Pioneers

What comes to mind when you hear Calvin’s centers and institutes? I imagine some of the following responses are elicited:

- engines for faculty research and scholarship
- hosts for world-class conferences and symposia
- repositories of historical and cutting-edge scholarly materials
- outward-facing hubs for engaged Christian thought and practice

These responses are accurate representations of the various roles of Calvin’s centers and institutes, but there is more to their wonderful story.

See whether you can identify which center or institute is connected to recent examples of their work (click on the title to check your answer and learn more about the amazing work of each center and institute!):

- Sport. Faith. Life (book)
- Regional Literary Arts Calendar (website)
- NEXUS Peer Financial Counseling (program)
- The Greater Grand Rapids Study of Congregations (report)
- En la escuela de los Salmos/At Psalms School (bilingual book)
- Reactivation of an Ancient Water System to Satisfy the Needs of a Neighboring Community (planning and design)
- Symposium on Religion and Public Life (conference)
- FASTly: Resource for Teaching Faith and Science (website)
- Huguenot Refugees in Geneva: How Pastors Gave Spiritual Comfort (lecture)
- Matter and Spirit (seminar and exhibit)
- Executive Management in Christian Schools (training)

Whether focused on politics, worship, literature, religion, the church, water, education, commerce, or data, Calvin’s centers and institutes till the fertile ground of ongoing kingdom work. In some respects they serve to collectively pioneer the landscape in which Calvin’s mission takes shape and finds relevance. Essentially all the prospecting work of centers and institutes is done in partnership—linked with Calvin faculty across campus and invigorated by essential relationships with partners in the trenches across the globe. And this work animates and vitalizes our project with students. The fruit that is harvested by Calvin’s centers and institutes informs our mission with students. In fact, Calvin students are increasingly embedded in the work of the centers and institutes, learning together with faculty, staff, and the manifold partners beyond the campus that connect Calvin to God’s unfolding gospel story for the world.

While centers and institutes invigorate and enliven our present work and mission, they necessarily cultivate the global terrain that is imagined for the pioneering kingdom project that is Calvin University (Vision 2030).

David Wunder, dean for faculty development
From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Alisa Tigchelaar (Spanish), “Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz’s The Answer: “Words” beyond Silence?” Rhetoric and Communications 37, November 2018.
- Kevin Timpe (Philosophy), Disability and Inclusive Communities (Grand Rapids: Calvin Press, 2019).

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)

Monday, February 25
- Chapel. Hymn sing. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Tuesday, February 26
- Chapel. Reggie Smith: Omnipotence. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- World Affairs lecture series. Kelsey Davenport, “A New Nuclear Arms Race?” 12:00 noon, CFAC recital hall
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280

Wednesday, February 27
- Chapel. Sounds of gospel worship with Kenneth Henderson. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- SPIN funding search workshop. Includes lunch. RSVP by February 25. 12:00 noon, Alumni Association Board Room
- The 4:04 Gathering. Kurt Schaefer. 4:04 p.m., Hekman Library, third floor

Thursday, February 28
- Chapel. Drum circle with Eric Nykamp. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- CALL noontime lecture series. Douglas Cupery, “I Was in Prison and You Visited Me.” 12:00 noon, Chapel

Friday, March 1
- Chapel. Student worship team with Nii Adoteye Anum. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Biology seminar. Kathi Groenendyk (Communication Arts and Sciences), “The Six Americas and Religious Talk about the Environment.” 1:30 p.m., DeVries Hall 010