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Chimes

**DANCE GUILD CELEBRATES
50 YEARS
A&E, PAGE 4**

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The official newspaper of Calvin University since 1907

November 15, 2021

‘We’re committed to uncertainty’

Pt. II of The Downsize

BY HARM VENHUIZEN
Editor-in-Chief

For most of the summer of 2020, Will Miller was nervously counting down the days until he’d be laid off.

The young biology professor had known since May that it was a possibility. Many of Calvin’s academic departments were sharing in the budget cuts and program eliminations necessary to weather the pandemic, and rumor had it, the biology department would need to lay off a faculty member to do its part.

As the newest member of the department, Miller would likely be the one to go.

Finally, in late June, the call came. Miller was informed that he would be let go when his contract was up at the end of the summer.

“That was a hard place to be,” he told Chimes.

Miller paused. “My wife and I moved here for Calvin and we really were starting to settle in and engage the community, so it caught us so off guard, even though we knew this was a larger trend that was happening.”

Miller, and the 12 other faculty members who were laid off in the summer of 2020, experienced the consequences of long-foretold financial and enrollment declines in higher education — issues that the COVID-19

pandemic only accelerated.

Behind closed doors, faculty are growing tired. And many are frustrated with the way top administrators have made these painful, yet necessary, cuts to personnel and programs over the past few years — often with the livelihoods of faculty and staff hanging in the balance.

As discussions over how to better do program review play out in the upper levels of the university, hundreds of Calvin employees are doing their best to go about business as usual, knowing that more layoffs could lie just ahead.

Unlike the 12 other faculty members who were notified that they’d be laid off in 2020, Miller’s Calvin career took a positive turn. In July, when another member of the biology department voluntarily resigned, Miller was offered the chance to continue in his position as an associate professor. Today, he still works at Calvin, but feels far from secure in his position.

‘An odd dichotomy’

Miller is the stereotypical image of a biology professor. His baseball cap, flannel shirt and blue Marmot jacket look just as much at home in the halls of the science building as they would doing research in Calvin’s ecosystem preserve.

The months from April to August are Miller’s favorite part of working at Calvin. Since he came to the university in 2018, he’s worked with more than half-a-dozen summer research students as a mentor and guide.

Even amid the stress he felt during the summer of 2020, he enjoyed his work. Miller and three student researchers had just kicked off a multi-year study of tick ecology and disease transmission.

His commitment to students and his peers doesn’t end with the work day. Miller lives just a short walk off campus, behind the nature preserve and Gainey Fields — an intentional choice, he says, to engage more with the Calvin community.

He’s still doing just that.

When he was offered the chance to continue at Calvin in July 2020, Miller faced a tough decision. After everything he’d been through, it was his personal beliefs and the connections he’d built to the Calvin community that persuaded him and his wife to stay.

Calvin has laid off 14 professors since June 2020

As crime rates soar, Calvin graduate continues Haiti mission



PHOTO COURTESY GOD’S VISION FOR HAITI

A God’s Vision For Haiti job training group poses for a photo.

BY MICHAELA GIOVANNELLI
Religion Editor

Haitian president Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in July 2021, causing a spike in kidnappings and gang activity in a nation with an already-high crime rate. During this time, 17 U.S. citizen missionaries, including five children, were kidnapped, bringing the situation to an international stage. Five months later, the situation stemming from the capital, Port-au-Prince, has spread to impact the entire nation.

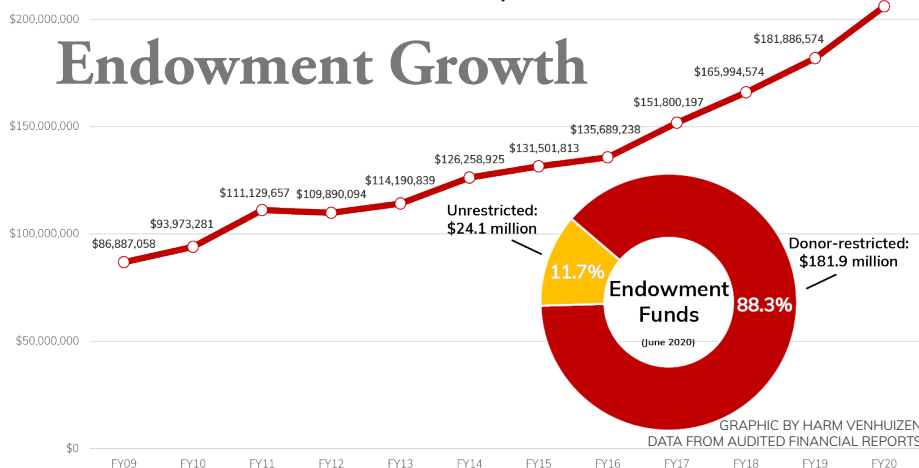
AJ Thede, a senior at Calvin, was raised in Haiti since she was four months old. She told Chimes that her parents did agricultural, medical and spiritual training, equipping Haitian Christians in these areas.

According to Thede, kidnappings and theft were common crimes in Haiti while she was growing up; however, it mostly occurred in larger cities. Now, with political tensions and social unrest, those problems have been amplified in addition to food insecurity, inflation and more.

Jona Lazzar, a 2005 graduate of Calvin’s nursing program, was born in Haiti and her family later immigrated to the U.S. She returned to Haiti in 2017 with her husband after they felt called to help vulnerable children there.

“We would like to give back to Haiti; however, we were thinking we would do that from a distance,” Lazzar said.

SEE HAITI, PAGE 3 ▶



Despite revenue shortfalls in Calvin’s operating budget, the endowment has continued to grow steadily.

“We still felt God calling us to be here, to be engaged and active in this place. So, that decision was hard and easy at the same time,” Miller said.

Almost two years later, Miller harbors no resentment toward the university — he’s clear about that. But the hurt remains.

“It’s an odd dichotomy. It’s possible to both understand the challenges and burdens institutions of higher ed are under right now and also to mourn and lament those processes,” he said.

