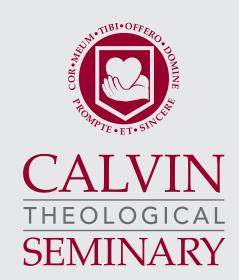
2018

Impact REPORT









CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



THANK YOU

Dear friends of Calvin Seminary,

In my travels, I have the privilege of seeing God at work through the lives of our graduates and the ministries they are a part of throughout the world. Read on to walk through a few of my fondest memories of 2018.

I remember praying in January of 2018 with one of our graduates who was returning to China to work at an unregistered seminary. This seminary has been vandalized over the past year, and the government ultimately ended the worship services that were meeting in the church affiliated with the seminary. Week by week the church continues to meet in small groups, furthering the work leaders have been trained to do.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of congratulating students who completed their certificate coursework. What's unique about this group of students is that they are all serving a prison sentence; they are part of the Calvin Prison Initiative at the Handlon Correctional Facility "campus" in Ionia, Michigan. God is at work through Calvin Seminary, even behind prison walls.

On most Monday and Tuesday nights, you will find a steady stream of cars filling Calvin Seminary's parking lot. The students who come for their evening class have put in a full day of work. They are tired, but they are eager to learn. These students are working to obtain a certificate in Latino/a ministry or a certificate in family care. They are thankful for the opportunity to learn at a pace that accommodates their work schedule.

Every year, we welcome students from across the world. Within weeks, the entering M.A. and M.Div. students are welcomed and enfolded into churches (even distance students participate in their context). These students are living testimony that the training they receive in the classroom needs to serve the local church. The link between classroom and church is vital for forming church leaders who are disciples and who will go on to lead others as disciples of Jesus Christ.

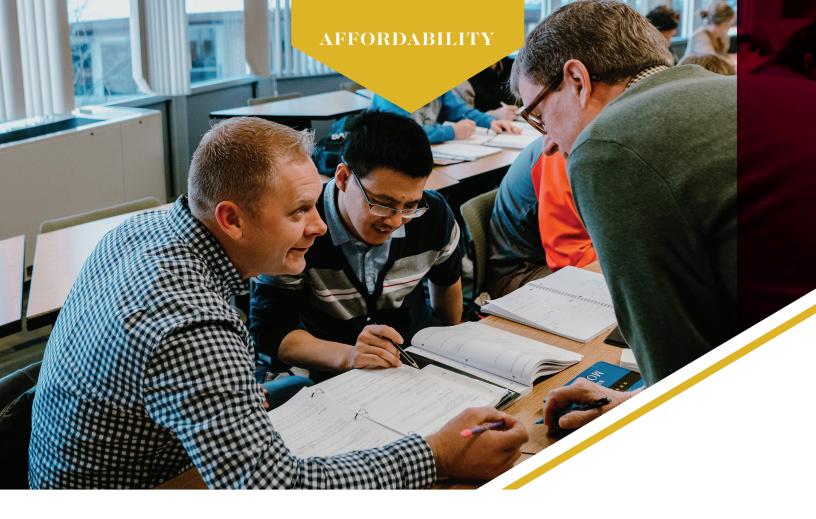
As you read through this Impact Report, I invite you to think about the positive impact that Calvin Theological Seminary has on students, ministries, and churches across the street and throughout the world.

In a world of brokenness, we share a Gospel message of healing. In a world of division, we share how unity and identity can be found in Jesus Christ. In a world of diminishing hope, we share a confidence that is founded on the sovereignty and providence of God.

Thank you for praying for, supporting, and encouraging the work of God! This Impact Report is one way we can say thank you. It's truly because of your investment in the impact of Calvin Seminary that we can tell these stories and show the pictures of 2018.

Serving with you,

Jul Medenblik, President



Supporting Students So They Can Pursue Their Calling

The core of our mission is to equip leaders for meaningful lives of ministry. We want leaders to flourish alongside churches that flourish. Biblical, theological, and pastoral training are essential to this mission. Yet, there is also an important financial component to ministry training.

Transformative education requires a substantial financial investment. Unfortunately, student loans incurred from seminary can be a significant burden that follows leaders well into their careers. Ongoing financial stress from burdensome educational debt can be a drain on leaders and their ministries.

