s STEM ambassadors, and have since passed on the torch to Audrey Tran, a junior majoring in chemical engineering, and Haleigh Bos, a senior majoring in chemistry. Professor Herbert Fynevever of the chemistry department, who is also on the project leadership for the NSF grant, leads the STEM ambassadors and meets with them weekly.

“We want to be a strong face of Calvin, whether that’s for incoming freshmen, transfer students, or other students that are undecided on campus. We want to make sure they are feeling involved and realize the community and the resources that STEM provides,” Giboney said.

STEM student’s first few classes, otherwise known as “weeding out classes,” can be a very trying time. “As STEM ambassadors it is also our role to make sure students pass that trying time,”



The current STEM ambassadors Audrey Tran (center) and Haleigh Bos (right), along with Professor Herbert Fynevever (left) who leads the ambassadors.

PHOTO BY AUDREY TRAN

Giboney told Chimes. They do this by helping first-year students get connected to study resources, tutors and help from professors.

The STEM ambassadors also act as a team of interdepartmental community builders. This includes hosting STEM events — such as last semester’s

Amazing Race, Eggstravaganza, and Silly Debate Night — as well as promoting departmental events. Their Instagram account, @calvin_stem, highlights STEM professors, students and ongoing research projects. This past summer, for example, the STEM ambassadors interviewed students

and professors conducting summer research and created a video highlighting their work.

This semester, the STEM ambassadors are also planning to host monthly study nights for STEM students. Each monthly session, Tran said, will be focused on a particular STEM department and

will include upperclassmen from that department. Everyone, however, will be welcome to join, regardless of major.

“When people grow friendships in the STEM departments, they can go to study groups,” Bos said. According to Bos, when students feel more connected with the overall STEM community, they are more likely to reach out to professors and to resources, because they know that they are grounded in community.

Aware that adapting to STEM studies at Calvin can be challenging, the STEM ambassadors are also trying to find ways to help motivate students. According to Tran, they are planning to put together a panel of upperclass STEM students who can share their own stories, so that underclassmen can understand they are not the only ones facing these challenges.

When the STEM ambassadors first started as a team, the biggest challenge was making departments, professors and students aware of the role they play as interdepartmental community builders. While awareness and engagement have greatly improved, the ambassadors still hope that departments and faculty will reach out more actively to them as a resource.

As a past ambassador, Giboney also encourages students to reach out to Tran and Bos. “If you have an event idea, or have a club that needs support, or need to find a tutor. . . just anything at all.”

Faith, science and self-determination: the long history of vaccine hesitancy

BY MICHAELA GIOVANNELLI
Religion Editor

As vaccine mandates spread across the nation, the demand for vaccine exemptions is on the rise. Fifteen states allow philosophical vaccine exemption, 42 states permit vaccine religious exemption and all 50 states authorize medical exemption.

Public Health Program Director and Associate Professor Kristen Alford, a vaccine advocate, told Chimes that vaccine exemption history dates back to the nineteenth century when the first vaccine mandates occurred. Since then, there have been several popular phases of vaccine exemption periods, typically due to conscientious objections, medical concerns and religious beliefs.

However, no Christian denomination explicitly objects to the use of vaccines. Instead, matters such as fetus stem cell research, trusting God and opposition to putting foreign materials in bodies undergird religious vaccine exemptions.

