



CONVOCATION

CALVIN UNIVERSITY
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

THE TWENTY-NINTH OF AUGUST
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN



EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The mission of Calvin University is to equip students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world.

Calvin’s educational framework is derived from that mission. It articulates a frame that ensures integrated, coherent, holistic programs and practices in which students learn and develop. The framework names university-wide goals that ground the institution’s curricular and co-curricular activities. It attempts to answer the question, “What are the enduring characteristics or qualities of thinking, doing, and being that mark a Calvin University graduate?”

The four primary components of the educational framework are represented on the large banners hanging in the front of the arena, directly above the academic banners.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

VAN NOORD ARENA

PRELUDE

A selection of recordings by Calvin ensembles

PROCESSIONAL

Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace

music by Swee Hong Lim

WELCOME

Cheryl Brandsen, PhD, provost

*** OPENING SONG**

Rejoice in All Your Works

Wendell Kimbrough

* Please rise in body or spirit

Rejoice in All Your Works



1 Ev - ery mouth that cries for food, ev - ery lung that yearns for breath,
2 Ev - ery tree that thirsts for rain, ev - ery bird that seeks its nest,
3 May the pon - d'rings of my heart and the song up - on my lips



ev - ery eye that search - es through the dark for light,
ev - ery heart that waits in hope to be made glad,
with the chor - us of cre - a - tion join in praise



all cre - a - tion looks to you, for its breath and for its food;
all cre - a - tion looks to you, for its breath and for its food;
to the God who made all things, to the Spir - it who sus - tains,



from the good - ness of your hand they're sat - is - fied.
from the good - ness of your hand they're sat - is - fied.
to the Son who o - ver all cre - a - tion reigns.



Oh re - joice in all your works, King of heav - en, King of earth! Ev - ery



crea - ture you have made de - clares your praise. We re - joice in all you've made, God of



all su - stain - ing grace; with the moun - tain, sky, and sea we sing your praise.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 7:24-27

Kay Casturo '22, vice president of student senate

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

“The Next Chapter”

Michael Le Roy, PhD, president

MATRICULATION CEREMONY

Michelle Loyd-Paige, PhD, executive associate to the president for diversity and inclusion

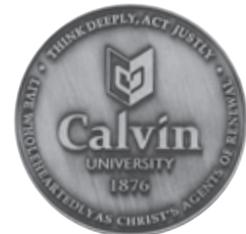
Emerson Silvernail '20, student body president

Incoming students join a history of formal education stretching back to the training of scribes in Sumeria more than 5,500 years ago. And they are participating in a Calvin history that points back to 1876, the year the institution welcomed its first class of students. Today, students are invited to join more than 65,000 alumni in adding their names to Calvin’s rich history by signing a paper that will be bound in book form and placed in the university’s historical archives.

Students are also receiving a commemorative coin during the ceremony that will serve as the front bookend to their Calvin journey. We ask students to keep this coin and bring it with them to their graduation ceremony, where they will receive the other bookend: their diploma.

One side of the coin shows Calvin University’s official seal, based on an image of a hand and a heart used by Reformer John Calvin in the 1540s to seal his letters. In the 1920s, Calvin University adopted an iteration that included the motto: “My heart I offer to you Lord, promptly and sincerely.” The English and Latin versions of the seal are prominently featured in formal academic ceremonies and publications.

The other side of the coin displays Calvin University’s official logo, which features the wayfinder—a chevron derived from the pentagon shape in the university’s official seal. The four outermost corners form a square, paying homage to the institution’s foundational theology that every square inch belongs to God. Within the wayfinder is the reflective “c” symbol, standing for “Calvin” and forming the semblance of a heart, also tying into the heart-in-hand element in the institution’s seal. Language from the university’s mission statement surrounds the logo on the coin.



BLESSING

Sarah Visser, PhD, vice president for student life
Kumar Sinniah, PhD, professor of biochemistry

We will be praying for each other this afternoon. When you are being prayed for, please hold your hands in front of you as a gesture of reception.

For these new students, Lord, we pray for courage. Bless them with a willingness to try new things, explore new subjects, and expand their worlds. Give them the freedom to fail, and then build up in them the resilience to try again.

For the students' families and friends, Lord, we ask that you turn their hearts away from worry and toward gratitude, away from regret and toward contentment, away from holding on and toward letting go. Give them the courage to leave this campus today knowing that their children are in the palm of your hand. We are grateful for how you have used parents and step-parents, relatives and friends to shape these students, and we pray that you give them wisdom as they continue to invest in their students' lives.