Notre Dame researcher Dr. Matt Bloem has found that financial stress can play a big role in negatively impacting the daily well-being and resilience of pastoral leaders. Educational debt can loom large, resulting in stress, shame, and even burnout for pastoral leaders and their families.

At Calvin Seminary, we are committed to helping students finance their training for ministry without taking on unmanageable debt. We award nearly \$1.5 million in scholarships each year so that students can plan for a life in ministry, study without financial setbacks, and serve without limits.

We award nearly \$1.5 million in scholarships each year so that students can plan for a life in ministry, study without financial setbacks, and serve without limits.

Together, Calvin Seminary, individual donors, and local churches invest in emerging leaders so that they can be un-hindered to follow God's call wherever He is leading them.

Together, Calvin Seminary, individual donors, and local churches invest in emerging leaders so that they can be un-hindered to follow God's call wherever He is leading them. Scholarships enable students to graduate from Calvin Seminary debt-free or with low levels of debt. This joint investment is making a difference. In recent years, 60% of our students graduate without taking on educational debt while in seminary. But we aim to do even better. By investing in our new Covenant Scholarship, we hope to further reduce the number of students that incur debt as well as the amount of debt incurred by students who cannot finance their seminary training without accessing loans.

In sensing a call to seminary, prospective students have a common underlying question: How can I make this work financially? As the following stories demonstrate, God works in different ways to open doors—financial and others—to clear the way for those who God calls into ministry.

Idema Food Pantry and Clothing Closet

Every Monday and Wednesday following lunch, you can hear and see a buzz of activity in the basement of Calvin Seminary. This is where the Idema Food Pantry and Clothing Closet is located. There is fellowship and laughter as families connect while waiting in line for the doors to open. Students and their families have the opportunity to stock up on food and household staples they need. One of the things that the pantry takes pride in is the availability of fresh produce and healthy options. These are items that are often difficult to afford on a student budget but are so important in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Fresh produce, meat, dairy products, international foods, and kitchen staples are some of the items available each week.

The clothing closet is open whenever the building is open and is a place where students are able to take clothing, shoes, and household items that their family needs. There is no cost and all items are donated from students, staff, and supporters in the community. Local churches have even led clothing drives to help stock the clothing closet for students. We are blessed!

The food pantry and clothing closet are run mainly on a volunteer basis. There has also more recently been opportunity for seminary staff and faculty to be involved with volunteering in the pantry and closet as well. We are so thankful to all of the volunteers, as well as those who have invested financially. By funding and making donations to this important ministry, many students are able to nourish and clothe their families affordably. God has very clearly been at work and has provided in ways that exceed our expectations each week. We are constantly amazed! Thank you to those who have invested in this ministry. We are beyond grateful!

Brad and Rebecca Bootsma

Idema Food Pantry coordinators



Scholarship recipients share from their journeys

By Amanda Greenhoe

"You have believed in God for so many years. Teach me how to pray, and let's see if the God you have trusted is true or not." These words will forever be impressed in the heart of seminarian Lunfei Liu.

A first-year master of theology student, Liu attends Calvin Seminary thanks to the support of donor-funded scholarships. By the numbers, financial support allows Calvin Seminary to award nearly \$1.5 million each year in scholarships. These funds help the seminary continue its mission to equip church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples.

Behind those numbers are hundreds of individual stories. At the seminary's 2018 annual scholarship dinner, Liu, along with fellow students Joy-Elizabeth Lawrence and Travis Jamieson, shared pieces of their seminary stories, identified ways in which donors have met a true need in their lives, and testified to God's grace throughout the journey.

It was here at the scholarship dinner that Liu recounted how his unbelieving father told his Christ-following mother that he would finally try praying. It was a father's only hope to save his son.

At age 7, Liu had been viciously attacked by a dog. Slipping out of consciousness, all he remembers from the attack is blood flowing over his face and his mother crying for help.

Due to complications from his injuries, a tumor grew behind Liu's ear and forced him to undergo several surgeries in multiple cities across China, draining the family's savings. On the evening before Liu's final surgery, his desperate father searched for divine help.

"That night, for the first time, my dad and my mom kneeled down beside my bed and we prayed together," Liu recalled. This, he said, was the first miracle.

"Through Christ, the most cursed things can be the most blessed things."

-Lunfei Liu

After surgery, Liu's doctor was amazed to discover that the tumor had not grown. Liu's father was moved by the power of God. "My dad surrendered," Liu said, "and he began to follow Jesus and serve the church."

