

**VOLLI KALM (10.02.1953–23.12.2017)**  
**In memoriam Rector Professor Volli Kalm**

Volli Kalm was born at Aluste near Vändra on 10 February 1953. He graduated from the Vändra Secondary School in 1971 and from the Geology speciality of the University of Tartu in 1976. He was a doctoral student of the Institute of Geology of the Estonian Academy of Sciences in 1980–1984 and had his post-doctoral studies at the Alberta University in Canada in 1988–1989. He was a lecturer of the University of Tartu since 1986, then a docent and Head of the Institute of Geology and Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Geography. Volli Kalm was elected as professor in 1992 and was the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs in 1998–2003 and Rector from 2012. On 1 July 2017, Professor Volli Kalm was re-elected for his second term of office as the head of the University of Tartu and remained the rector until his death. His main research orientations were paleoclimate, paleogeography and chronology of continental glaciations, sedimentology, i.e. research into rock weathering and formation of sedimentary rock, geoarcheology. In 2005 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the White Star – 4th Class.

Volli Kalm regarded international cooperation and visibility of the university as very important. In 2016 the University of Tartu became a member of the network of research-intensive universities, The Guild, and Volli Kalm was also elected as a member of its board in 2017. In November 2017, Volli Kalm was elected as the Honorary Doctor of the Tbilisi State University. Besides his commitment towards international activities, Professor Kalm regarded it as the mission of the University of Tartu to serve the state and the people. “The international ranking cannot be the only objective and main purpose for the development of the university as our duties as the national university are much broader than those measured by the rankings, for instance, the development of instruction in the Estonian language, the Estonian research terminology and national sciences and culture, education of Estonian intellectuals,” he said in an interview.

The funeral service of Rector Volli Kalm was held at the Assembly Hall of the University of Tartu on Saturday, 30 December. The Estonian blue-black-white flag was at half-staff on the main building of the university.

When the coffin of the rector was carried out of the main building of the University of Tartu after midday, the bells of the churches of Tartu were ringing in memory of the dignified man during his last journey, and the bells of the Tartu City Hall near the university played the academic student hymn „Gaudeamus“.

The service was followed by the burial at the Raadi Cemetery of Tartu and the memorial evening in the White Hall of the University History Museum.

*Sources: University of Tartu and Estonian media;  
prepared on the basis of these sources in January 2018 by:*

Matti Raudjärv,  
awarded with the Badge of Honour of the University of Tartu (before the 99th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia – 23.02.2017)

(initiator/main organiser of the Estonian scientific conferences on economic policy held at Värskä and Jäneda, Chief Editor of the research journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy*)

Comment: The undersigned had active job-related contacts with Rector Volli Kalm during the visit of the delegation of the University of Tartu to universities of Georgia in autumn 2016 (the undersigned delivered lectures at that time in universities of Georgia, including at the Georgian Technical University). Rector Volli Kalm and the undersigned paid an unplanned visit also to the Rector's Office of the Georgian Technical University where mutual substantial discussions were held.

According to earlier information and the information received during the meeting at the rector's office and the meeting that followed, Professor Kalm was very pleased with the fact that already the 25th international conference on economic policy was planned (and was held) in Estonia in 2017 and that a journal on economic policy has been published in three languages (*Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy* / *Estmische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik* / *Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused*) for many years and is represented in many international databases. After becoming more familiar with both of these activities, he considered their continued success very important and promised to support them. We appreciate it very much!

Also our good cooperation partner, the Georgian Technical University, sent its condolences to the University of Tartu, signed by Rector, Academician A. N. Prangishvili. Also the organising committees of the above-mentioned conference and the journal bowed our heads to mourn the loss of Rector Volli Kalm and we give our condolences to his family.

M. R.