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To learn is to love. The four categories of love and therefore learning are laid out in Mark 12:30, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Learning can be mind based, strength based, heart based, and soul based.

Mind learning at Calvin has come primarily through lectures. I’ve learned about wave functions, sorting algorithms, reformed theology, and post colonial literature. God’s grandeur shines through, especially in making connections between disciplines: using linear algebra in classical mechanics and computer graphics, probing the philosophical depth of quantum mechanics, understanding the church from a sociological standpoint, and reading the Bible as a historical document.

Strength learning at Calvin has come primarily through learning skills. I learned by completing labs, by writing programs, by playing cello, and by researching physics. I gained knowledge, but more importantly I gained skills, such as problem solving, music making,

critical thinking, and group collaboration. This learning reinforced my lecture learning through application of concepts taught in class. I learned better how to learn, which means that my strength learning increased my mind learning.



Heart learning at Calvin has come primarily through living in community. This heart learning can be thought of as learning what to desire and what to feel. In addition to increasing my knowledge of myself, creation, others, and God; and in addition to increasing the skills of asking good questions, appre-

ciating beauty, loving others, and praying faithfully; I’ve increased in my desire to grow, to understand, to serve, and to love. I gained a stronger desire for learning, which means that heart learning reinforces and promotes strength learning and mind learning.

Most importantly, soul learning at Calvin has come primarily through my years as a Barnabas, Resident Assistant, neighbor, and friend. This kind of learning affects the deepest parts of us, affects who we are at core, since we are not defined by our knowledge, skills, or desires, but by our relationships. And the one relationship that truly matters is the one with the eternal soul, God. Soul learning affects all other learning, and is yet the hardest to accomplish. A tiny amount of soul learning can have a huge impact on heart learning, strength learning, and mind learning.

God’s grace, through the co-curricular elements at Calvin College, has allowed me to learn in all these different ways.