For the returning students, Lord, we pray that you empower them to be people of integrity: may the words they sing in worship be lived out in the classroom, playing field, rehearsal room, and residence halls. May the lives that they live and the choices that they make mark them as followers of Jesus. As they choose areas of focus for their studies, guide them to areas in which they can find you already at work.

For the faculty and staff, Lord, we pray for joy as they enter into a new academic year. May those who teach be empowered by your Holy Spirit to teach with boldness and compassion, with warmth and fairness, with justice and mercy. May those on our staff be satisfied with the work they have done this summer to prepare the campus for this fall. We pray that all employees of Calvin University will be blessed with a longing to serve those around them wisely and well, with patience toward those with whom they work, and with joy that pervades their lives at work and at home.

For all of us: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord let the light of his countenance shine upon you and give you peace. Amen!

PRAYER

Mary Hulst, PhD, university chaplain

RECESSIONAL

We Will Extol You, God and King

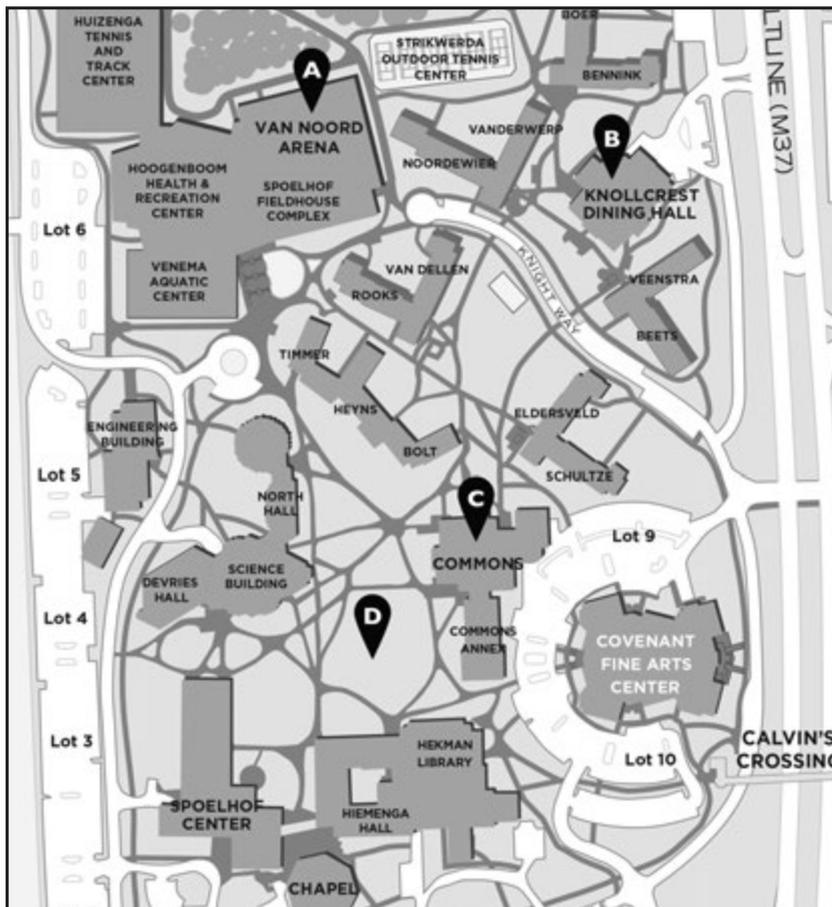
music by Greg Scheer

POSTLUDE

The audience is requested to remain seated until the faculty and students have recessed.

