

Perspective

Newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship and the Institute for Christian Studies
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INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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Almost home free...

ICS and government agree on degree title

by Robert VanderVennen



ICS President Bernard Zylstra (l) and CPJ's Gerald Vandezande get the news of the government's assurance of cooperation

For a week we waited with bated breath for the mail to confirm what we had heard from the newspaper. A story in *The Globe and Mail* on January 14 said that the ICS "would not be disappointed" in the action taken by the Ministry of Education regarding our attempts to get a degree charter. On January 21 we received confirmation of that. The letter from Dr. Bette Stephenson said,

"I wish to give you my assurance that the Ministry of Colleges and Universities will not oppose legislation on behalf of the Institute for Christian Studies that would give it the power to grant 'Master of Philosophical Foundations' degrees."

This assurance clears the major hurdle in the Institute's drive for formal public recognition and a degree charter from the Ontario Legislature. We now need to have the charter introduced into the Legislature for its consideration in the spring by means of a private member's bill. We will then be recognized among the regular chartered colleges and universities in Ontario and in Canada, which means also recognition outside of Canada. This gives university officials more opportunity to accept our students, graduates and faculty members as part of the recognized system.

POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES

The degree title is a political compromise. We had wanted an M.A. (Master of Arts) degree, or else an M.Phil. (Master of Philosophy, the degree we have granted since 1975). When those were rejected, we suggested an M.Phil.S. (Master of Philosophical Studies). The government rejected those titles because it wanted us to have a degree title which clearly showed our religious stance, preferably with the word "Christian" in the title. They

want all "regular" higher education in Ontario to be part of the public university system, funded by the government and believed by the general public to be free from religious bias. The government is willing to recognize an independent set of Bible colleges and theological seminaries apart from the universities. But it does not want to have additional chartered colleges or universities in Ontario because it thinks that there are already more than enough of them. An ICS charter for a "non-religious" degree would add to the number of colleges and universities.

The Institute has vigorously fought against a "religious" degree because we have not wanted to be considered a Bible college or a seminary, and we have wanted to hold a public witness against the view that education is either secular or religious. The reason we exist is to testify and demonstrate that all of life is religion, and that education is not secular but is inescapably religious.



Word spread quickly: staff and students crowd into the front office to see for themselves

Under heavy political pressure the government was finally willing to exempt the Institute from its policy to deny charters for non-religious degrees, provided that a degree title could be found that fit the Institute like a tailor-made glove. The degree needed not only to be different from degrees now given by any university but also the degree title should not fit the work of any other university. In that setting the degree Master of Philosophical Foundations was finally agreed upon.

DEGREE EXPRESSES ICS PURPOSE

Although the degree title is not as simple as we would like, it does express the heart of the Institute's academic reason to exist. Studies at the Institute are foundational in the same way that the rudder of a ship is down at the bottom in order to steer the ship in the way the

captain wants it to go. Ideas direct our attitudes and the ways we think. Our study aims to get to the bottom of where ideas come from, to see religious roots, so that we can evaluate the heart of ideas and take steps to re-direct thinking in a Scripturally directed way. The academic way to say this is to say that we study "philosophical foundations of the humanities, arts and sciences."

PUBLIC AND ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION

A charter brings public and political recognition but not necessarily academic recognition. That must be earned step by step as our faculty members continue to write books and academic journal articles, and as our graduates achieve good academic records at universities to which they may transfer for doctor's programs. In a loose sense a charter means accreditation in Canada, but in the more precise sense of academic recognition it does not. There is no system of academic accreditation in Canada as there is in the United States, where there is a greater diversity of colleges and universities.

THREE YEARS OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE

Our agreement with the government has come after almost three years of political struggle. In March, 1980, the government introduced Bill 4 in an effort to protect Ontario from degree mills and to restrict degree granting to institutions approved by the Legislature. When Christian people protested that this would close down independent seminaries and Bible colleges, the government changed its policy so that those institutions could get charters for degrees in theology or biblical study. As a result several Christian post-secondary schools in Ontario did receive such charters, among them the newly opened Redeemer College in Hamilton. But Bill 4 continued to be controversial enough so that it was allowed to die when a new election was called in 1981.