Even as they tearfully announced the program losses and faculty cuts of 2020, University President Michael Le Roy and his cabinet sought to reassure the Calvin community that the university’s financial position was strong. Meanwhile, the 12 former professors who weren’t as lucky as Miller began packing their things into boxes and searching for new employment. Because of the abrupt notice, they were left searching for teaching jobs just two months before the start of the academic year. In

2021, the cycle repeated: Calvin laid off tenured professors Corey Roberts and David Noe in June after deciding to cut their respective departments, German and classics.

Still, administrators pushed a message of underlying institutional stability.

“Our financial foundation is solid, but it is only because we have made hard choices over the past few years,” wrote Le Roy in a campus-wide update on July 2, 2021.

Not all faculty were convinced. Many wondered if more “hard choices” were yet to come in the year ahead. And if so, would they be notified in time to find employment elsewhere?

On Aug. 31, the first Faculty Senate meeting of the year opened in tension, rife with questions for administrators and calls for accountability.

With the support of nine other faculty senators, physics professor Loren Haarsma brought to the floor a series of motions aimed at increas-

ing transparency and providing earlier warnings to faculty and departments that might find themselves on the chopping block.

Some disagreed with the sentiment of the motions. The new provost, Noah Toly, had made promises that program review processes would be different going forward, and some argued he should be given the benefit of the doubt. Rather than push for change immediately, Faculty Senate should wait and see before acting.

But in the end, all four of Haarsma’s motions passed with overwhelming support.

“We’re done with ‘Trust us.’ We’ve done that,” one senator said. “This is the day that we decide whether we act in a way that will keep the university accountable.”

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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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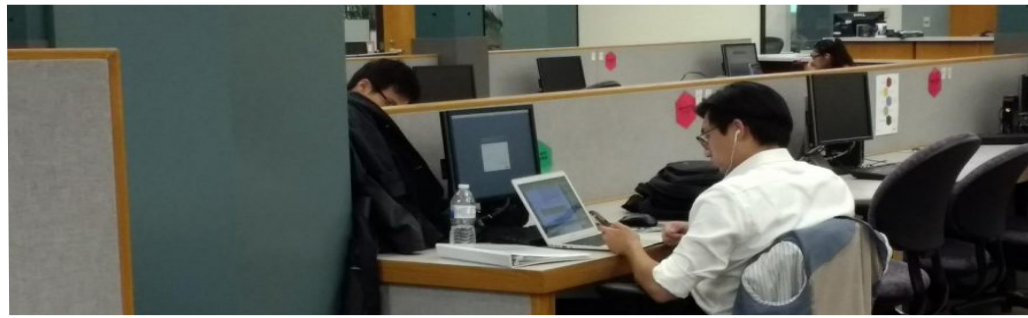
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CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

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Gone phishing: CIT launches internal phishing campaign



Phishing accounts for a large portion of Cybercrimes.

PHOTO BY PETER FORD

BY JOCELYN NUNEZ-COLON
C&C Editor

There's no need to worry if you receive a suspicious email at your Calvin address; chances are, you're being internally phished.

Between 2018 and 2019, members of the Calvin community were victims of over 200 cases of phishing. These incidents are part of a wider phenomenon; between 2005 and 2014, 324 higher education institutions were victims of 562 documented data breaches, with phishing accounting for a large portion of them, according to the EDUCAUSE Center for Analysis and Research.

"Higher ed institutions, if you think about it, have thousands and thousands of people here. If you're open, meaning that there aren't a lot of protections in place, then it becomes an easy target [for phishing]," said Adam Vedra, associate CIO and chief information security officer at Calvin Information Technology.

Calvin's plan for dealing with the data breach crisis in higher education? Sending phishing emails internally with the aim that students, staff and faculty will recognize and report said emails.

"The purpose of the simulations is to enhance the university's security program and improve our cyber security posture in a safe environment, thereby helping you spot real phishing emails in the future," said Vedra in the email.

Phishing is a cyber attack that attempts to collect personal information by tricking victims into providing personal information on websites that appear to be credible, with cybercriminals impersonating a legitimate person or organization. "It's done by cybercriminals all across the world," Vedra told Chimes. "The idea is that they're trying to either trick you into doing something or tricking you into giving you information that they want."

This isn't the first time CIT has attempted an internal phishing campaign; one was initiated over 10

years ago, but it fizzled out after the department didn't see the desired results. This time around, CIT hopes that the new tools and technology used to run the campaign will yield the outcomes they're looking for.

Phishing might take the form of a trusted professional seeking assistance with a task or a well-known website requiring account verification. According to information security analyst John Fleuressaint, regardless of how the email appears, it has the potential to harm one's "finances, personal information, and even reputation."

In fact, phishing emails are rarely as random as they appear. "Phishing can be as serious as the person doing their reconnaissance first — they look for information about whoever they are targeting and then they look for information about whoever they want to appear to be," said Fleuressaint.

Phishing also exploits victims' most susceptible emotions, as cybercriminals use emotions like panic and urgency to entice victims. "There's always some sort of call to action and they want to raise your level of panic. That seems to be a really consistent element in phishing," said Vedra.

The best method to educate a community full of busy schedules and events, according to CIT, is to bring the education about phishing directly to them by offering resources in the one place they

check the most: their inbox. "Right at the moment that they fall for the phish that we send, we provide instantaneous feedback ... we have supporting material that will be emailed afterwards that says 'watch this two minute video and learn more,'" said Vedra.

CIT hopes that members of the Calvin community will start to pay attention to the finer details in the emails they receive so they can recognize suspicious emails in the future. According to network administrator Mike Krueger, these details can include sender information like email addresses, misspellings and poor punctuation, and use of an unusual tone within the content of an email.

CIT also hopes that this internal phishing campaign will teach people not just how to be more aware of their email behavior, but how to be more aware of their complete digital footprint.