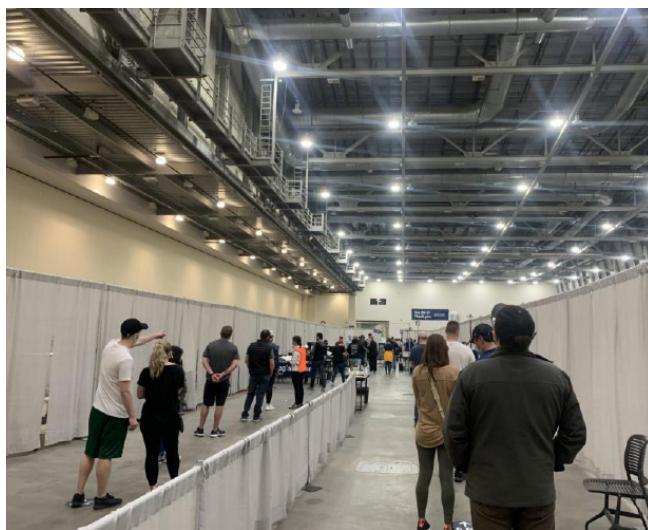
One of the largest and most recent catalysts to vaccine objections was the 1998 Andrew Wakefield study and book release, “Callous Disregard: Autism and Vaccines - The Truth Behind a Tragedy.” Falsely connecting autism and the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine, Wakefield caused a wave of distrust towards vaccines. “It probably was one of the pieces as to why people lost their faith in science,” said Alford. Wakefield lost his medical license and was officially disproved in 2010 after his study was found to be based on incorrect data.

Lydia Walls, a senior at Calvin studying public health, wrote her senior thesis paper on vaccine exemption, discussing vaccine development, their importance and different types of exemptions.

“Policymakers typically don’t know the specifics of different religions’ vaccine stance, so people can write just about any reason for religious exemption and be approved.”

Walls and Alford separated the often blurred lines between religious and philosophical vaccine exemptions. Considering religious exemptions, Walls compared Roman Catholics to Dutch Reformed Christians. While Roman Catholics historically were against vaccines due to the use of aborted fetus cell lines in mRNA vaccine production, Dutch Reformed Christians historically opposed vaccines due to a fear of adverse health outcomes.

These concerns date back to before the COVID-19 vaccine. Concerns related to the COVID-19 vaccine carrying fetus cell lines was disproved, as no COVID-19 vaccine



Grand Rapids residents stand in line to be vaccinated at the DeVos Convention Center downtown.

contains aborted fetal cells. Fetus cell lines, however, were used in early production of the vaccine. The aborted fetuses were from 1973 and 1985; no new abortions were required or solicited and they are not needed to produce the vaccine.

Both have recently altered their views in agreement that the need to protect one another through vaccines outweighs their concerns for the aborted fetus cell use and low probability of adverse health concerns, according to Walls.

Each state has an independent exemption process. “Policymakers typically don’t know the specifics of different religions’ vaccine stance, so people can write just about any reason for religious exemption and be approved,” Walls said.

Alford told Chimes that philosophical exemptions, however, are based on philosophical decisions about one’s liberty and personal autonomy over their body.

Calvin permits religious vaccine exemptions for all vaccines for on-campus students. Calvin only mandated the COVID-19 vaccine for off-campus programs; exemptions are not permitted because the programs are discretionary.

When asked about their thoughts on the recent increase in religious exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine around the country, Alford and Walls responded straightforwardly.

“It’s hard for this political climate to separate religious identity and political identity. COVID-19 has been steeped in politics, unfortunately.”

“I’m also a social worker, and I believe that people should have self-determination. However, it does trouble me that people are asking for exemptions under religious exemption when most are philosophical exemptions,” Alford said.

“With how political the pandemic has become in the US, I wouldn’t be surprised if many people filing for religious exemption have done so based more on their political values, and less on their Christian values,” Walls said, “I think it’s fair for there to be a religious exemption but I want people to use the exemption fairly and thoughtfully.”

Alford added that typically people who are resistant to the vaccine are also resistant to other public health measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. “It’s hard for this political climate to separate religious identity and political identity,” Alford said. “COVID-19 has been steeped in politics, unfortunately.”

According to Alford, if vaccine thresholds are not reached in communities, vaccine efforts are much less successful and outbreaks and variants can continue to spread.

“Something that I’ve been really trying to work on is not judging people for being vaccinated or not!” Walls said, “God gave us the ability to discern, and I think it’s vital to consider the risk of being vaccinated and how it compares to [being] unvaccinated.”