Today Liu bears scars on his head from fifteen stitches but, to his own amazement, no scars on his face. "God used his own hand to cover my face at that time," Liu said.

He considers the mark he retains on his forehead a "mark of God's grace." Through Christ, the most cursed things can be the most blessed things, Liu testified.

To watch the full talks from the Scholarship Dinner, visit www.vimeo.com/calvinsem.

"Why am I here, God? Calvin Seminary has been part of that answer. Through my time here, I've grown as a pastor and a preacher but, far more importantly, I've grown as a follower of Jesus."

—Joy-Elizabeth Lawrence, 4th year MDiv student



"My studies weren't there to make me able to win the next theological argument or write the best paper. They were there to teach me how to hope in God and lead others to do the same."

—Travis Jamieson, 2nd year MDiv student



In September 2017, the Calvin Seminary faculty voted to recommend that the Academic Dean develop a pilot program modeled on the Mosaic Program developed by Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) professor Peter Cha. Supported by the Faculty Heritage Fund, the Calvin Seminary Mosaic Program pilot was launched during the spring semester of 2018, followed by a second program in fall 2018.

The Mosaic Program seeks to promote a more hospitable learning environment by helping faculty, staff, and students to see matters from various points of view and cultural contexts other than their own; build a community of faculty, staff, and students who join together to learn about and be shaped by significant issues in the Calvin Seminary community and the larger society; and ultimately to develop community. To this end, the Mosaic Program offers faculty, staff, and students a variety of elements and activities in which to participate.

Throughout the spring 2018 semester, the program focused on acknowledging our diversity for good and offered the following activities:

- The Book of the Semester, Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey, by Sarah Shin (Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2017). All faculty, staff, and students were offered a free copy of the book if they would commit to reading it.
- A Mosaic Discussion Group made up of 10 faculty, five staff, and 11 students met five times over lunch, beginning with prayer and fellowship, then a TED-type talk and small-group discussion based on questions prepared by the presenter(s).
- A Town Hall video interview with author Sarah Shin.
- Two chapel services in April organized and led by the Mosaic discussion group.

During the fall of 2018, the Mosaic Program focused on the history of racial discrimination in the United States. The program included the following elements:

- The Book of the Semester, Frederick Douglass' first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave* (New York: Signet Classics, 2005). All faculty, staff, and students were offered a free copy of the book if they would commit to reading it.
- A trip to the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia in Big Rapids, Michigan, on November 3 with a group of faculty, staff, and students.
- A Mosaic Discussion Group made up of five faculty, five staff, and 16 students met five times over lunch, beginning with prayer and fellowship, then a TED-type talk and small-group discussion based on questions prepared by the presenter(s).
- A Town Hall discussion on Frederick Douglass led by Dr. Danjuma Gibson on November 29.
- A Mosaic chapel service led by the Mosaic discussion group participants in December.

In both semesters, Mosaic discussion group participants expressed appreciation for having a safe place to discuss difficult topics and the opportunity to develop relationships that otherwise would not have developed across the divides of faculty, staff, and students. In addition, participants appreciated becoming aware of the perspectives of others and of their own personal blind spots on race. Some participants expressed a desire to offer the Mosaic Program to a broader segment of the Seminary community by making it a part of the required curriculum and also having a Town Hall as a way of introducing more students to the issues covered in the Mosaic discussion group.

Based upon the responses from participants, the Faculty Heritage Fund made a grant for a Mosaic Program again in 2019. In addition, beginning in spring 2019, one semester of the formation groups organized by the Vocational Formation office will focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are grateful to the Faculty Heritage Fund for supporting this initiative.

Israel in Context

How seminary led trips help students gain new insights about ancient and modern Israel.

By Gary Burge





One of the features of Calvin Seminary's curriculum is the option of travel to the Middle East in order to visit locations that are directly relevant to our biblical story. Each January, the seminary takes about 25 students either to Israel/Palestine or Turkey/Greece in order to visit places such as Jerusalem, Nazareth, Galilee, Ephesus, or Corinth. We find that this enriches our students' sense where these stories took place and it cements a cultural and geographical context to stories that they can find no place else.