"What we would hope is that students would just pause and take two or three seconds to consider 'is this an email I was expecting?'. If it's unclear, they should find some other way to verify. If you verify, you saved yourself a lot of pain," said Vedra. Verification, according to Vedra, can include contacting senders directly or checking digital accounts frequently for suspicious activity.

There's no need to be concerned if you fall for the internal phishing trap, as CIT will not acquire personal data. Internal phishing emails, according to Vedra, Fleuressaint and Krueger, are a safe approach to get exposed to and educated on the complexity of phishing. "Cybersecurity is everybody's job ... we need everybody's abilities and awareness about all the threats that are out there to keep rising," said Vedra.

Speak Up!

Student feedback is an important part of a vibrant and healthy learning environment. You can give feedback in these ways:

- **Directly:** Professors appreciate thoughtful feedback throughout the semester.
- **Formal evaluations:** Near the end of the semester you will complete evaluations for every professor and course in which you are enrolled.
- **Comment-on-Faculty form in the portal:** To communicate directly or confidentially to the dean at any time, use the form at this link: www.calvin.edu/go/comments-on-faculty. Whether to express a concern or something you appreciate, the deans will see that your comment receives appropriate attention.

Thank you.

DOWNSIZE

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For Toly, who became the university's provost just months earlier, the motions echoed the hurt, distrust and low morale he'd been observing in departments across campus.

"When we experience the kinds of things like the pandemic or declining enrollment over the last few years, there are rightly lots of people who want us to make sense of it and not just make a strategy," Toly told Chimes in an interview in mid-October.

So, while the new provost set to work on a long-term plan for Calvin's academic future, he also voiced a singular short-term goal: transparently return Calvin's termination processes to academic norms.

Put more simply, "I want to get to the point where people have a runway to plan in the case that there will be a separation, and where we are giving terminal years if that separation is involuntary," Toly said in October.

To reach his short-term goal, the provost spearheaded the Voluntary Exit Incentive Program, which offered tenured professors with more than 15 years of experience financial incentives to voluntarily resign. The program received public backlash across the university as many considered it a push for tenured professors to leave. Faculty were given a month to decide whether or not they would participate, with no idea how many exits were necessary to prevent involuntary layoffs. It was, as one professor would later call it, "a classic prisoner's dilemma."

But while the program drew the frustrations of many, it also drew enough participants to spare the university the pain of having to fire even more professors this year. The administration declined to provide the total number of VEIP participants. "It appears that the outcome of the Voluntary Exit Incentive Program will effectively achieve

our goal of resetting the rhythm, context, and task for academic planning," Toly wrote in an email to faculty on Nov. 5.

As of that announcement, the provost said he does not expect to see any faculty layoffs in the year ahead.

The VEIP bought Toly, and the members of the president's cabinet, time to plan, but major challenges lie ahead for Calvin, specifically, and higher education institutions more generally.

Addressing mixed messages
At an all-faculty assembly on Oct. 18, Le Roy publicly addressed frustrations and confusion over mixed messages about the university's financial health. How could Calvin continue to lay off professors while spreading the message of financial stability?

"Our financial house is in good order, but our fiscal house is distressed," the president said in response to faculty questions. It was a simplified way of saying that, although Calvin's endowment has been flourishing, the annual operating budget is not.

Calvin's endowment — the funds set aside to provide for the university in perpetuity — currently totals approximately \$206 million, according to tax forms from the fiscal year ending in June 2020. This means the endowment can contribute more than \$6 million in revenue each year.

Much of the money in the endowment, however, is limited by donor restrictions stipulating how it can be used. For instance, scholarship and department-specific funds are included in the endowment.

When administrators speak of Calvin's financial strength, they're referring to the size of its endowment. When cuts are necessary, it's because a healthy endowment is not sufficient for a healthy budget.

In fiscal year 2020, it took more than \$116 million for Calvin to operate.

A healthy budget relies on the ability to match expenses and revenue. In recent years, institutions

of higher education have broadly seen significant decreases in revenue. Program cuts and layoffs are one way Calvin has sought to bridge the gap. Strategic investments and the creation of new sources of revenue are another.

Program expenses are by far the largest portion of the university's operating expenditures, accounting for approximately 87 percent of costs in fiscal year 2020.

Support expenses, like facilities maintenance and depreciation, made up the other 13 percent, or \$15.23 million.

When it comes to revenue, student tuition is typically the largest source of revenue for institutions of higher education. In 2020, it comprised 54 percent of Calvin's total revenue, followed by auxiliary activities at 15 percent, which included sources like room and board as well as conferences and events.

With the pandemic-related decreases universities like Calvin experienced in tuition, room and board and event revenues, cuts needed to be made.

"When we look at the past few years and see a balanced budget, what we might miss in a graph or a table or the operating budget is the effort it took to balance that budget," Toly said. "We see in the end that it's balanced, but the numbers don't tell us what it took to get there. As revenues have decreased, there have been a lot of painful cuts and difficult choices about how to decrease expenses along with revenues."

"The Downsize" is an ongoing series on budget cuts and the future of the university. Read more of this article and others at calvinchimes.org

Students work to return revival event to campus

BY ABIGAIL HAM
Managing Editor

A team of Calvin students is organizing with Circuit Riders, a ministry of Youth With A Mission, to bring their Carry The Love tour back to Calvin in spring 2022.

Circuit Riders is a Gen-Z-powered and Gen-Z-targeted movement that blends the historical legacy of 19th century travelling revival ministers with the media skills and personal style of a Vans commercial. The group describes themselves as “modern day missionaries,” willing to do outreach everywhere from high schools to abroad to their own backyards.

CR has been partnering with Calvin students to host annual Carry The Love tour events since 2016, according to junior Joel VanZanten. CTL tours involve CR teams travelling to college campuses and high schools across North America, typically from January through May. CR is based in Huntington Beach, California, where their TikTok-like Media House hosts student interns. CR produces podcasts and other media that cover a wide variety of issues but have a shared underlying commitment to youth revival.