Understaffed and overworked: Grieving a gutted department, facilities grapples with transition

BY ISAIAH TENHUISEN
Staff Reporter

After losing over 50 percent of their coworkers in a transition to new management, the remaining facilities staff is left understaffed and overworked.

This past summer, Calvin announced that its in-house facilities management would be replaced by contracted labor — the National Management Resources Corporation — a decision that rocked the department and left many feeling betrayed. As a result, many retired early or quit, seeking employment elsewhere or starting businesses of their own.

Now, facilities staff report that work orders are piling up as they hire in replacements. “A lot of people are stepping up and working overtime to try to get work orders done,” Emily Taylor, Assistant Director of Building Services, said.

Taylor will celebrate 14 years at Calvin this October. Previously, Taylor worked as the housing shift supervisor. But in her new position she oversees all custodial functions on campus.

“Before National came we were short staffed already, so losing a lot of key jobs on campus has been a struggle,” Taylor said.

Although in early stages of the transition NMRC did not plan to hire student workers, facilities has relied more heavily on student labor since the transition, compensating for the loss of many full-time staff members.

“When National came in, they were trying to get away from hiring student workers,” Taylor said. “But going into the fall short staffed, we hired student workers to cover. Going forward, there will be job opportunities still.”

Earl Casto has worked for NMRC for almost three years, previously working as the facilities director at Alma College. Now, as the facilities director at Calvin, Casto hopes to improve the services available on campus. Casto told Chimes that NMRC only focuses on private colleges and has a large network of resources to pull from. According to Casto, in the next four years, NMRC is expected to have twice as many clients in their 48 different accounts.

“The major obstacle is staffing right now,” Casto said. “We didn’t anticipate the number of people that left Calvin.”

Casto acknowledges that the transition for previous workers was challenging. “I can understand that somebody that was working here so long was upset,” he said. “It’s a tough situation. We’re just trying to make that transition go as smoothly as possible.” According to Casto, Calvin employees that transitioned over to NMRC were offered the same pay rate or better, and that there were no changes in their vacation time. Former building services supervisor Ted Koopmans told Chimes in June that NMRC’s offer was nine holidays and 240 hours of PTO a year; Calvin offered 13 holidays and 168 hours of PTO.

“My former physical plant colleagues were dedicated to the university,” Ambrose said. “They believed wholeheartedly in the mission of Calvin...”

While Casto did not foresee the loss of staff, he’s hopeful about the facilities department’s prospects.

“We’ve had a good two weeks of hiring,” Casto said. “Things are starting to look better.”

Casto estimates that 80 percent of all maintenance positions and 85 percent of ground positions should be filled in the next two to three weeks.

“My biggest hope for the future would be that people keep an open mind and allow us a chance to bring in the right staff and processes to better help Calvin,” Casto said. “Maybe we can save Calvin some costs.”



Emily Taylor

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Jennifer Ambrose has been working with Calvin for 23 years. As the Environmental Health and Safety Officer, Ambrose focuses on keeping the university in compliance with local, state and federal laws. Ambrose’s position has remained a Calvin position, but she continues to partner with National to provide

training and address safety issues.

After over two decades of sharing the office, witnessing her coworkers’ commitment to the Calvin community, she mourns the loss of staff.

“My former physical plant colleagues were dedicated to the university,” Ambrose said. “They believed wholeheartedly in the mission of Calvin. They arrived early and worked late because of their desire to provide an excellent learning,

living and working environment for members of the Calvin community.”

“ [It] is not something that can be measured in dollars...”

Ambrose told Chimes it was this love and dedication to Calvin that allowed the facilities department to perform superior to peer institutions despite their issues with understaffing and underfunding. “[It] is not something that can be measured in dollars,” Ambrose said.