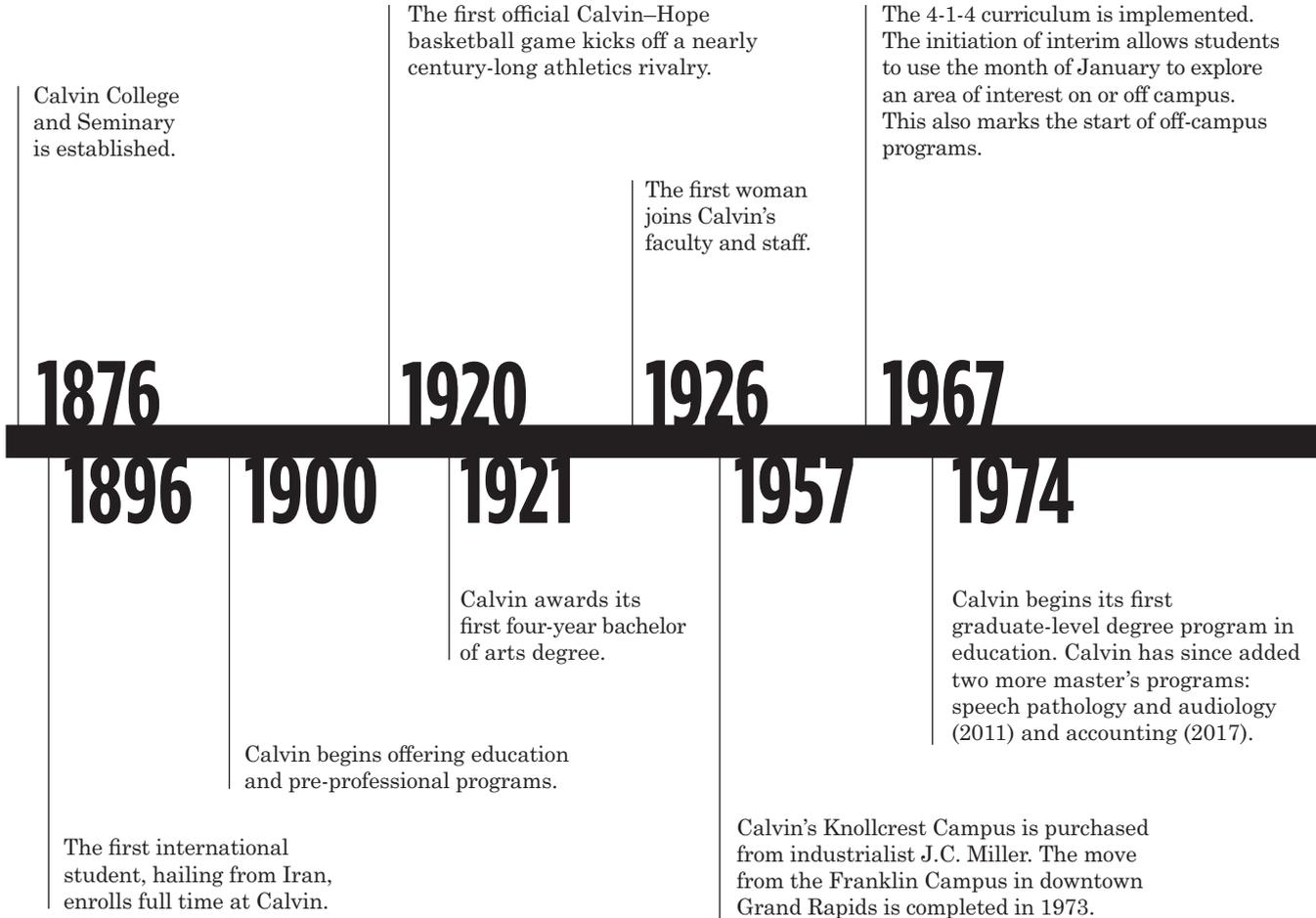
COOKOUT ON THE COMMONS LAWN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

Students and guests are cordially invited to celebrate with faculty, staff, and their families.
(Rain locations: Commons and Knollcrest Dining Halls)



- A** VAN NOORD ARENA
- B** KNOLLCREST DINING HALL
- C** COMMONS DINING HALL
- D** COMMONS LAWN

CALVIN: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



It started simply, as great things often do. But what began in 1876 as a school of ministry training with just seven white Dutch male students has emerged as a world-class Christian liberal arts university of 3,700 students representing many cultures, 63 countries, 45 U.S. states, and seven Canadian provinces.

Tenure awarded to an African American professor at Calvin for the first time.

1981

Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary become distinct institutions.

1991

Furthering its commitment to a flourishing multicultural Christian academic community, Calvin creates a cabinet-level position focused on diversity and inclusion.

2013

In partnership with Calvin Theological Seminary and the Michigan Department of Corrections, Calvin receives accreditation for the Calvin Prison Initiative, becoming the first institution in the state to offer a full bachelor's degree to inmates.

2016

1988

Enrollment hits a record of 4,505 students.

2004

2012

Michael K. Le Roy is inaugurated as Calvin's 10th president.

2019

Calvin College becomes Calvin University.

Embracing the biblical view of the kingdom of God, and in seeking to play a prophetic role in bearing witness to that kingdom, Calvin adopts *From Every Nation* — a document articulating a vision as well as goals and strategies for promoting diversity and inclusion.