In 2019, a CTL service on campus drew a crowd of about 200 students and featured impassioned worship experiences.

Last year, CR transitioned to mainly on-line events and services. They are planning an in-person live tour in 2022, however, and that tour will include a stop at Calvin.

VanZanten, a pre-med student, told Chimes that Carry The Love “is designed

to bring the gospel to college campuses across the U.S., and to bring students involved in ministry in many different circles on college campuses together, to join students together to make way for the Lord to move on their campus.”

VanZanten attended a conference CR recently held in Grand Rapids and said, “It is clear that they care about empowering believers to serve others and share the gospel through word and deed.”

Fellow student Alexandra Wagner is part of the Ministry Leadership Cohort at Calvin, as well as part of the Met by Love team. Wagner attended a summer program offered by the Circuit Riders and said she “witness[ed] their genuine desires to teach students about Jesus. They were genuine in their worship and honest in their messages.”

VanZanten has found faith communities at Calvin via Gospel Choir, chapels, Bible studies and Met By Love, and said he senses a growing “hunger” for God on campus. “Helping lead for CTL has been exciting,” he said. The Calvin leadership team includes students of a variety of years and majors, with some deeply involved in ministry and others having no ministry experience at all.

According to Wagner, Carry The Love “is an opportunity for more students to learn about the relationship we are able to have with Jesus and how freeing a life with Jesus is. It’s incredibly important because oftentimes people will go their whole lives knowing who Jesus is but never knowing him at any deeper level and Jesus desires us to know him more.”



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BOER

Students gathered for Carry The Love in 2019 at Calvin.

HAITI
▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



PHOTO COURTESY GOD'S VISION FOR HAITI

The Lazarre family; founders and leaders of Haitian non-profit organization.

When her husband visited Haiti in the early 2000s, he was inspired to help those in Haiti; their organization, God’s Vision For Haiti, was established in 2009.

“One thing we can say for sure, we are both obedient. God, you called us and here we are,” Lazarre said.

Their organization has four pillars: job creation and skill training, foster care, education and discipleship. As they continue to develop a community clinic on their premises, they hope to soon add health care as a fifth pillar.

“The biggest thing is that whenever these things happen in Haiti there is a portion of the population in Haiti who never recovers from it.”

Although their organization is located in the south of Haiti, in the town of Le



PHOTO COURTESY GOD'S VISION FOR HAITI

God's Vision For Haiti's Ministry Center

Cayes, the Lazarres are still feeling the effects of the violence in the capital. Thede described similar effects, although she has not returned to the country since she left for university in 2018.

The largest issues facing the country after violent crime increased in its capital are fuel shortages, public transportation halts, electricity failures, food shortages and school cessations.

“The biggest thing is that whenever these things happen in Haiti there is a portion of the population in Haiti who never recovers from it,” Lazarre said.

Lazarre said that her family and their organization is safe where they are at, but described how it has been difficult to continue to work without many of the resources necessary for their operation, like fuel.

“I can’t even imagine just being over there,” Lazarre said, referring to Port-au-Prince. “The fear itself.”

Thede attributed the causes of these issues to several factors: “repeated natural disasters of earthquakes, hurricanes and now a political leadership vacuum.”

Despite these setbacks, GVFH is growing and planting hope for many young Haitians. Lazarre described how she and her team rescued two orphaned babies this past week, placing them in homes.

“Just two days after placement the baby was smiling and full of life,” Lazarre said. “This is why we do what we do.”

They are focusing on developing their ministry center to host a transitory apartment for foster children in place of the typical police station. They are building an auditorium and education center as well.

Support for GVFH is welcomed. Donations, sponsored projects and volunteers are their main sources of support.

“We love it when people connect us with their church group or business,” Lazarre said.

GVFH has a village partnership program where a church or a business can decide to support a project falling under one of their pillars.

“If someone is interested in partnering with us in any way possible,” Lazarre said, “then just contact us.”

Thede also welcomed support. “Pray for Haiti. For political stability, increased security as without security no assistance or development work can help much. Any place with food, supplies, or foreigners can become a target,” Thede said.

Calvin alum takes environmental vision to UN climate conference

BY TIM LIN
Staff Reporter

From October 31 to November 12, world leaders and famous delegates from around the globe gathered in Glasgow for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change conference, or COP 26. To this global conversation, a Calvin alum brought her voice and vision.

Yeri Kim, Calvin class of 2019, who graduated with business and environmental studies majors and a Chinese minor, presented her masters project from the University of Michigan School of Environment and Sustainability to the Climate Technology Center and Network side conference in Glasgow. As a branch of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the CTCN promotes the transfer of “low carbon and climate resilient” development technologies to developing countries and provides technological solutions and advice to individual countries.

At COP 26, individual countries submit their nationally-determined contributions, or NDCs, which include plans for climate action, targets and government policies. For the purposes of the UNFCCC, UN countries are split into categories, such as the rich and developed G7 countries, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing states.

The NDCs of these latter two often involve requests of needed technologies. “Some of these countries could be trying to transition towards solar energy, or need more energy-efficient cooking stoves,” Kim said.

As her masters project at the University of Michigan, Kim worked with other students to create a database of the nationally determined contributions of LDCs and SIDs. This database provided the CTCN a visual analysis of each country and region’s technological needs, as well as their requests for environmentally efficient development.

When she first came to Calvin, Kim was a business major and Chinese minor. “I knew my skill sets were there,” Kim said, “But I didn’t exactly know what I wanted to do.” When she took a biology course with professor Dave Warners in her first year here, however, Kim “completely fell in love with environmental studies.”

As a Korean who grew up in rural northern Thailand, Kim began to connect concepts from class to her life experi-



PHOTO COURTESY YERI KIM

Yeri Kim, pictured second from right, along with two of her project teammates from the University of Michigan on (left) and a UNFCCC participant (right).

ences, and immediately recognized the obvious impacts of climate change on the lives of those most vulnerable.