Ambrose is critical of the process that led to the transition, saying that facilities staff was not included in the conversation at any point in the process. “The manner in which the outsourcing was handled was a dishonor to each and every one of them and their many, many years of service,” Ambrose said.

This frustration was not just expressed by Ambrose. In response to former supervisor Koopmans’ description of Calvin’s actions as a “complete betrayal,” Taylor said that she had similar feelings.

“I felt that also,” Taylor said. “And it’s not anything towards National. We all felt like we were part of this thing that was bigger than ourselves. We were part of the mission, we were part of the Calvin community. Then, when Calvin made this decision, it felt like a betrayal.”

Though remaining facilities staff continue to move forward and serve Calvin’s community, Ambrose and Taylor carry a deep sense of loss, missing the coworkers they spent so many years working alongside.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EZRA CRAKER

“Words truly can’t capture the sense of loss I feel,” Ambrose said.

“I hope that — no, I know that — wherever they are, they are doing good work. They are contributing to their new community and being fantastic human beings. I know that,” Taylor said.

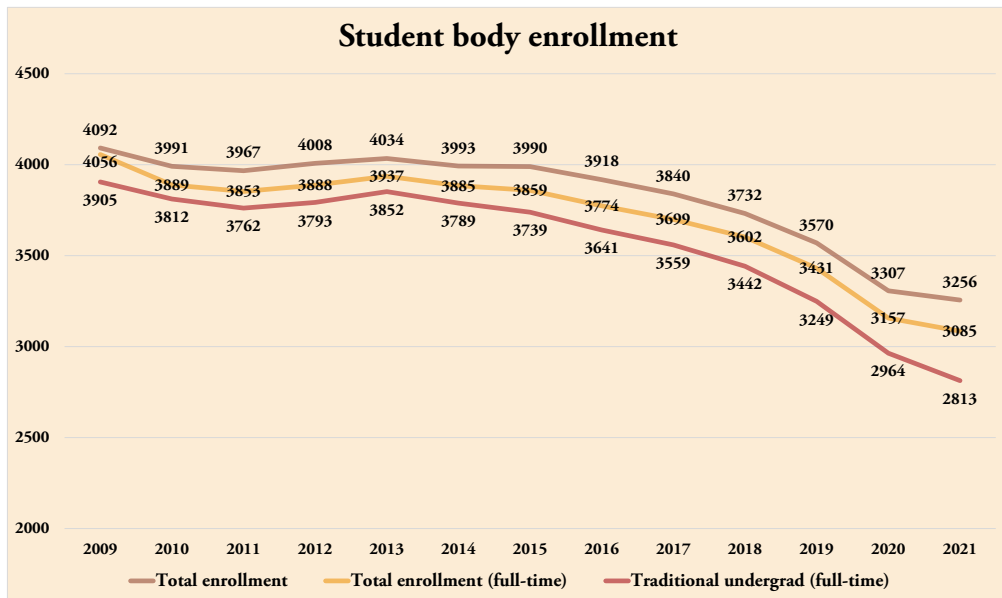
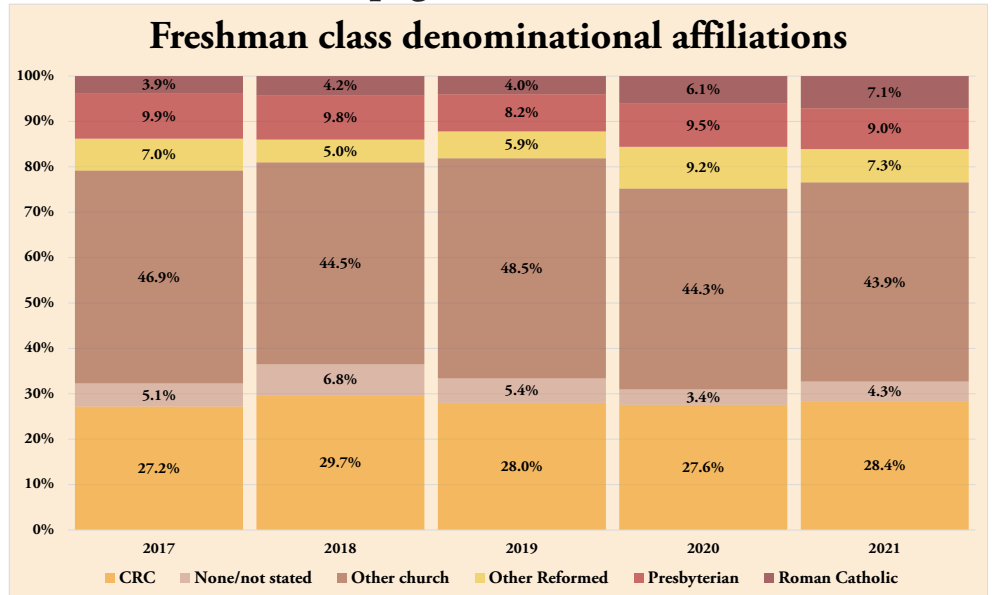
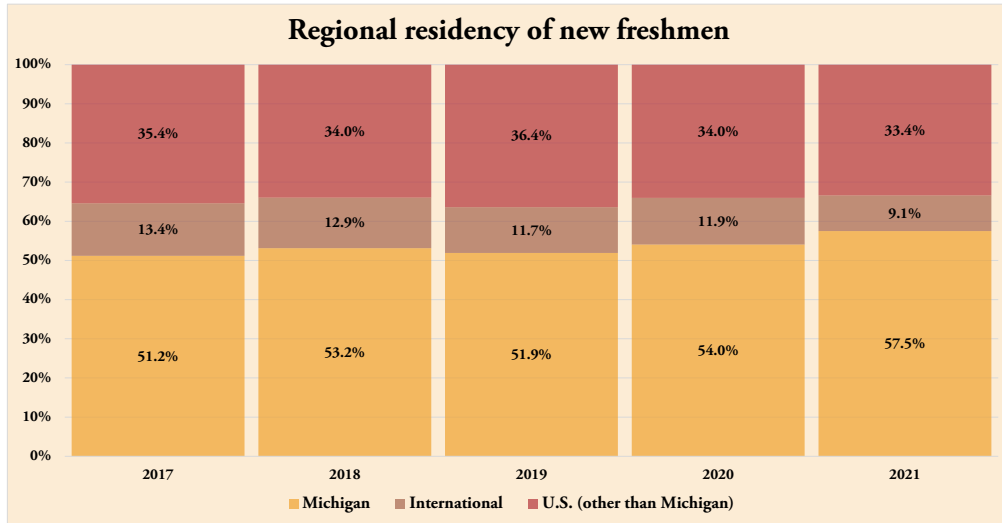
“It was a lot of loss,” she continued. “But I feel excited about the new people. We’re on the path to getting back to where we were.”



