

# The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, March 2, 2018

## Change Happens

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Most mornings, I scan the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#). Some days it feels like a SWOT exercise, with threats jumping out more than opportunities. I experience moments of “future shock,” a perception of “too much change in too short a period of time.”

Neil Postman coined the phrase “future shock” in 1963—fittingly, in an address to teachers; [Alvin Toffler](#) popularized it in 1970 in a bestseller. “Future shock,” Postman explained, “results in confused, indecisive, and psychically uprooted people.” People experience a loss of agency. Change happens to them. They don’t feel the capacity to be agents of change. In higher education today, including at Calvin, we are experiencing a lot of future shock.

Change does not just happen to us, however; in our changing circumstances we can make choices. [Vision 2030](#) proposes that Calvin become a Christian liberal arts university and a trusted global partner for learning, all the while remaining firmly rooted in a diverse and inclusive Reformed faith. In forums this year, we’ve talked about both the changing context we face and the changes we might choose in Vision 2030, wondering and worrying about the future of Calvin and our particular places in it.

How do we cultivate a sense of agency amid change, as a community and as individuals? [Last week](#), discussing Abraham Kuyper’s vision for the Free University, Matt Walhout reminded us that our calling is to follow Christ rather than be servants of disciplinary and professional interests—or, the interests of the state or corporations. With Christ’s call to follow him comes a promise. As at all times, when we look to the future, we are not our own but belong to him. In him we have agency and can participate in renewal.

Some days, I wonder where Calvin will be in 10 years. I remind myself that we are called to be agents of renewal. How can each of us, in our areas of work, envision ourselves helping Calvin be a trusted partner with global influence? How can we promote a Reformed faith that is diverse, generous, hospitable, and inspiring? Just asking myself these questions reminds me of my agency.

This is not always an easy calling. But it’s a worthy and a grace-filled one, not unlike like that of Abraham Kuyper in founding the Free University in 1880 or the founders of Calvin in 1876.

*Will Katerberg, associate dean for programs and partnerships*

## Alumni Grant Awards

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The Calvin Alumni Association Board congratulates the following faculty for receiving grants:

- **Rachael Baker** (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Amy Wilstermann (Biology), to integrate rare-disease studies in the research and teaching labs: \$5,000
- **Tracy Kuperus** (International Development Studies), to examine how Christian institutions and urban youth in Africa shape citizenship: \$4,000
- **Otto Selles** (French), to research the building and sinking of “The Mystical Art” from the Huguenot *Multipliant* Sect: \$4,000
- **Jason VanHorn** (Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies), to study the origins of modern academic cartography: \$3,900
- **Dave Warners** (Biology), to analyze field botany: A 100-year retrospective assessment of Emma Cole’s *Grand Rapids Flora* (1901): \$4,000
- **Stacey Wieland** (Communication Arts and Sciences), to facilitate virtuous conversations about

divisive issues within the church: \$4,200

- **Roman Williams** (Sociology and Social Work), for a faculty-student collaborative project on the conversion of buildings from sacred to secular and vice versa : \$5,000

## From the Faculty Activity Reports

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- **Henry Luttikhuizen** (Art), “The Renaissance Crosses the Alps: Albrecht Dürer and Printmaking” (keynote address, Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph, MI, January 19, 2018).
- **Ryan Bebej** (Biology), “[From Young-Earth Creationist to Whale Evolution Expert: My Story.](#)” *Bio-logos*, February 6, 2018.
- **Tracy Kuperus** (International Development Studies), “Democratization, Religious Actors, and Political Influence: A Comparison of Christian Councils in Ghana and South Africa” (lecture, Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, Boston, MA, November 3, 2017).

Be sure to [fill out](#) your Faculty Activity Reports regularly. If you have questions, see the [FAQ page](#).

## Coming Up on Campus (Check the [campus calendar](#) for a full list of events)

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### Monday, March 5

- Chapel. Ricardo Tavarez (En Vivo Church). 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Book reception and author interview. Li (Mary) Ma and Jin Li. *Surviving the State, Remaking the Church*. 3:30 p.m., Calvin Seminary auditorium

### Tuesday, March 6

- Chapel. Taizé with Karen Saupe and Debra Rienstra. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Meeter Center lecture. Matthew Tuininga (Calvin Seminary), “Politics and the Kingdom of God: John Calvin’s Theology of Christian Public Engagement.” 3:30 p.m., Calvin Seminary auditorium
- Nagel Institute lecture. Tinyiko Maluleke, “Giving an Account of the Hope in Nelson Mandela.” 3:30 p.m., Willow Room, Prince Conference Center

### Wednesday, March 7

- Chapel. Hymn-sing. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Book signing. Jason VanHorn. *Alabaster Dangermond and the Serpent’s Blade*. 3:00 p.m., Campus Store
- Asian Studies lecture. Li (Mary) Ma, “The Remaking of Churches in China.” 3:30 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Sexuality Series. Lisa Kenney, “What’s Happening with Gender?” 3:30 p.m., CFAC Recital Hall

### Thursday, March 8

- Chapel. Sounds of American Folk worship with Luke Enders. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- CALL noontime series. Scott Westhouse, Muriel Zandstra, Larry Gerbens, “Armand Merizon: The Eyes of the Artist.” 12:00 noon, Chapel
- Sexuality Series. Karen Saupe, “(Trans)Gender Stories: A Conversation with Austen Hartke and Lisa Kenney.” 3:30 p.m., Commons Annex lecture hall
- Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium. Martin Strauss (U of Michigan). 3:40 p.m., NH 276

### Friday, March 9

- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Christian Perspectives in Science seminar. Renee Sparks, “Growing Faith in the Field of Geology.” 3:30 p.m., SB 110