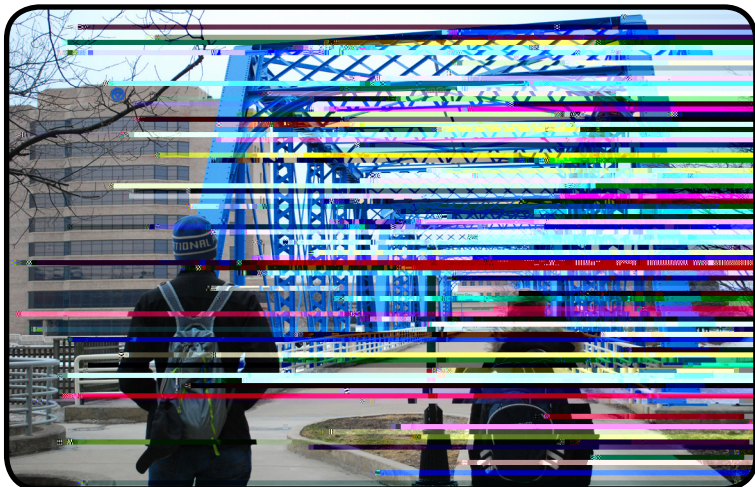






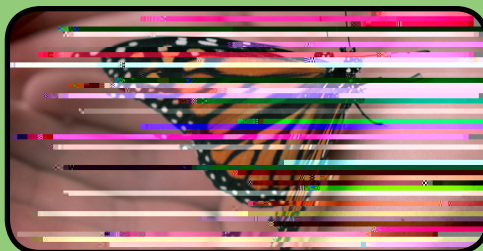
Mapping Routes, Revealing History

Anna Lindner, Partnership Development Coordinator



Matt Beukema and Anna Lindner scope out the area for GR Walks, "River Walk Tour."

2014 Photo Contest



Staff Choice Photo Contest Winner:
Beth Wiersma, Knoxville, TN

"We are women, empowering women slightly"

Calvin Students at Headstart

Marjorie Gunnoe, Psychology Professor

As part of Psychology 208 (*Developmental I: Child*), students spend 14 hours volunteering at Headstart, a preschool program for families who live below the poverty line. In addition to basic academic skills (colors, numbers, letters) Headstart children are taught social skills necessary to succeed in environments beyond their family and neighborhood. They are taught to pass food politely around the family-style lunch table and to *use your words, not your fists*.

I've been sending students to Headstart for 17 years. My primary objective is that students see real-life examples of the concepts taught in class and reflect on these concepts in a final paper. The partnership also benefits those at Headstart. The teachers are grateful for the extra help in the classroom; the children benefit from contact with Calvin students who work one-on-one with them, serve as good role models, and portray life choices that are foreign to some (but not all) of the children. (Almost every semester I have a Calvin student tell me that a child simply would not believe that the Calvin student was not yet a parent.)

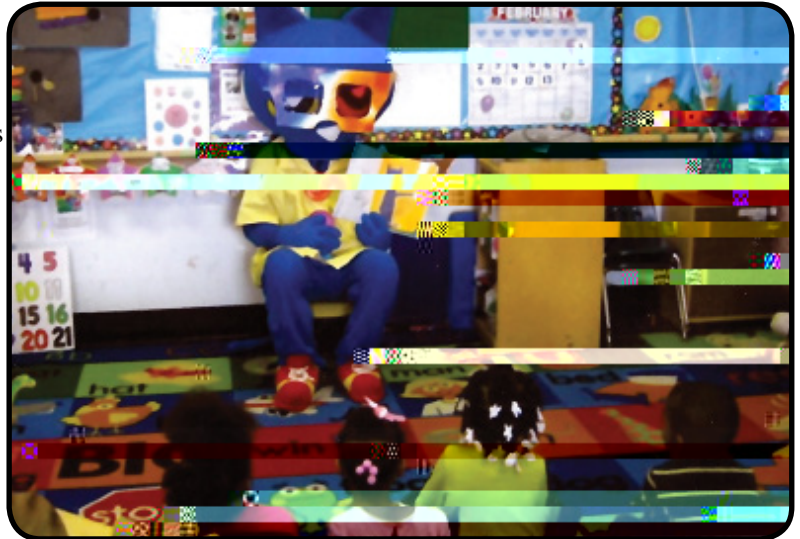
And I personally learn so much, especially from students' reflections on the preschoolers' understanding of gender. Here are some things I've learned about gender over the years:

Girls don't drive if boys are there. Boys always drive so that the girls can sit in the other seat and do their make-up and yell at the kids (contributed by Laura Drost, class of '12).

One of the girls wanted to play in the tool workshop area. The boys told her that building was a boys' job and she had to make lunches for them *because that's what girls do for boys who build things* (contributed by Tyler VanderWal, class of '13).