In January 2018, I led the seminary's trip to Israel/Palestine. I had 25 students with me and we visited a long list of sites. I find that when students see the Sea of Galilee for the first time, they are astonished at its small size and immediately erase any comparisons with Lake Michigan! When we visit Capernaum, we stand on the synagogue floor just inches from where Jesus did his first exorcism. And when we go to Jerusalem, we visit not only the remains of the biblical temple, but we explore the entire ancient city, learning what this holy city looked like in the Old Testament and New Testament.

We also believe that travel to these countries means that we need to meet the local Church and discover what their needs are. In this sense, we are providing students with a cross-cultural experience that genuinely affects them. We may be meeting messianic Jews in Jerusalem or Palestinian evangelicals in Bethlehem—either way, students see how Christians in these countries frame their understanding of faith and life.

The trips we host are a remarkable success. Students report that the trips affect how they see the Bible and how they imagine the contexts of the lives of Jesus, Paul, David, or Moses. They understand "wilderness" perhaps for the first time; they take a boat on the Sea of Galilee and read the account of Jesus stilling the storm. They visit the ancient 1700-year-old church in Jerusalem that has commemorated and protected the place of Jesus' death and resurrection. They walk in the desert where Jesus was tested, and they see the Jordan River where He was baptized. These images and experiences cannot be gleaned from reading the Bible or looking at pictures. You have to be there and let the place, the setting, and the context become a part of how you understand these stories. These memories then become an archive of images that will remain with the students for years when they preach and teach in the church.

And thanks to the generous support of a donor, students are able to participate in these course trips for a tremendously reduced cost.

Our Impact in 2018

100 _	Kuyper Conference Guests
37	CEP/Lilly Endowment Seminars and Workshops
92	CEP/Lilly Endowment Peer Groups of Preachers
1500+	Worship Symposium (with The Center for Excellence in Preaching (CEP) & Calvin College)
460	Pastors and Key Leaders Learning with Church Renewal Lab

DID YOU KNOW CEP had 17,000 unique visitors per month to their website

OUR STUDENTS

Master of Divinity: 135

Master of Arts: 23 (English & Spanish)

Master of Theological Studies: 18

Master of Theology: 47

Doctor of Philosophy: 29

Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC): 29

Calvin Prison Initiative (18 Enrichment Program + 75 Degree Program): 93

Latina/o Ministry Certificates: 44

Our Faculty & Staff: 68

2018 SheLeads Summit: 60



2018 HIGHLIGHTS



Israel Travel

Dr. Gary Burge and Calvin Seminary students visit the ancient first-century village of Gamla in Galilee. This is one of the few first century synagogues ever found and likely a synagogue where Jesus taught with His disciples.



Stob Lecture Colloquium

The 2018 Stob Lecture Colloquium featured Dr. John Swinton (pictured), professor of practical theology and pastoral care at the University of Aberdeen, UK. The discussion, which focused on spirituality, health, and the theology of disability, was moderated by Kevin Timpe, professor of philosophy at Calvin College.





Handlon Convocation

President Jul Medenblik gives the keynote address during the Spring 2018 Convocation at the Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan, for the Calvin Prison Initiative program.



Dies Natalis

Calvin Seminary students Chadd Huizenga '18 (L) and Matt Mulder, current student (R) host the 2018 Dies Natalis of Calvin Seminary, where students and faculty participate in a variety of skits showing the life of the academy.





Mary Ma & Jin Li Book Launch Dr. Mary Ma & Jin Li (center and right) discuss their new book "Surviving the State, Remaking the Church: A Sociological Portrait of Christians in Mainland China" facilitated by Matt Tuininga (L), professor of moral theology.



Matt Tuininga Book Launch
Dr. Matt Tuininga, professor of moral
theology, gives a presentation on his new
book "Calvin's Political Theology and the
Public Engagement of the Church:
Christ's Two Kingdoms."





Commencement
Calvin Seminary students Youri Lee,
Jihye Park, and James Lee (L-R)
celebrate following the 2018
commencement ceremony.



65-Year Reunion
Members of the Calvin Seminary class of
1953 enjoyed their 65-year reunion in June
2018. Standing L-R: Ken Slager, Sid Rooy;
Front Row L-R: Bill Huyser, John Van
Stempvoort, Harry Arnold, Ted Verseput,
Bernie Dokter



Shin Book of the Semester
Once every semester, faculty,
students, and staff gather to discuss
or hear a presentation on the book of
the semester. Pictured here, author
Sarah Shin leads a conversation via
Skype on the Mosaic Book of the
Semester "Beyond Colorblind:
Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey."