The women's volleyball team claims Calvin's 11th NCAA Division III national championship.



Art and
Art History



Biology



Business



Chemistry and
Biochemistry



Classics



Communication



Computer
Science

DEPARTMENT BANNERS

Throughout history, colorful banners have been used to mark important religious and civic events and to celebrate the vision and spirit of the participants in such events. Besides symbolically revealing the richness of the various disciplines at Calvin University, the department banners graphically represent their distinctiveness. Although the colors are mostly in keeping with traditional associations—scarlet for religion and theology, blue for education, orange for engineering—the designs combine the traditional, the contemporary, and the abstract.

Art and Art History Department

An abstract eye and hand symbolize artistic expression through the artist's sense of sight and touch. Bright colors against black suggest creative boldness.

Biology Department

Dominating the banner is a symbol representing the structure of the DNA molecule, deoxyribonucleic acid. The structure of this fundamental material of life, the chemical basis of heredity, was revealed in 1953 and actually photographed in 1969.

Business Department

The banner of the business department depicts a visual representation of business as a nexus of relationships between people. A Christ-centered education is symbolized by the center vertical column and the horizontal shape of human figures forming a cross. The center, vertical, white column also symbolizes the light of learning and the presence of the Holy Spirit in education.

Chemistry and Biochemistry Department

The main symbol used in this banner is the electron distribution for tetrahedral hybrid orbitals, which represents the chemical activity of the elements and their compounds. Two segments of a crystal structure are included in the design, which are also the floor plan shape of the science building. The shaft of pale yellow symbolizes the light of investigation. Yellow is the traditional color associated with science.

Classics Department

While the lyre and the wolf may be taken individually as symbols of Greece and Rome, together they portray the unity of the two civilizations and its cultural achievement, the union of art and nature, and of poetry and myth. Horace has given this continuity and fusion of the two traditions of Greece and Rome its classical literary expression in his odes, of which none better, perhaps, than the *Integer vitae* ode conveys the intention of this banner.

Communication Department

Sound waves emanating from a central core symbolize communication through speech and drama. The reversal of the outward movement suggests feedback in communication. Silver gray is the color traditionally assigned to speech and drama.

Computer Science Department

The banner of the computer science department features a Turing machine, the foundational model of digital computation. The zeroes and ones on its tape reflect the binary logic by which digital computation is implemented.



*Congregational
and Ministry
Studies*



Economics



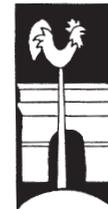
Education



Engineering



English



French



*Geology,
Geography, &
Environmental
Studies*

The changing colors and order of the numbers express the transition as data move from input through processing to output. The white shaft and its golden sheath symbolize the light and energy of education and the sciences. The flowing wind symbolizes the transforming work of the Holy Spirit as it infuses the discipline of computing.

Congregational and Ministry Studies

The flame and the dove symbolize the Spirit's work within each of us to foster a vibrant Christian life and active participation in the ongoing renewal of church life. The congregational and ministry studies department emphasizes academic preparation for knowledgeable contributions to the church along with strategies for exercising the voice of faith in society more broadly. Concern for the academic study of ministry leadership, whether lay or ordained, is grounded in the Reformed tradition's emphasis on the responsibilities of every Christian for ministry and in the emerging vitality of congregational studies as a field of teaching and scholarship.

Economics Department

Shapes and lines express the charting and planning of economic budgets. Subtly appearing among other symbols is a cross expressing the Christ-centered teaching of economics at Calvin University. Copper is the color associated with economics.

Education Department

The relationship of teacher and student in the educational process is represented by the forceful interaction of shapes in this design. The white shaft symbolizes the light of learning in the Holy Spirit. Blue is traditionally linked with education.

Engineering Department

The banner illustrates the key activity of engineers, namely, their involvement with the design process, an iterative, decision-making sequence. Steps in the sequence, represented by circles and rectangles, are connected by arrows to indicate the movement from the initial problem statement to final solution. Two-way arrows suggest the possibility of sequence reversal. Orange traditionally designates engineering.

English Department

The two main symbols, the lion and the eagle, represent England and the United States of America. The lozenge pattern in the background expresses the pageantry of England during the development of the English language.

French Department

The banner of the department of French features the Coq Gaulois, long a national emblem of France, and the Arch of Triumph, a symbol of French patriotism. The cock, traditionally the Christian symbol for watchfulness, has been adopted as its symbol by a nation which since its inception has been one of the important cradles of Christian thought and practice. The colors of the national flag are represented by the Coq Gaulois.

Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies Department

Earthkeeping, the human community's care for God's earth, is symbolized in the banner for the department of geology, geography, and environmental studies by representations of atmosphere, mountains, cities, water, and the various levels of the earth's interior. The white shaft symbolizes the light and energy of learning stimulated by the Holy Spirit.



*Germanic
& Asian
Languages
& Literatures*



History



*International
Development
Studies*



Kinesiology



Library



*Mathematics
& Statistics*



Music



Nursing

Germanic and Asian Languages and Literatures Department

The study of the Dutch and German languages is represented by symbols taken from emblems of the countries associated with these languages. The traditional black eagle represents Germany, and the orange lion is from the seal of the Netherlands. The white shaft symbolizes the light of learning.

History Department

Jagged horizontal bands, representing both the rise and fall of civilizations and the four kingdoms as described in the Book of Daniel, move across vertical time lines, which also symbolize the dramatic influence of Christ on history.

International Development Studies

Human development is the transformation that occurs as we engage the redemptive task of reconciling all things to Christ and working toward a world that conforms ever more closely to the biblical vision of shalom. This transformation is symbolized by the “dancers,” who radiate the joy of human flourishing in a diverse world embedded in God’s creation. The dancers evoke the image of the cross and remind us that we are able to dance only because of our freedom in Christ. The Holy Spirit, symbolized by the white strand that comes from above and weaves its way through the dancers and all of creation, inspires the dance.

Kinesiology Department

Engaged in exercise, sports, and dance, a person in motion is suggested by the movement of rhythmical shapes and lines. Sage green is the color associated with physical fitness.

Library

The library as a gatherer, receptacle, and distributor of information, ideas, and learning is represented by the abstract book shape, while the white, flowing shaft itself symbolizes the light and energy of learning in the Holy Spirit of God. The flame is the traditional symbol of learning and discovery through research.

Mathematics and Statistics Department

Mathematicians have always saved time and effort by substituting symbols for words. The basic arithmetical steps of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing are depicted on this banner by some of the earliest ways of writing them down. The Renaissance calculator Tartaglia used the first letter of the Italian word for plus to signify adding. Diophantus favored this minus sign in Greek times. Leibniz employed this multiplication symbol in 17th-century Germany. J. E. Gallimard used this reverse D for division in 18th-century France.

Music Department

The design of the banner emphasizes the rhythms of musical sounds. Shapes and lines suggest strings, valves, keys, horn bell, drum, and other musical forms. Radiating circles suggest sound waves. The colors express the various moods of music.

Nursing Department

The traditional emblem of nursing, Florence Nightingale’s lamp, is featured in the banner for the department of nursing. The flame of the lamp symbolizes the light of Christian compassion and education. The gold of the lamp is the traditional color for science. The background apricot color is the academic regalia color for nursing, while the white shaft represents peace through the Holy Spirit.



Philosophy



*Physics and
Astronomy*



*Political
Science*



Psychology



Religion



*Sociology &
Social Work*



Spanish



*Speech
Pathology and
Audiology*

Philosophy Department

Light refracted through a transparent prism symbolizes the many-faceted investigations of fact and of principles of reality and of human nature and conduct.

Physics and Astronomy Department

The construction of elements is symbolized in the banner by the simplest atom, hydrogen, with its single proton and electron. Also included in the design are a tracing of the paths of particles from an atom and a segment of a crystal structure, which is also the floor plan shape of the science building. The yellow shaft symbolizes the light of investigation.

Political Science Department

The banner of the department of political science features a representation of the fasces, a symbol of the authority of the state, and arrows that express the direction and flow of the analytical and holistic nature of the process of law. The fasces, a bundle of rods bound about by an ax with projecting blade, was carried before ancient Roman magistrates as a symbol of authority. The white shaft of seven rods also symbolizes peace and enlightenment through the Holy Spirit.

Psychology Department

The Greek letter psi, the first letter of the Greek word psyche (the mind), traditionally signifies the discipline of psychology. The color red symbolizes emotion; blue, rationality; and white, peace through the Holy Spirit.

Religion Department

Three symbols of the Trinity—circle, cross, and dove—express the fullness of God as he reveals himself as creator, savior, and counselor. These symbols are interlocked to depict

the oneness of God. The shaft of white is the light of learning in Christian education guided by the Holy Spirit. Scarlet is traditionally associated with theology.