A boy and a girl decided that they were going to get married. They said, *Look at our new baby*. (This baby had no hair.) *I asked, is it a boy or a girl?* to which they responded, *We aren't sure, we have to wait a few days until its hair grows out. If the hair is short, then it's a boy; if it is long, then it's a girl* (contributed by Jenn LaFrenier, class of '06).

Psychology 208 is geared toward Psychology majors and anyone who wants to learn about kids (pre-requisite Psyc 151). Many students use the Headstart "mini-internship" to ascertain whether they should pursue a career with children. Student responses vary. Most students find the experience valuable and enjoyable, some seek employment at Headstart, and some appropriately discern that they should be doing something else. One student told me, *Prof. Gunnoe, I owe you so much. I was sure I wanted to work with young children and after this semester I know that I do not!* This student subsequently got a job working with violent teens (which sounded even more challenging to me) ... but at least he's not a bum. As another student explained in her final paper *When I told one of the preschoolers that I didn't have a job because I had to quit to focus on school ... she declared, "then you're a bum ain't you ...yes you is."*



Calvin student Steven Lewis reads a book about "Pete The Cat" to students at Adams Headstart.

Giving to the Service-Learning Center

The programs and services that the S-LC provides are funded by the general college budget. Any gifts given to Calvin College and designated specifically to the Service-Learning Center allow us to offer financial assistance for students who participate in the annual spring break service-learning trips (www.calvin.edu/go/springbreaktrips).

Additionally, donations designated to the S-LC Gift account allow us to continue long-standing programs like StreetFest, and to occasionally fund student transportation to conferences or other professional development opportunities (www.calvin.edu/support).

Thanks for your continued support!



Spring Break Trip Connections

Thad Winkle

Thad Winkle first began serving at the Spencer Perkins Center as a Jubilee Fellow, working in youth development while also doing some writing and traveling with Dr. John M. Perkins. After returning from that summer, Thad went on to lead a Service-Learning Center spring break trip to a sister ministry in Mendenhall, Mississippi, continuing to serve and explore Dr. Perkins' vision. Thad now works full time for the Perkins Center. He will soon be leaving this job to attend seminary, and will be replaced by Sarah Stripp, another Calvin graduate.

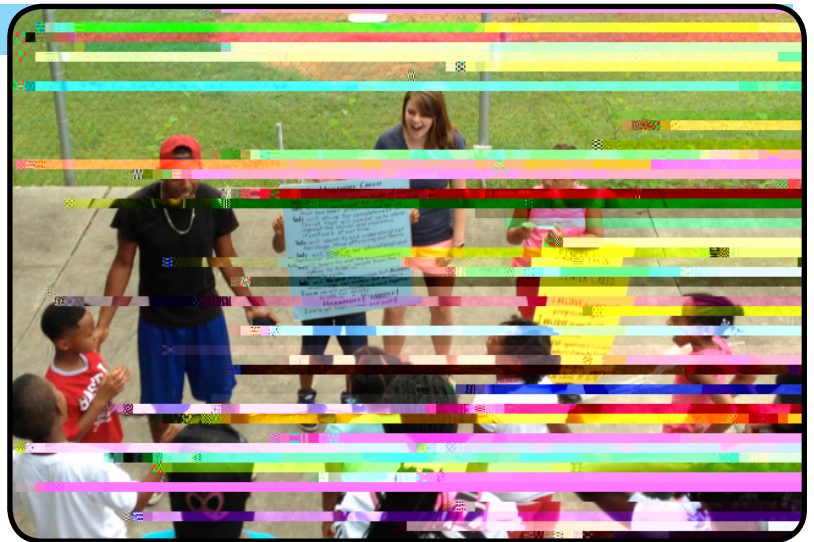


Thad (center) with staff from the Spencer Perkins Center.

Read more at:

www.calvin.edu/go/thad-winkle

Sarah Stripp



Sarah (center) leading kids in chapel at the Perkins Center summer youth camp.

Read more at:

www.calvin.edu/go/sarah-stripp





Spotlight: Long-term Service-Learners

“I started W.E.B. Tutoring when I was a freshman in high school, so nearly eight years ago. It quickly became such an integral part of my life that imagining my life in Grand Rapids without it is nearly impossible. The kids at the program, specifically the girl that I tutor, have shown me incredible perseverance over these years: home life is often difficult, and they don’t get enough educational support at

“My time with Plaster Creek Stewards began with Biology 250, a class in stream research. I have become more involved this year with my home Church, Alger Park. As a fly-fisherman growing up, I always loved streams and now hope to pursue stream restoration after Calvin. Being with Plaster Creek Stewards has helped me learn how my love for streams and my passions for the environment and community development could be brought together. It has allowed me to work in the watershed, community, and church in which I was raised, and to work to make an impact through offering my new knowledge from classes and other experiences while at Calvin. I am very thankful for the opportunity to help with a unique organization like PCS!” – Joel Betts



CA