

The January Series of Calvin College 2015

Wednesday **Bobette Buster**
January 7 **“Storytelling and the Arc of Transformation”**

Buster is a story consultant, lecturer, adjunct professor at USC Film School and screenwriter who works with major studios, including Disney and Pixar, and in top film programs all over the world. If the 20th Century is dubbed the Industrial Age, Buster suggests that the 21st Century be dubbed the Age of Story. From the advent of blogging to the continued popularity of feature films, we’ve become a society that runs on narrative. This “story expert” will explain how storytelling actually works.

Thursday **Dr. William Hurlbut**
January 8 **“Chemicals to Consciousness: The Mystery of the Human Mind”**

Hurlbut is a physician and consulting professor in the Neuroscience Institute at Stanford University Medical Center. In addition to teaching, he served for eight years on the U.S. President’s Council on Bioethics. He has also worked with NASA on projects in astrobiology. He will share with us the beauty and mystery of the human brain from a faith perspective.

Friday **Bryan Stevenson**
January 9 **“Why Mass Incarceration Defines Us as a Society”**

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, defending some of America’s most rejected and marginalized people. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called Stevenson “America’s young Nelson Mandela.” He has recently published his debut novel *Just Mercy*, available in fall 2014. His efforts led to a Supreme Court ruling effectively barring mandatory life sentences without parole for minors.

Monday **Dr. Craig Detweiler**
January 12 **“iGods: How Technology Shapes our Spiritual and Social Lives”**

We wake up to our iPhones and sign off to Facebook. In between we’re texting, downloading, and streaming—inundated with information from Google, Hulu and iTunes. How do we filter all our media to discern what matters? Craig Detweiler, who has his PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary, is a professor of communication and director of the Center for Entertainment, Media, and Culture at Pepperdine University where they are asking these kinds of questions. He is also an author, award-winning filmmaker, and cultural commentator who has been featured on CNN, NPR, and in the *New York Times*.

Tuesday **Tova Friedman**
January 13 **“Kinderlager: Reflections of a Child Holocaust Survivor”**

The number A27633 has been tattooed on her forearm for over 70 years. Tova Friedman is the youngest known survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp. She was one of the 7,000 prisoners found alive during the liberation of Auschwitz by the Soviet army in January 1945 – this January marks the 70th anniversary of their liberation. She and two other women among the children liberated were interviewed by Holland, Michigan native Milton Nieuwsma for a 1998 book which was made into a PBS documentary in 2005.

Wednesday **Richard M. Daley**
January 14 **“CEO of the City”**

The longest-serving mayor in Chicago’s history, Richard M. Daley has earned an international reputation as a leading innovator in urban development, fiscal policy and government stewardship. Mr. Daley was elected mayor in 1989 and re-elected five times before deciding to retire from government in May of 2011. He now serves as a senior advisor to JP Morgan Chase, where he chairs the new "Global Cities Initiative," a joint project of JP Morgan Chase and the Brookings Institution to help cities identify and leverage their greatest economic development resources.

Thursday **James Fishkin**
January 15 **“When the People Speak: Deliberate Democracy”**

Fishkin holds the Janet M. Peck Chair in International Communication at Stanford University where he is professor of Communication and professor of Political Science. He is the author of a number of books and is best known for developing *Deliberative Polling*, a practice of public consultation that employs random samples of the citizenry to explore how opinions would change if they were more informed. Professor Fishkin and his collaborators have conducted Deliberative Polls in Britain, Australia, Denmark, Bulgaria, China, Greece and other countries as well as the United States.

Friday **Roxana Saberi**
January 16 **“On the Streets of Tehran”**

An Iranian-American journalist, author and human rights advocate, Saberi moved to Iran in 2003 to work as the Iran correspondent for the U.S.-based Feature Story News. She filed reports for organizations such as NPR, BBC, ABC Radio and Fox News and was working on a book about Iran when she was arrested on January 31, 2009 accused of being a spy. She spent the next 100 days in the infamous Evin Prison before international pressure secured her release. After returning to the United States, Saberi wrote *Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran*.