Warners remarked that Kim was already interested in helping the poor economically when she first came to Calvin. As she progressed through his class, Warners said, she started seeing the preservation of their environmental welfare as an important part of helping the poor as well.

“I want to contribute to the place I grew up in so that livelihoods can be made more sustainable and the voices of sustainability can be better heard in government,” Kim said.

During her time at Calvin, Kim interned with the Plaster Creek Stewards. “The experience opened my eyes to how we can use local plants, people and community to take care of the environment,” she told Chimes. “It has made me see the future of my career as using these ecological practices to help communities and to reduce emissions.”

Observing that more spaces are being opened to those interested in environmental justice and sustainability issues, Kim encouraged students at Calvin interested in the same career path to pursue these interests and passions.

“It is true that it’s hard to get a job in this field, and that there are hard skills involved, but there is a slow path that people are paving for us,” Kim said. “Within the UN climate sphere itself, youth and indigenous voices are being more heard and even included in policy statements.”

“Yeri was a remarkable student who was bold, cared deeply about these issues, and never shied away from leading,” Warners said. He hopes that Kim can be an inspiration to other students interested in sustainability issues, saying that “There are many I see at Calvin who are similarly remarkable.”

SPORTS & ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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Dance Guild celebrates 50th anniversary, survives COVID and cuts



PHOTO COURTESY ANNEKE AVERY

Dance Guild is back in full force after last year's COVID-adjusted performance.

BY ISAIAH TENHUISEN
Staff Reporter

It's been two years since Dance Guild, Calvin's largest student organization, had a standard performance. Needless to say, a lot has changed on campus since then.

Their last major performance came at the end of the 2019 fall semester. In the following years, the organization endured the elimination of the dance minor and the multifaceted challenges presented by COVID-19. DG leadership persevered in spite of these difficulties, planning to return to stage on Nov. 19 and 20 with a bang and commemorate 50 years of dance at Calvin.

Professor Cassandra Vander Well-Pegman was involved in DG as an undergraduate and for the last five years has served as its faculty advisor. In the fall of 2020, the dance minor was eliminated. With dance minors often taking on leadership roles in the organization, Vander Well-Pegman was initially concerned for the organization's future.

"The dance minor served as a bedrock for Dance Guild in providing a deeper understanding of the rich significance of art and the meaning and culture of dance," Vander Well-Pegman said in an interview with the Calvin marketing department. "The dance minor played a pivotal role in developing strong and informed leaders that historically served on the Dance Guild leadership team. This is an incredible loss for dance at Calvin."

"Avery thinks that the delayed celebration will only make this show an even bigger event."

Moreover, ever-tightening budgets at Calvin threaten the organization's performances.

"Now we are facing issues with tech support due to budget cuts, which could significantly jeopardize our ability to function as an organization," Vander Well-Pegman said.

"The performance next week will absolutely celebrate the legacy of this organization. However, it wouldn't be right to ignore the reality the organization is facing right now," she added.

In addition to program cuts and thinning budgets, COVID has presented several challenges for the organization.

Senior Blake Winslow is in her third year in a leadership role on DG, where she's been involved since the beginning of freshman year. She recalled that when COVID hit in the spring of 2020, students were sent home just weeks before DG's end-of-semester performance.

"The shows would have been in the middle of April," Winslow said, noting that students left campus in March. "Most of us were done if not close to done."

Although students came back to campus in the fall of 2020, DG remained entirely virtual. Senior Anneke Avery is in her second year of leadership and remembers her disappointment. "All we wanted to do was be together," she said.

Last spring DG should have celebrated its 50th anniversary, but COVID restrictions prevented a large, indoor performance. Instead, the group performed a flash mob on Commons Lawn. Avery thinks that the delayed celebration will only make this show an even bigger event.

"This is the first time we're able to celebrate it," Avery said. "I expect there to be high energy for this performance."

Junior Taylor LaCombe has been involved since her freshman year and joined leadership this year. She was grateful for the opportunity to perform last spring, but is ready for a normal, indoor performance.

"It was fun doing the flash mob and getting to do something," LaCombe said. "But we're all very excited to be back on stage performing."

This year's performance will feature funk, hip-hop, ballet and more, including the group's very first disco-themed dance. "There's 20 different dances and they should all be very good," Avery said.

"The guys' funk piece has a cool costuming situation — I can't say any more. There's lots of little ways that choreographers are celebrating the 50th," Winslow said.

But they're not the only ones who are getting excited for the show. In his "This Square Inch" update email sent on Nov. 9, President Le Roy advertised the performance with enthusiasm.

"This year, Dance Guild celebrates its 50th anniversary, and yet again they have sold out their two performances this November," Le Roy wrote.

However, DG leadership reports that neither of the shows have sold out yet. Students can still buy tickets.

"They're not sold out as of now, but people should get their tickets soon," Avery said. "You will regret it if you don't go."

High schools with Calvin ties win soccer state titles

GR Christian, GR South Christian, Potter's House boys' teams each win championships

BY JAMISON VAN ANDEL
Sports Editor

On a weekend when Calvin's men's and women's soccer teams awaited news of their NCAA tournament fates, three local high schools captured postseason success in the Michigan boys' soccer state finals last Saturday.

Grand Rapids Christian took home the Division 2 state title, defeating Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice 2-1 thanks to first-half goals from Hans Pruis and Benjamin Kuiper. The victory was the culmination of a season that saw the Eagles take home their first state championship in 20 years.

"Watching them progress through the playoffs, beat East [Grand Rapids HS], and knock off No. 1 in the state on the run was awesome," said Anton Dershem, a GRC grad who now plays for Calvin's varsity team. "Last year we lost to East in penalty kicks, so seeing this year's team win was a nice bit of revenge, and seeing them win the whole thing after an up-and-down year was awesome."