The same bill was re-introduced in 1982, known this time as Bill 137. Although the bill has not been changed, it now has the support of all three political parties because the government has changed its policy about religious degrees and because enough time has passed for schools affected by the bill to apply for charters. Now that the Institute's status is protected, the bill is likely to pass. However, we are still unhappy with the bill because it assumes a viewpoint on the nature of religion which we believe to be false, and in our judgment it gives the government too much control over higher education in Ontario. We believe that responsible groups with different religious commitments should be able to operate college and university programs outside the monolithic and homogenized public system if they provide good quality education.

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR ICS

Support for the Institute in its political struggle has been awesome. Dozens of highly regarded university professors--representing a wide range of religious views--and professionals, including many doctors, have written beautiful letters and made personal presentations to legislators. Many churches and denominational bodies, including heads of all the mainline churches operating in Ontario, have written strikingly supportive letters. Gerald Vandezande, of Citizens for Public Justice, has been extremely helpful with his time and counsel. People from all walks of life have written letters, made phone calls and personal visits to legislators. Without this kind of political effort, supported by private and public prayers, we would not have achieved these good prospects of a charter.

In the course of this political effort we have found the Minister and her staff to be helpful and cooperative. There has been no question in our minds that they have wanted to reach a satisfactory solution to our problem, especially given the substantial political pressure. We have been unhappy, though, with some of the letters that were sent from the office of the Ministry and of the Premier to people who have written them on our behalf. We believe that often these letters have been misleading by, for example, continuing to suggest that affiliation is a wide-open avenue for the Institute which we have neglected to pursue as we might have.

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FURTHER STEPS

Now we need to polish up the draft of the degree-charter bill, which has already been largely accepted by the Ministry and the government's

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legal counsel. It will need to be publicly advertised for four weeks and then be introduced formally to the Legislature. There will be a committee hearing, opportunity for debate in the Legislature, passage and then approval by the Lieutenant Governor, representing the Crown. If all goes well, it will be May or June when this is completed.

On January 21 members of the Institute staff, students and friends came together for a brief service of thanksgiving and praise, and appropriately celebrated God's goodness. All friends and supporters of the Institute deserve to join in the thanksgiving and celebration, for this achievement under God is the achievement of a true community of believers working together.

Thank you, O Lord, we are happy as kids,
just when we feared we might be on the skids.
Now that the government's stopped playing deaf:
legal and regal--it's M.Philo.F.

Thanks for the laughter that wells in our throats--
funny how Providence ties into votes!
Who could imagine the trouble it took
forcing Bill Davis to give us a look?

Call up your neighbours to tell them it's true
--could this mean possibly Bette is through?!--
Parliament Hill gives you instant repute:
now it's the M.Philo.F. Institute.

ICS stands for reformed christian thought,
graduate studies, the best to be bought:
but our confession demands a degree
hardly distinct from the great U. of T.

Foolishness? Wisdom! We faced the big choice:
how do we act with a unified voice?
Lib'ral, Conservative, rank NDP,
came to accept God's astute irony.

Thank you, O Lord, that You're making us glad;
help our opponents to stop being mad.
Bob, Gerald, CT walked us out of the webs;
don't let it drift like strong drink to our heads!

Thank you, O Lord, we are happy as kids,
just when we feared we might be on the skids.
Now that the government's stopped playing deaf:
legal and regal--it's M.Philo.F!

rollicking melody sung in jolly good spirits
by poetaster laureate of the ICS, Calvin Seerveld

Robert VanderVennen is Director of Educational Services for AACCS/ICS

Administrative re-alignments at AACCS/ICS

by Rosanne Lopers Sweetman

When Bernard Zylstra returned from a six-month sabbatical on January 3, he assumed the newly created office of President of the AACCS and ICS. In the spring on 1982 the Board of Trustees of the AACCS decided to fuse the two positions of Executive Director of the AACCS and Principal of the ICS into one single office, because the responsibilities of the persons in those two positions overlapped so much and because the two organizations, the AACCS and the Institute, could no longer logically or practically be distinguished from one another.