Monday **Alyce Claerbaut**
January 19 **“Jazz and the Legacy of Billy Strayhorn”**

As a jazz advocate and promoter, Claerbaut served as the president of the Northeastern Illinois University Jazz Society, was co-founder of the Skokie Valley Jazz Ensemble, and director of the Chicago Jazz Orchestra. She is currently president of Billy Strayhorn Songs, Inc. where she interacts with music publishers, producers and educators, particularly in jazz. Ms. Claerbaut is a Calvin alum and, as the niece of Billy Strayhorn, she was instrumental in helping to bring Duke Ellington to perform in the Calvin Fieldhouse in 1967.

Tuesday **Dr. David Katz**
January 20 **“The Rational Un-fattening of
America’s Families”**

Director and co-founder of the Yale Prevention Research Center, Dr. Katz is recognized as one of America’s top physicians in preventative medicine by the Consumers’ Research Council of America and is the recipient of many awards for his contributions to public health and medical education. He is a prominent voice in health and medicine in the media, serving as *ABC News’* medical consultant. He speaks routinely around the world. Dr. Katz addresses the challenges in our “obesogenic” environment, and describes the blend of public politics and personal empowerment needed to take us toward a healthier future.

Wednesday **Elizabeth Dias**
January 21 **“Covering TIME”**

A graduate of Wheaton College and Princeton Theological Seminary, Ms. Dias is a correspondent for TIME Magazine covering religion and politics. She has written cover stories on Pope Francis, Trayvon Martin, and American Christianity, including The Latino Reformation and Barbara Brown Taylor. She will share with us what is involved in being a correspondent for a major news magazine, what it’s like covering Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama, how politics affect religious stories, and what she anticipates will be future stories.

Thursday **Adm. James Stavridis**
January 22 **“A Navy Admiral’s Thoughts
on Global Security”**

Stavridis recently accepted the role as dean of The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University. A retired Admiral in the U.S. Navy, he led the NATO Alliance in global operations from 2009 to 2013 as Supreme Allied Commander. He also served as Commander of U.S. Southern Command, with responsibility for all military operations in Latin America from 2006-2009. He sees dialogue and collaboration, between nations, and between public and private sectors, as key to the future of security. As a Navy officer, he thinks deeply about protecting the value of our "global commons." And he’s a rare high-ranking military officer who tweets, blogs and accepts friends on Facebook.

Friday **Larry Louters**
January 23 **“Discovering God’s Majesty
in the Minuscule”**

Prof. Louters is one of Calvin’s most-beloved professors, becoming one of four Calvin professors to be listed in *The Princeton Review’s Top 300 Professors* and earning the college’s *Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching*. To Calvin students he’s known as an amazing research mentor, leading research projects relevant to diabetes and cancer with up to five students each summer. Local fifth graders who visit his annual “Chem Demos” know him as the crazy science guy who blows things up and makes test tubes glow in the dark. He will share his passion for science and how it has strengthened his faith over the years.

Monday **Paul Marshall**
January 26 **“The Global Assault on Christians”**

Paul Marshall serves as a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute’s Center for Religious Freedom. He is also a senior fellow at Baylor University and at the Leimena Institute in Jakarta, Indonesia. He is a visiting fellow at the graduate school of State Islamic University, also in Jakarta. He is the author and editor of over twenty books on religion and politics, especially religious freedom. According to the Pew Research Center and a number of media groups, Christians are the world’s most widely persecuted religious group. Dr. Marshall will offer a glimpse at the modern-day life of Christians worldwide and provide insight on this global pattern of violence.

Tuesday **Jerry Sittser**
January 27 **“Adversity and Spiritual Formation”**

Professor of religion at Whitworth College, Sittser is the author of several books including *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows through Loss*; *When God Doesn’t Answer Your Prayer*; and *The Will of God as a Way of Life*. He holds a master of divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago. During his presentation he will weave in a little of his own personal story of loss as he focuses on how adversity in general and suffering in particular can be formative in the Christian life.

Visit www.calvin.edu/january for more information including remote site locations and past archives.



Each January, for fifteen days, Calvin College sponsors the daily hour-long cultural enrichment series called The January Series. Presented at 12:30 p.m. (EST) in the 1000-seat Covenant Fine Art Center Auditorium on-campus, the series is open without charge to students, faculty, and the Western Michigan community. We also transmit our presentations live over the internet and we send presentations to a growing number of remote sites across the country, which allows us to grow our audience well beyond our auditorium walls.

Recordings of past lectures can be purchased through Calvin’s Campus Store. Contact them at 1-800-748-0122 or via e-mail at: campus-store@calvin.edu



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