Strength and Joy

A few weeks ago, Calvin co-hosted with Hope College a conference on sport and Christianity, drawing academics and sport practitioners from around the globe. Tim Tebow was the most famous speaker, but there were several others like theologian Miroslav Volf, philosopher Scott Kretchmar, and a lesser-known athlete named Loretta Claiborne.

Loretta was born with an intellectual disability, clubbed feet, and partial blindness. Surgeries on her eyes and feet provided her vision and her first steps at age four. Since she didn’t speak until age seven, doctors and family friends pressured Loretta’s mother to have her institutionalized, a normal practice at the time. Loretta’s mother, Rita, wasn’t having it. She refused to send Loretta away and instead raised Loretta on tough love and got her into school. Eventually, Loretta was invited to participate in a new sports program for people with intellectual disabilities started by Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Like Loretta’s mother, Eunice was outraged by how Rosemary, her sister with intellectual disabilities, was hidden away and unable to participate in organized sports. Eunice started a day camp that evolved into the Special Olympics in 1968. Loretta entered as a runner, winning her first medal in 1970, and has since gone on to win dozens of medals in multiple events. She’s finished in the top 100 women at the Boston marathon, is a karate black belt, and is a member of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors. Yet in her speech, Loretta said her accomplishments mattered little compared to her friendship with Mrs. Shriver and her Christian faith. She described herself as “just one of God’s children” depicted prophetically in the title of her talk, “God is my strength; Special Olympics is my joy.”

In sports, Calvin and Hope are rivals. Rivals are more alike than different. Calvin and Hope teamed up for the conference, and also collaborate on a program called Ready for Life, which provides an inclusive college experience for adults with intellectual disabilities. Some Calvin and Hope students, including those preparing to be special education teachers, volunteer in the program. Ready for Life is an example of a program that expands Calvin’s mission to new audiences. Special Olympics and Ready for Life were born from an observed need and a capacity to fill it. Calvin’s transition to a university encourages all of us to find new audiences like these, while also ensuring the resources necessary to make them sustainable. In this process, we can thank Loretta for inspiring us to recognize our true strength and celebrate our joy.

Brian Bolt, dean for education

Search for Associate Provost of the Calvin Global Campus

In alignment with Vision 2030, President Le Roy has shared his vision for a Calvin Global Campus (CGC; still a “placeholder” name) in various forums this fall. Alongside the undergraduate programs offered on our campus, the CGC is an entity that will serve as a catalyst for academic and other educational innovations that will provide new programs to new populations.

This message comes to launch a search for an associate provost to serve as the academic leader for the CGC. This will be an internal search, beginning immediately. This person will collaborate with faculty and staff across all divisions of the university to achieve the goals set forth in Calvin’s Vision 2030 and the accompanying strategic plan. The associate provost will provide leadership for the design and implementation of academic programming for new populations of students, will envision and implement sustainable online graduate degrees and professional programs, and will serve as a member of the President’s Cabinet and the Provost’s Council. The associate provost must have a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) or equivalent in an academic field and a minimum of ten-years of experience in teaching and academic leadership, or equivalent combination of education and experience, in higher education.

If you would like to see an expanded position description, please contact Heidi Rienstra (hrienstr@calvin.edu). Application are due December 6, 2019. To apply, submit your c.v. and a letter of interest addressing your...
qualifications in light of the essential duties and responsibilities to provost@calvin.edu by 12:00 noon, December 6, 2019. If you would like to discuss this position with Provost Brandsen prior to a decision about submitting a letter of interest, please contact Heidi and she will find a meeting time.

**Important Information for International Students to Work or have Internships Off-Campus**

International students need legal authorization to complete off-campus internships and hold off-campus jobs. Go [here for FAQ and details](#). Please help students and the university comply with the law; infractions jeopardize visas and federal aid.

**Academic Calendar for 20-21 Now Available; Note Changes**

The [academic calendar draft for next year](#) (20-21) is now available. The calendar has these significant changes from previous years:

- The fall semester will be Tuesday, September 1, BEFORE Labor Day.
- Fall advising will be conducted on two separate days, Wednesday October 21 and Monday October 26.
- There will be a two-day Fall Break on Thursday and Friday, October 22-23, 2020.

See [here](#) for details. These changes were made following consultation with faculty and staff across the university. Questions may be directed to provost@calvin.edu.

**Welcome Some of Calvin’s New Staff**

Please welcome the following staff who joined Calvin earlier this fall:

- **Retief Muller, director, Nagel Institute**
  Retief joins us from South Africa with his family. He earned a PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary in the area of mission, ecumenics, and history of religion. His research focus has been on the modern and recent history of southern and central African Christianity. He lived and taught for several years in South Korea, including at Keimyung University in Daugu. Most recently, he was associate professor of church history at Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

- **Paul Davison, department assistant, Registrar’s Office**
  Paul grew up in Wisconsin and studied youth ministry at Cornerstone University. Previously, he worked for four years at Spectrum Butterworth.

- **Melissa Delgado, department assistant, Registrar’s Office**
  Melissa was raised in Holland and recently moved back to West Michigan from Houston, Texas. She studied sociology at Grand Valley State University and previously worked as an early childhood educator at the Houston Food Bank.

**From the Faculty Activity Reports**

- **Karen Saupe** (English), “Writing is not Natural, and other Liberating Threshold Concepts” (lecture, International Writing Centers Association Conference, October 17, 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, November 25

- Chapel. Sounds of African worship with Nii Adoteye-Anum. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- **Let’s do Lunch.** 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Commons Knollcrest Room (CM 302)
Tuesday, November 26
- Chapel. Worship in Japanese. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280

Wednesday–Friday, November 27–29
- Thanksgiving break (Wednesday; campus open, but no classes; Thursday–Friday; campus closed).

Monday, December 2
- Chapel. Spoken Word with Lemarr Jackson. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Let’s do Lunch. 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Commons Knollcrest Room (CM 302)
- Blood Drive. 12:00 noon–7:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Lighting of the campus Christmas tree. 6:00 p.m., Commons Lawn

Tuesday, December 3
- Chapel. Christmas in world languages. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood Drive. 12:00 noon–7:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Sociology and Social Work and Calvin Center for Faith and Writing lecture. Jim Wallis, “Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus.” 7:00 p.m., CFAC Recital Hall

Wednesday, December 4
- Chapel. The Greatest of These: 1 Corinthians 13:7 with Pastor Mary. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood Drive. 12:00 noon–7:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft

Thursday, December 5
- Chapel. Messiah Sing–Along with Calvin Orchestra. 10:00 a.m., CFAC Auditorium
- Let’s do Lunch. 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Commons Knollcrest Room (CM 302)
- Chemistry department seminar. Karl Gust, “An Industrial Chemistry Perspective.” 11:30 a.m., SB 010
- President’s Coffee. 12:30 p.m. (12:00 noon refreshments), CFAC Recital Hall
- Calvin Environmental Assessment Program (CEAP) lecture. Mark Muyskens (Chemistry and Biochemistry), “Six Ways Water Has Changed Calvin University.” 3:30 p.m., SB 010
- CEAP poster session. 4:30 p.m., Science Building Atrium

Friday, December 6
- Chapel. Calvin Wind–Ensemble. 10:00 a.m., Chapel