What does this mean for the AACCS and the Institute? In many ways, it means no change at all. Things just carry on the way they always did: classes are held and research is done, conferences are planned and carried out, guest speakers come and go, funds are solicited and donated, and so on. The main change is that it formally brings under one administration the

operations of the AACCS and the ICS. Zylstra was interviewed about the change, the reasons behind the change, and his perceptions about the AACCS/ICS from his new office as President.

Perspective: Weren't the AACCS and the ICS always the same thing? How did the confusion about what was AACCS and what was ICS get started?

Zylstra: The AACCS was founded in 1956 as an association of people concerned about Christian higher education. It led a life of its own for ten to twelve years before the ICS was founded in 1967. Though the ICS exists only because of the support of the AACCS, in an organizational sense the two remained relatively independent.

The ICS was directly governed by a Board of Curators and the AACCS by a Board of Directors. Both bodies were ultimately responsible to the Board of Trustees, but below the Trustees there was a kind of split personality. On the staff level this meant that the ICS stood on its own feet as an academic centre for Christian reflection and teaching, organizationally distinct from the areas of development, educational outreach, student recruitment, business and finance, etc. Those areas were headed by the staff of the AACCS.



Right now the legal entity which is incorporated in the province of Ontario is the AACCS but when the charter (for the ICS to grant its own degrees) is passed, then the name will change and that corporation will be called the Institute for Christian Studies.

Perspective: Why do you think the changes were made now? Why not ten years ago or five years down the road?

Zylstra: First of all, one should recall that when the ICS was opened in 1967 there was a great concern on the part of the new members of the ICS staff that there be a necessary degree of autonomy. In a certain sense they wanted to make sure that the ICS stood on its own feet apart from anything else the AACCS did. That was how we developed into this two-headed structure. At the same time, there is really only one organization at 229 College Street which is owned and operated by the AACCS and all functions of that organization are very closely intertwined. They are mutually dependent. Over a period of fifteen years we gradually came to the conclusion that one organization ought to have and can have a single head, without threatening the freedom and activity of some of its members.

Perspective: Whose momentum was behind this move to have a President?

Zylstra: First, within the ICS, the notion that the head of an institution doesn't have to be a dictator--that grew on us over the past ten years. Secondly, my manner of functioning as Principal of the Institute between 1978 and 1982 by and large eliminated the fears on the part of my colleagues that a chief executive officer threatens the work of the others. Thirdly, on the non-academic side, from the very beginning of my Principalship at ICS, I played a role in the area of development, helped to establish a public image of the ICS, spoke to our constituency, and engaged in concrete nuts-'n-bolts fundraising.

In the last four years there was a gradual awareness that we would be able to function better if there was one chief executive officer. When that awareness came to the fore, I suggested that the person come from the

academic side of the work of the AACCS, not from the administrative side.

Perspective: Is that because of the nature of the institution or because of the people involved?

Zylstra: Because of the nature of the institution. An academic institution should be headed by an academic person, although he or she should be an academic with a sense of organization.

Perspective: This is a small institution, and many of the professors here have experience in administration at ICS. What makes you President material?

Zylstra: I was chosen on the basis of my academic background because, first of all, I look upon myself as a scholar. I know what's involved in doing scholarly work in terms of teaching, examining, researching, publishing, etc. Secondly, I have always felt very close to the constituency of the AACCS. I am a product of the reformed community; my roots have shaped my reformed vision of our lives. A third factor is that, though I emphasize the reformed distinctiveness of the AACCS, I am open, as a person in my scholarly research, to the wider Christian community. It has always been very important to me to look at the AACCS as one of the spiritually renewing factors in the larger Christian world and to relate the institution to other centres of spiritual renewal. Fourth, institutions and organizations are very important for the development of Christianity. I don't look upon myself as an excellent administrator, but I know that the spirit of Christianity must take on flesh and blood in concrete institutions. Because of that I have paid attention to the needs of an organization like the AACCS.