Dershem, a first-year student at Calvin, is one of five GRC graduates on Coach Ryan Souders' varsity team. Being able to play with Calvin players in Grand Rapids during the summer as well as relying on older players like fellow goalkeeper and GRC grad Daniel Wunder has made the transition to Calvin "pretty seamless" for Dershem.

GRC wasn't the only local school making statewide waves, as Grand Rapids South Christian also captured an MHSAA title, defeating Grosse Ile 3-1 in the Division 3 championship match.

It was a victory years in the making, as South Christian lost to Grosse Ile in the previous two state title games before winning last Saturday to take home the title and finish the season 22-0-3.

"They truly deserve to be state champs, after all the

hard work of an undefeated season," said Marc Snyder, a first-year student at Calvin who played for South Christian last year. "Wish I could have been out there with them but couldn't be more proud."

Isaac Timmer is a Calvin junior who also played for and graduated from South Christian.

"I briefly followed the playoff run but I was really glad that they were finally able to beat Grosse Ile after 3 years," Timmer said. "I think that the program has been really strong for a while now and that tradition is one that demands excellence from the players, which helps the team grow and develop into a strong team year in and year out."

The title was South Christian's fourth since 2010 and marked their eighth trip to the championship game during that time.

While the Sailors are familiar faces at the Michigan state finals, The Potter's House broke onto the scene just this year with their run to the Division 4 state crown.

"It was a super exciting run," said Taryn Hoeksema, a Calvin junior who graduated from Potter's House. "It was Potter's House's first state championship so it was a really big deal for all of us."

"We have had a lot of really good teams throughout the years and this championship is a culmination of that," Hoeksema added.

The Calvin connection to Potter's House is strong. Hoeksema estimated that about 15 percent of Potter's House graduates choose to attend Calvin each year.

For Hoeksema and others at Calvin, Saturday's championships were cause for familial celebration. Hoeksema's brother, Seth, was the senior starting goalkeeper for Potter's House and made a couple of vital saves in the first half of the championship match to keep the game scoreless. Dershem celebrated Grand Rapids Christian's title with two family members: his brother who played on the team, and his dad who coached it.

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Planting sequoias: Calvin's trees provide clues to the past, hope for the future

BY SARAH GIBES
Sci-Tech Editor

When the oak stem pushes up from the steaminess of the forested ground, the foliage of the surrounding atmosphere covers its effervescent leaves. Fed by carbon flowing from fungal networks of its mother, the sapling stretches towards the sky, until its crown flowers so that it too can pull carbon from the air to build its trunk. For decades, as the forest around it capitulates to encroaching saws elbowing away the forest to make room for cornfields, the tree stretches its crown further out into the sky and pushes roots deeper into the earth. It seeps knowledge and nutrients through the soil to the plants that surround it.

Eventually, most of the trees around it fall before bulldozers building the grassy lawns and red-brick buildings of a college campus. Yet the great oak tree remains, fed by and feeding into the knowledge of the soil and the atmosphere.

Although Calvin isn't a forest any longer, the trees that grace Calvin's landscape, from centenarian oaks to baby sequoias, are remnants from the place's past and the keys for the institution's future.

Roots of the past

Many on-campus trees provide hints of what the ground Calvin currently stands on looked like before a student of Frank Lloyd Wright decided to cover the landscape with red brick buildings.

Some of the most obvious tree architecture comes from Calvin's farm days. When Calvin's land was part of the Knollcrest farm, trees were planted along fence lines. Most of Calvin's fence line trees are Douglas firs, a large non-native West Coast fir tree. Today, these fence line trees are massive and form Calvin's west boundary between parking lots 1-6 and the neighborhood adjacent to campus. Another remnant line of Douglas fir trees stretches along the west side of the Spoelhof University Center.

According to Warners, much of the campus was forested during its farm days. The nature preserve was one such space. Although cows grazed the forest shrubbery and people harvested wood from the forest, it wasn't ever completely cleared. As a result, there are multiple trees in the preserve today that are between 150 and 200 years old.

Before Calvin became a university, the oldest tree on campus was a red oak right beside the Spoelhof University Center. When the Spoelhof College Center was built in the 1970s, the construction severed the three northern roots of the oak's buttress root system. Rotten tissue slowly leaked through the rest of the tree until it fell over in a windstorm in the summer of 2019.

"It's amazing that it took 50 years for that decay to work all the way through the tree," Bob Speelman, supervisor of landscape operations and resident Calvin tree expert, said.

However, a few years before the tree fell, ground workers grew saplings from the tree's acorns. Two of these saplings are currently on campus, one behind the Prince Conference Center, the other near the chapel, commemorating the work of recently retired provost Cheryl Branson.

Warners noted that the oldest tree on campus today is also an oak tree. It stands behind the field house, is taller than the surrounding trees and can be clearly seen from the north side of campus.

In remembrance

Besides providing shadows of Calvin's land usage history, trees on campus also serve as memorials to important members of the Calvin community. According to Speelman, there are a total of 32 memorial trees on campus.

One of them is the sunset maple on the outside of DeWitt manor. The tree was selected to honor Queen Beatrice of the Netherlands, who visited Calvin in the 1970s. In the fall, its leaves turn bright orange, which is the color of the Netherlands.

"These are witness trees to show us what happened here"

Other trees memorialize students who have passed away during their time at Calvin. A tree outside of North Hall memorializes Olivia Haverkamp, who passed away in January 2020, during her first year at Calvin.

The shagbark hickory that stands outside the south side of DeVries Hall is a tree that was memorialized long after it was planted. It's one of the older trees on campus, and is a favorite of many biology professors. When DeVries Hall was built, late biology professor John Bebej and Calvin's facilities department worked hard to ensure that the tree would survive the trauma of having a large lab facility built right next to it.

"I remember drilling holes in the soil to keep it aerated, to ensure the survivability of the tree," Speelman said. The facilities and biology departments monitored the tree, working to make sure the construction equipment didn't compact the soil, giving the tree additional water and shielding it with a protective wall. Bebej watched the tree with extreme care, often going outside to guard it when construction workers or equipment got too close.

