



## '08, Law School Graduate , Practicing Attorney

"The main reason I chose to study history is because **I am interested in how people think and behave** and in what motivates people to make the decisions they make.

"My professors taught history in such a way that **I was constantly forced to put the bits and pieces together** myself, to make sense of the whole, and explain how the pieces came together to make that whole. In other words, **I learned how to tell the story**. Some might call this critical thinking and analysis."

*"I use these skills on a daily basis at work. I need to properly put the puzzle together to be able to tell my client's story or make an argument to opposing counsel, a judge, or a jury."*

## '07, International Justice Mission

"The solid liberal arts education at Calvin prepared me for the profession I have now. No matter where you go next (career, grad. school, etc.), **the education at Calvin prepares you to think for yourself and to organize and present your thoughts. These skills will help mold you** into a valuable employee who goes beyond doing what you are told, and instead tries to innovate and redeem your profession for the better."

## '08, High school history teacher, Sunnyside, Washington

"My history professors at Calvin were passionate. They loved learning about their respective areas not only for the purpose of acquiring knowledge, **but because they saw its relevance in the way that it shaped their beliefs and their world. This is the key element to all of teaching.**

"Calvin not only taught me tips, tools, and strategies for teaching a variety of students, **it also taught me how to provide students with life-long learning.**

"At Calvin, **I learned how to learn**. I learned how to examine and question documents, artifacts, and ideas for the purpose of gleaning what I could from them. **I also learned how to question** that material in a way in which evidence could be considered and my beliefs or opinions on matters could be changed.

## '05, Graduate degree in area studies, Researcher for US Agency for International Development

"Most of **my time involves researching and writing about legal issues** with the media, internet censorship and access, and business development."

"It sounds funny, but many people—even professionals—do not understand how to absorb information through reading and present it in an organized fashion. My courses in the History Department provided a real opportunity to learn and then hone those skills with professors who really enjoyed their teaching. **My work now requires me to use many of the skills I was taught at Calvin**—I read, ask questions, and write explanations and reports."

*"History is very different from what most people assume it to be.*

*It will introduce you to questions that you would have never considered before and that can really change you."*

## '08, Graduate student in international relations, University of Chicago

"Studying history allowed me **to merge my interest in the Middle East with the history of US foreign policy**. Learning to think historically also gave me the tools I needed to contextualize current events."

"My education at Calvin prepared me for graduate school in many different ways. **One of the best decisions I made** was to travel to Uganda, Greece, and Vietnam during interim and enroll in the Washington, D.C. semester.

Calvin provided me with an environment where I could build mentoring relationships with different professors. **These relationships were vital** in giving me advice about career and graduate school."

## '08, Missionary, SALT (Serving and Learning Together) program, Mennonite Central Committee, Santa Cruz, Bolivia

"Studying history at Calvin taught me **to think critically by looking at all available information before making decisions or trying to understand an event, experience, or culture**. This is so useful because my work and life experiences are very cross-cultural.

*"If you are interested in service or missions, I encourage you to take cultural / social history classes along with history courses that are about the region where you may want to live to better understand the context and the people you will serve."*