Kuyper Conference
Dr. Daniel Bourdanné, the former general secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, gives a plenary award lecture at the Calvin College chapel, where he was awarded the 2018 Abraham Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life—a reflection of his contribution to the encounter of the Gospel and public life in Africa and throughout the world.



Golf Classic
The Fourth Annual Calvin Seminary Golf
Classic was a great success, with over
200 guests and friends of the seminary in
attendance. Dr. Rich Strikwerda (L) and
Kevin VanHaitsma (R) enjoy an afternoon
of golf at Thousand Oaks Golf Club in
Grand Rapids, MI.









Gibson Book Calvin Seminary professor Danjuma Gibson responds to a question from Christina Edmondson regarding his new book "Frederick Douglass, a Psychobiography: Rethinking Subjectivity in the Western

Experiment of Democracy."



Hamilton Alumni Social The Calvin Seminary Alumni Relations Office hosted an alumni social in Hamilton, ON. More than 40 Calvin Seminary alumni and their family members came out to catch up with classmates and hear about what's new at the seminary.



Canons of Dordt Donald Sinnema, portraying Johannes Bogerman, addresses the audience at the Canons of Dordt Conference. Bogerman served as President of the Synod of Dordt back in 1618. The conference, presented by the Meeter Center and hosted at Calvin Seminary, was in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the historical event.



Loving Your **Neighbor Conference**

This bi-annual conference focused on ministry among immigrant, migrant, and refugee neighbors. The keynote speaker, Paul Lim, spoke on how John Calvin viewed immigrants in Geneva and what we can learn from this perspective.





Gateway Calvin Seminary's orientation for incoming residential students, Gateway, assists new students as they adjust to their new life on-campus.



A Conversation with Catherine González Prominent pastor, professor, and speaker, Catherine González, joined women students, professors, and staff, discussing the blessings and challenges of being a ministry leader.







Vocational Formation Mentor
Calvin Seminary professor David
Rylaarsdam leads a conversation with
church leaders currently serving as
mentors to Calvin Seminary students.
The Office of Vocational Formation
hosted this and similar events, pouring
into mentors in order for them to pour
into their students.



Christmas Around the World Every Christmas season, local Calvin Seminary students gather to share food and fellowship at the annual Christmas Around the World event. Our diverse student body shares their traditions—food and song typically - coming together to celebrate the birth of our Savior.



SheLeads

Calvin Seminary hosted a regional meeting of this year's SheLeads Conference, titled ChurchTogether. Conference participants watched a live video stream of the national conference in Pasedena, CA, reflected in small groups, and listened to a local panel of church leaders talk about women and men in ministry together.



CTS at Urbana

Calvin Seminary alumna, Anne Zaki, presented the final talk at this year's Urbana Conference. Over 10,000 attendees at this year's conference heard Zaki's convicting message, taken from the last chapter of Revelation and centered on Jesus as the final Witness. Her talk ushered students into 2019 with a renewed commitment to God's call on their lives for missional ministry.

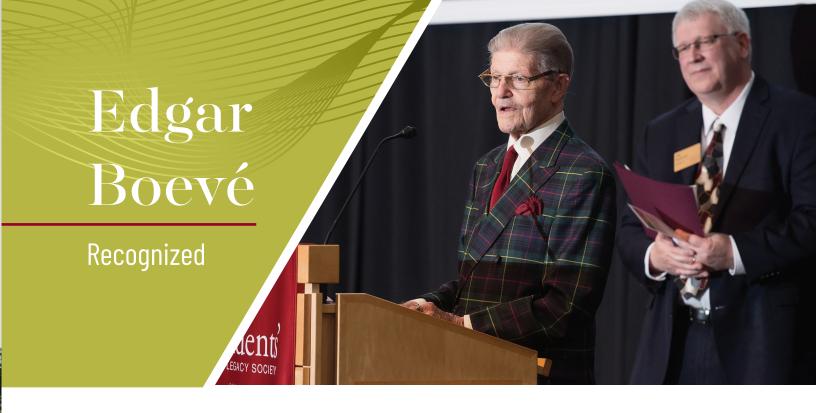












In April, the Calvin Seminary Presidents'
Legacy Society held a luncheon to recognize
the work and impact of Edgar and Ervina
Boevé, and to announce the establishment
of the Edgar and Ervina Boevé Endowment
for the Arts.