"Hickories don't like to be disturbed, but that tree didn't skip a beat," Speelman said.



A new forested area, set aside and planted by the Plaster Creek Stewards in 2021, is growing behind the Spoelhof University Center.

Today, the tree is still doing well. It stands in a protected, miniature forested area, and it's multiplying: Underneath its leaves, there are even more Shagbark hickory seedlings growing.

"These are witness trees to show us what happened here," Warners said. "They are the past, and it's a good reminder for us, since people are so present-minded."

Reforestation for the future

According to Warners, trees are exactly what the earth under Calvin's lawns want. Every day, tiny trees pop up out of the soil.

"The land here wants to be a forest," Warners said. "You have to work against the land if you don't want a forest."

Planting more forests is one way that Calvin invests in a future that is increasingly defined by climate change. "When you're looking at a tree, you're looking at carbon that used to be in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere," Warners said.

Planting forests on campus also decreases the amount of lawn space that needs to be fertilized and mowed. According to Warners, fertilizer carries a huge carbon footprint, as do lawn mowers and leaf blowers. Native trees don't need to be fertilized, because they produce enough nutrients in their leaves. When leaves fall, the nutrients enter the ground, and the tree can reabsorb them. And leaves are carbon-free.

"Let the leaves stand," Warners said. "The mowing, blowing, fertilizing and chemicals all have carbon costs."

Branching out for generations to come

In the past two decades, Calvin's trees have faced major threats from the university's facilities expansion and building construction. According to Warners, the expansion of the Field House and the construction of the van Reken resident hall were particularly brutal, because they resulted in eliminating almost a third of the forest

on the north side of campus.

In order to mitigate the effect of cutting down the older forest, new forests were planted. The Field House mitigation resulted in two new stands: one along the perimeter of van Reken Hall and one along the Burton Street entrance.

One particularly important tree for the new Burton entrance forest is a large tulip poplar. Originally planted as a free-standing memorial tree, it now supports the growth of more than ten younger trees.

For Warners, the tulip poplar demonstrates how trees have a life philosophy that all of the other organisms on campus can benefit from. "Trees are so important because they have time that's different than ours," Warners said. "They stretch to both the past and the future."

Another new forest, planted in 2021, stands along the west side of the Spoelhof Center. The mitigation crew killed the lawn and planted new oak and birch saplings. Even if it looks scrawny at the moment, over the next decade, it should start to flourish, according to Warners.

"Just like we go a middle school stage, trees and forests go through their adolescents, too," Warners said. "It'll look pretty in a few years, even though it looks scrawny right now."

Despite the natural beauty of Calvin's newest forests, Warners noted that the aesthetics of the natural landscaping sometimes clash with that of the lawn. Some people think that the woods look messy, or that they give the impression that the institution doesn't care about what it looks like.

"Trees stretch backwards in time and forwards in time," Warners said. "They connect us to something greater than ourselves."

For Warners, however, the forests represent how much Calvin does care about the environment. "That's why the forest is so important — we actually really do care about it. We don't need to get rid of all the lawn. We just need to recognize the cost of it."

"Trees are so righteous," Warners said. "They have all these benefits: their leaves fall and fertilize the ground. They make seeds for birds, they provide shade, they put water into the air for precipitation. There's nothing wrong with a tree, unless it's invasive."

Warners recognized that investing in trees might not seem to make sense at the moment. Trees don't produce benefits quickly: A newly planted sapling doesn't grow into its full potential for at least one human generation, often two or more. But for Warners, the transgenerational nature of trees is precisely what gives them their value.

"Trees stretch backwards in time and forwards in time," Warners said. "They connect us to something greater than ourselves."

And Calvin's tree people have done precisely that, by planting one of the most slow-growing and long-living trees on the planet: a giant sequoia.

Speelman planted Calvin's single sequoia. It stands along the beltline on the north end of campus. Originally, a computer science professor donated a one-foot sequoia sapling to the university; today, the tree is about three feet tall.

"I'm hopeful it will keep growing," Speelman said. "It's a tree that'll be there for centuries."

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It's hard being a chronically ill student. Calvin makes it harder

BY JOSEPH NEWTON
Guest Writer

When thinking about the typical college experience, most people think of going to class, being involved in clubs and studying. Fewer people associate it with taking medication, doctor's visits and hospitalizations. However, these things and many more are part of the reality of college for any chronically ill student, and Calvin's expectations for students make this reality even more difficult to navigate. Having compassion for your peers who struggle with the impacts of their illnesses, the judgment of others and the ramifications of attending a school designed to accommodate healthy individuals is crucial.

I have several chronic illnesses that require strict management. Even with the work I put into maintaining my health, there are times when my symptoms become unmanageable and require me to prioritize caring

for myself above school. This is never an easy choice to make, and I wish I didn't have to make these choices, but I and many other students at Calvin make them every day.

Earlier this semester, I spent four days in the hospital due to an infection in my colon that was the result of trying to treat a chronic digestive issue. I had to make incredibly difficult choices about prioritizing my immediate or long-term health, and whether to focus on my health or my schoolwork.

"Chronic illnesses can be incredibly isolating."

While my professors have been incredibly understanding and accommodating of the choices I made, I still had to do the work I missed, further disrupting my schedule. Even more drastically, I wound up dropping a class. Doing so in combination with other impacts my health has had

on my academics throughout my time at Calvin has jeopardized my ability to meet Calvin's standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress, which has implications for my academic standing and the amount of financial aid I can qualify for. Knowing that I was impacting my academic progress and making it harder for me to remain enrolled at the school I love made the decision to care well for myself and drop the class significantly harder.

Chronic illnesses are also incredibly isolating. Associating with healthy people is often difficult. They frequently don't understand that chronically ill folks have significantly less energy than healthy folks, and the energy we do have is spent more quickly. I have to make choices about what I am able to do, not because I don't have enough time to do everything I want, but because I don't have enough energy to do so. Everyone has to make choices about what they spend their time on, but when taking a shower and feeding

yourself takes up half of your energy, your choices are significantly limited.