Sociology and Social Work Department

The central concept of sociology, represented by the inner circle, is a person interacting with other people to form groups. Total human society, represented by the broken circle, is composed of many small units forming a larger interrelated structure. All groups, from the family to society itself, exist within a framework of social norms. This normative or cultural framework, represented by the unbroken outer circle, promotes conformity, as suggested by the arrows directed from it toward the inner circles of society and the smaller group.

Spanish Department

The banner of the Spanish department features the traditional symbols of the historical kingdoms of Castilla (castle), León (lion), and Aragón (red and yellow bars). These Christian kingdoms emerged during the eight-hundred-year-long reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula from domination by Muslim rulers. The separate kingdoms were joined through the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, and eventually coalesced into the modern nation of Spain.

Speech Pathology and Audiology Department

The flowing wind shapes symbolize the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the processes involved in Speech Pathology and Audiology. The colorful figure expresses Speech Pathology and Audiology reaching into the fundamentals of human relationships and communication.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The ceremonial costumes worn by faculty and staff at Convocation have their roots in the Middle Ages, when European scholars wore robes, hoods, and caps to stay warm in unheated classrooms. Universities eventually adopted them as official everyday classroom uniforms to discourage “excess in apparel.” As the custom spread across Europe and into other areas, style differences emerged to designate each scholar’s institution, level of education, and (in the United States) field of study.

Today, the costume is reserved for ceremonial occasions. For convocation, faculty and staff wear regalia to honor the significance of this milestone in students’ lives. Gown and hood styles tell us something about each wearer’s degree.

Though black is the traditional robe color and always appropriate for a doctoral gown, many professors wear the distinctive colors and styles of the universities that granted their degrees.

The longer the hood, the more advanced the degree. Master’s and doctor’s hoods have satin linings in the colors of the institution where the degree was earned. The velvet edging color represents the wearer’s discipline. Though blue signifies philosophy and is therefore appropriate for any PhD (doctor of philosophy), universities in the United States also use these colors:

- White for arts and letters
- Light blue for education

- Drab (tan) for business
- Purple for law and political science
- Red for theology
- Gold for sciences
- Pink for music
- Crimson for communications
- Copper for economics
- Orange for engineering
- Brown for fine arts
- Apricot for nursing
- Green for physical education
- Salmon for public health

LATIN SEAL

The Latin heart-in-hand seal became the official emblem of Calvin in 1933, but it emerged as early as 1910 in the college yearbook. However, the words *prompte et sincere* (promptly and sincerely) along with the image of an outstretched hand offering a heart surfaced four centuries earlier in the writings of the Reformer John Calvin. He used the image to seal his letters in the 1540s. The motto *prompte et sincere* appears on his portrait dated 1566. The adoption of the words *Cor meum tibi offero Domine prompte et sincere* (My heart I offer, Lord, promptly and sincerely) and image together stand as the insignia of the institution today, inspiring the Calvin community to practice the university’s mission of living wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world.

CONVOCATION

APPRECIATION

FACULTY MARSHALS,

Deanna van Dijk, PhD, professor of geography;
recipient of the 2019 Presidential Award
for Exemplary Teaching

Joseph Kuilema, PhD, assistant professor of
social work; recipient of the student-elected
2019 Professor of the Year Award

PRELUDE MUSIC MEDLEY

Capella: Let Everything That Hath Breath
Orchestra: Overture to *La Clemenza di Tito*
Women's Chorale: *Gloria*
Wind Ensemble: *Phantastische Spirites*
Gospel Choir: I'll Stand

FLAGS

The international orientation assistants lead the
flag procession, which honors the 450 students
at Calvin who hail from 63 countries.

ACADEMIC BANNERS

Robin Jensen, professor of art, emeritus

ASL INTERPRETER

Justine Bryant

FLOWERS

Eastern Floral

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Center for student success, communications
and marketing, creative dining services,
event services, facilities, information technology

CONVOCATION COMMITTEE

Cheryl Brandsen (provost), JB Britton (campus
involvement & leadership), Sharolyn Christians
(office of the president), Juli Haga (event
services), Amanda Harper (dining services),
Donna Joyce, chair, (event services), Matt
Kucinski (communications and marketing),
Michael Le Roy (president), Steve McBride
(dining services), Connie Porte (event services),
Jane Prins (student life), Heidi Rienstra (office
of the provost), Paul Ryan (campus ministries),
Emerson Silvernail (student body president),
Scott VanDeraa (dining services), Sarah Visser
(student life)