For more than 25 years, Edgar and Ervina Boevé have been sharing their gifts and passion for art with the Christian Reformed Church. Edgar is the founding father of the Calvin College art department and Ervina, who passed away in 2006, gave 37 years of leadership in developing theatre arts at Calvin. "It has been my life's passion to bring art into the church," Edgar shares. "Art is such a critical component to worship and the way that we express ourselves to our creator."

As part of this recognition, Calvin Seminary is establishing the Edgar and Ervina Boevé Endowment for the Arts to continue their spirit and contribution to the field of Christian Reformed Art. The Boevés have built a foundation for a lifelong love of art in the hearts of countless students and friends. This impact will continue to live on even after Edgar and Ervina are with their Lord and Savior.

The endowment will ensure that art is an integral part of the work at Calvin Seminary by supporting initiatives such as:

- Credit or non-credit courses for seminarians and church leaders that draw from the history of biblical art
- Collaborations for the worship arts with other organizations in common cause, like the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship
- Hosting distinguished lecturers in art history or theater arts who desire to edify the Church with their knowledge and wisdom
- Ensuring proper installation and preservation of the art donated to Calvin Seminary
- Promoting the art collections at the seminary to various audiences through a variety of means

Calvin Seminary and the Christian Reformed Church have benefited enormously from the work put forth by Edgar and Ervina. The Endowment for the Arts will ensure that their contributions continue for years to come.

Calvin Seminary was saddened to hear of Edgar's passing a few days before publication of the 2018 Impact Report. Our prayers are with the Boevé Family at this time and we celebrate the full and fruitful lives of Edgar and Ervina.

Jen Family

Recognized with Legacy Award

"You can see the fruit of your generosity."

-a Calvin Seminary Student reflecting on the impact of the Jen Family Scholarship.

At the 2018 Annual Calvin Seminary Scholarship Dinner, students, faculty, staff, and donors came together to celebrate the shared work of Calvin Seminary—to equip men and women to cultivate communities of disciples. This event is an important marker in the Calvin Seminary calendar: it provides a place for students and donors to meet and share what God is doing in their work. With close to \$1.5 million in scholarship support each year,

the generous support of Calvin Seminary's donor-base allows for the mission of Calvin Seminary to continue.

A noteworthy aspect of this year's dinner was the presentation of the Legacy award. This award, given every other year, recognizes a donor—an individual, couple, or family—that has been instrumental to the work of the Seminary, typically over a long period of time. The Jen family was this year's recognized Legacy Award Recipient. The family's interest in supporting ministry leadership stems from Reverend Isaac Jen, whose Gospel message was broadcasted throughout mainland China in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, the Jen Family Scholarship supports students from China studying to grow in theological knowledge and ministry skills. This scholarship, started by Rev. Jen and his wife, continues on and is supported by the Jen's children and grandchildren.

Through the generosity and leadership of the Jen family, students from China have been able to study at Calvin Seminary, shaping future leaders for the growing and developing Chinese Church. For more information on the work of the Jen family and the Legacy award, visit www.calvinseminary.edu/news.





Annual Fund EVENT AT the GRAM

Once again supporters of Calvin Seminary got a first glimpse at some of the top exhibits at ArtPrize, an annual public art competition in Grand Rapids, MI. Hosted annually by Cate and Sid Jansma, Calvin Seminary's development office invited donors and other guests to the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) during the opening night of ArtPrize to support the Annual Fund at Calvin Seminary.

This year's event highlighted the good work of the Calvin Prison Initiative, featuring Heidi Washington, Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections and Warden DeWayne Burton from the Handlon Correctional Facility.

Before and after the official program, guests of the event enjoyed the ArtPrize exhibits located in the GRAM. In addition, three artists—Steve Prince, Edward Riojas and Carl Wilson—all of whom have done significant work on the story of the Prodigal Son, were featured guests and displayed and talked about their collections. The ArtPrize event was an evening full of significant conversations, world-class art, delicious food, and, as it turned out, beautiful weather. What a great way to welcome in ArtPrize 2018.



Annual Fund Gift Support