Last summer, Calvin’s in-house facilities management was replaced by contracted labor under the National Management Resources Corporation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Enrollment (continued from page 1)



These enrollment data visualizations and more can be found in full color on the web at www.calvinchimes.org.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3	6				2		5	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

GAME TIME

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ford dud
 - 6 Like a poetic lament
 - 13 Reggae land
 - 20 Mucho
 - 21 Sailing event
 - 22 Warded off
 - 23 Game in which groups of items are named
 - 25 Game utilizing five dice
 - 26 Liver spread
 - 27 Part of TGIF
 - 28 "That's show —!"
 - 30 Singer Elliot
 - 31 Game of bluffing and trivia
 - 35 Enraged
 - 36 Tax doc. pro
 - 38 Filled cookies
 - 39 Autumn mo.
 - 40 Game involving picking fruit from trees
 - 45 Boomers' children
 - 46 Seal herd
 - 47 Part of TGIF
 - 48 Glimpse
 - 49 Atop, in poetry
 - 50 Game having a cross-shaped playing area
 - 53 Suggest
 - 55 Catch sight of
 - 59 Big arteries
 - 61 Sports squad
 - 62 Writer
 - 63 Mensa figs.
 - 65 Brunch, e.g.
 - 67 TV host Kelly
 - 70 Game containing 100 tiles
 - 72 Apt word for this puzzle's theme, found by using the three letters that appear nowhere else in this entire puzzle's grid
 - 73 Game based on jumping and capturing
 - 75 Burn a little
 - 76 Eclectic mix
 - 78 Greek vowel
 - 79 Certain eye surgery
 - 80 Notified
 - 82 Dogs' jinglers
 - 86 Glues
 - 87 Indianan, informally
 - 90 Game featuring war negotiation
 - 93 Pl. of PLO
 - 94 Male buds
 - 96 Zodiac cat
 - 97 "Six-pack"
 - 98 Mass seats
 - 102 Game whose players try to get rid of all their cards
 - 105 Taoism's Lao- —
 - 106 "The land of cotton"
 - 107 Acorn tree
 - 108 Lean- — (simple huts)
 - 109 Game entailing sinking vessels
 - 111 Actor Scott
 - 114 Lead-in to propyl
 - 115 — Lanka
 - 116 — Spumante
 - 117 Game with an unmatched penalty card
 - 120 Game using rebounding automatons, as originally named
 - 127 Geronimo's people
 - 128 Slur over
 - 129 Veers
 - 130 Toy terriers, for short
 - 131 Lauder of cosmetics
 - 37 Black tea
 - 40 User of a certain weeding tool
 - 41 Perp nabber
 - 42 Most spacious quaffs
 - 43 With 52-Down, retort to "No you're not!"
 - 44 Mined matter
 - 46 Stipend, say
 - 47 Prefix with thermal
 - 50 "No —!" ("Sure!")
 - 51 Owns
 - 52 See 43-Down
 - 54 Arctic coats
 - 55 Frisbee, e.g.
 - 56 Mark permanently
 - 57 Bay Area city
 - 58 Light cigars
 - 60 Faith faction
 - 63 Sick
 - 64 Brit. monarch beginning in '52
 - 66 "Caught ya!"
 - 68 —-dieu (kneeler)
 - 69 Inquires
 - 71 "Bolero" star
 - 74 Pottery need
 - 77 Strange
 - 78 "— Beso"
 - 81 Tripoli is its capital
 - 83 Is inclined
 - 84 Imitates
 - 85 Day- — colors
 - 86 Mac rivals
 - 87 Ad —
 - 88 NHL's Bobby
 - 89 French "king"
 - 91 Sail holder
 - 92 Help do bad
 - 95 Mil. figures
 - 98 Small guns
 - 99 Demonstrate
 - 100 Nintendo system
 - 101 Autumn mo.
 - 103 Fast car, e.g.
 - 104 "Yippee!"
 - 105 Meditative martial art
 - 106 One-named singer of the 1994 hit "You Gotta Be"
 - 109 Baseball great Lou
 - 110 Nero's lang.
 - 111 Conks
 - 112 — unto itself
 - 113 Sit in neutral
 - 114 — of March
 - 115 Mark permanently
 - 118 Safari truck, in brief
 - 119 Suffix with Wisconsin
 - 121 NYSE event
 - 122 Bray starter
 - 123 Letter #19
 - 124 Lyrical poem
 - 125 Letter #20

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PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?

Chimes encourages healthy discussion of issues within the Calvin community and welcomes opinion pieces from all students, staff and faculty. If you would like to submit, email your article or your ideas to the section editor and we'll help you out.

SEND ALL OPINIONS AND LETTERS TO:
Liana Hirner

leh46@students.calvin.edu

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

CONSTRUCTION IS WELL UNDERWAY ON THE NEW CALVIN BUSINESS BUILDING. BUSINESS MAJORS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE OPENING IN FALL 2022.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN DEVRIES