"Our illnesses impact every square inch of our experiences as students, including how we engage with Calvin as an institution."

Having to limit your choices becomes even harder at Calvin, where we are taught that all of creation belongs to God and ought to be explored by us. Students often work late nights and take early classes, being involved in clubs, sports or other activities and embracing demands that we always work hard. Admitting that you can't live up to the standard set for your peers is uncomfortable and embarrassing. Editing a resume that lacks extracurriculars in the Career Center and being told you need to find ways to pad it is frustrating and hurtful. Everywhere you turn,

someone is demanding something of you that you simply can't deliver.

Even given all these hardships, I would never choose to not be chronically ill. My chronic illness has helped me expand my empathy and manage my time better. It continues to teach me to discern what is important to me and learn to care for myself as well as others.

Having a chronic illness is hard, especially in college. If someone has confided in you that they have a chronic illness, please have empathy for them and for us as a group. We face all the same challenges that you do, as well as additional difficulties with our health and navigating Calvin's policies and culture. Our illnesses impact every square inch of our experiences as students, including how we engage with Calvin as an institution. We're doing our best to play the cards we've been dealt, and it's not an easy hand to play.

It's time to reexamine Knight Bucks

BY AARON TOTH
Guest Writer

When I first arrived at Calvin, I knew that I would be getting Knight Bucks with my meal plan, but I was flabbergasted when I learned that I would receive \$150 Knight Bucks per semester. Being an economics major, I was quick to do the math: this would amount to \$300 Knight Bucks per year, or \$1200 Knight Bucks over the course of four years at Calvin (assuming one maintains the "Calvin Core Plan"). For a freshman class of 736 students, \$220,800 Knight Bucks will be issued to first-year students alone this year.

This is a tremendous amount of money to be spent on coffee and convenience food. Quite frankly, it is too much. College students shouldn't be forced to spend \$300 on expensive coffee and convenient snacks during their freshman year. After the first semester, Knight Bucks should be optional, empowering students to make wise choices with their money.

Let's explore what Knight Bucks really are. Knight Bucks function similarly to gift cards; they are loans to businesses that are repaid by that business, exclusively in the form of that business' services. For example, if you buy a Starbucks gift card, you are loaning your money to Starbucks in exchange for the promise that you will be paid back with coffee. Knight Bucks are the same way, with some negative complications.

"Are these the coffee-buying and convenience shopping habits that Calvin students need in order to be agents of renewal?"

First, Knight Bucks can be spent at either Peet's or Johnny's (they can be spent on guests at dining halls as well, but this is situational). This means that students have the option of spending their Knight Bucks on Starbucks-esque coffee or convenience food. Are these the coffee-buying and convenience shopping habits that Calvin students need in order to be agents of renewal?

Second, first-year students are required to loan \$300 to these shops during their first year. Unlike gift cards, which are bought by choice, Knight Bucks come with living on campus at Calvin.

"Allowing students to choose whether or not to buy Knight Bucks would be freeing for many."

Third, Knight Bucks holders must redeem their loans within the semester, or they will no longer be paid back. In essence, the loan that first-year students were forced to give out is defaulted on. Is this "acting justly?" Additionally, this expiration date, combined with the convenience factor, lead to an increase in relative price that we all experience. Bottled tea costs 25 percent more at Johnny's and pints of ice cream can be almost twice as much compared to general retailers.

Viewing Knight Bucks as a weird, forced credit agreement might seem like a stretch, but it is descriptive of

Knight Bucks' function. They are a line of credit upon which Calvin's external vendors rely. But should they? If these shops only exist in their current form because students are forced to redeem money they've already loaned there, should they continue to operate unchanged?

Proponents of Knight Bucks argue that they provide convenience to students — especially international students and students under the age of 18 who can have trouble getting access to electronic payment methods. They claim that some students, if given the choice, would opt out of Knight Bucks and into hunger. This is why Knight Bucks must remain as an option. But after a semester with \$150 Knight Bucks, students who want to should be given the choice of opting out. Allowing students to choose whether or not to buy Knight Bucks would be freeing for many. It would noticeably reduce room and board payments, and it would put the edifying responsibility of decision making on students, not administrators.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Greets the villain
- Bummer
- Wd. from Roget
- Incite
- Writer Rice
- Scot's refusal
- Time of youthful innocence
- World Cup cheer
- Jacket part
- Cut wood
- Hectic hosp. area
- Sun block?
- Satirist Mort
- "Exodus" hero
- Infatuated
- Acapulco gold
- Impose brand
- "Delicious!"
- Lugosi of film
- Observe
- Nick and Nora's pet
- Cove
- Room cooler, for short
- Pal
- Geronimo, for one
- Mound stat
- 1987 Woody Allen movie
- Hobbyist's abbr.

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- Apple product
- Bas-relief medium
- Belly
- Pet-food brand
- Winter "no school" times
- "I - Rock"
- Snake's warning
- Harvard rival
- Moreover
- Mediocre grades
- Grant basis, at times
- National park in Maine
- Part of A.D.
- TiVo, for example
- Ira Gershwin's contribution
- Room cooler, for short
- Calendar abbr.
- GI's address
- Smooch
- Vinegar bottle
- Helps
- Spoken
- Low-calorie
- "Misery" star
- Leer at
- Weep
- James
- Sargasso
- "Right you -!"
- Church song
- Wiggler
- Work breaks
- brand
- Florida county
- Church section
- Gorilla
- Whatever
- Whatever
- Fawn's mom

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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:
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PHOTO ESSAY

November 15, 2021 | Page 8 | WWW.CALVINCHIMES.ORG

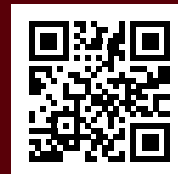
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