Perspective: What kinds of needs are those?

Zylstra: Clarity about the spiritual identity of the organization; the necessity of both spiritual and academic cohesion among the staff members; vital support from a membership throughout North America; and openness in cooperation among staff members in actually implementing the goals of the organization.

Perspective: Are there other factors that led to your selection as President? Obviously, your history with the ICS and your relations with the boards have proven something about your work.

Zylstra: Apparently I am acceptable to my colleagues, the rest of the staff and the boards. Otherwise I wouldn't have been chosen for this job.

Perspective: Does this signal a change for the life of the ICS in what we do and how we do it?

Zylstra: I think it does. It means that the institution can project a more unified image toward the outside. It will be clearer who speaks on behalf of the AACCS. It also will mean that internal organization will go along one main track instead of two. Quite specifically, it means that my responsibilities and my authority as President will in effect be implemented by a General Council--a body made up of the heads of the academy, development, educational services and finance. Here issues of common concern and interest will be discussed and settled. In the past it was very

hard to have a body like this function effectively when there were two administrative heads.

Perspective: What does this mean for Bob VanderVennen and his role as Executive Director of the AACCS?

Zylstra: From my point of view, I have functioned for fifteen years within the academic side of things at the ICS while Bob's role was much more the supervision of non-academic affairs, like business and development and the whole area of educational outreach. His new position as Director of Educational Services makes him director of activities he has always had under his supervision, so there's genuine continuity on that score.

Perspective: What do you see the future of the ICS as a whole to be?

Zylstra: The immediate event of importance in the life of the ICS is the charter. If the ICS gets a charter from the government of Ontario the entire institution will be electrified because after fifteen years our status as a reputable centre of graduate studies will have been properly acknowledged. I think that will affect our self-respect in a positive way.

Moreover, in the history of Christian higher education in Canada, the charter is of great significance because it means that Christian university work in this instance is not discredited, which it would have been if our degree were religiously described, like Master of Christian Studies. Our supporters, as well as the rest of us, can be immensely thankful for this result after years of fighting.

Another factor is that the coming of the charter will immediately change the picture for student recruitment.

Perspective: Won't we still have to get other institutions and people to recognize us and our degree?

Zylstra: We will have to make sure that the quality of work is always excellent. In that sense, we will have to continue to prove our worth, but at least the formal obstacle is out of the way. We are responsible for making sure that our graduates receive topnotch education. When that happens, other institutions will accept our graduates. That, finally, means that our students will be working with a much clearer purpose when they know that at the end of their pilgrimage with us they have a degree which they can take to any other university.

Perspective: What else is in store for the ICS?

Zylstra: In the light of the economy, we have to come to grips with what we can do meaningfully as a centre of graduate studies in terms of financial hardships within the entire Christian community. It means that as an institution our fiscal planning has to be utterly realistic so that expenses match income. It also means that we have the challenge to widen our support base. There are areas where this can be done--areas where we've always gotten our support but also, because in the larger evangelical world the whole interplay between faith and learning is more upfront than it was a generation ago, we can look to people from a wider spectrum for support for our mission.

Another challenge for the future is to continue to develop an interdisciplinary centre of Christian reflection of a clearly orthodox kind in eastern Canada. Canada needs reformed scholarship and we ought to provide a

slice of it.

Lastly, in both Canada and the US, universities started as Christian institutions. Today learning in our culture is largely secularized, that is, cut off from the Bible. The ICS, along with other institutions, wants to contribute in modern culture to learning with an open Bible.

Perspective: Are you happy with your new position?

Zylstra: I spent six months on sabbatical in 1982 and at the end of that time I really felt like coming back only as a professor in political theory. That is my first love, and I'm glad to be back in the classroom, if only on a part-time basis. But now that I've been here for a few weeks, I feel very good about the job, about the spirit among the staff, about the way in which decisions will be implemented by staff and boards, and about the opportunity of serving God and his people in this new capacity.

Rosanne Lopers Sweetman is educational services coordinator for the AACCS/ICS

VanderVennen assumes Director of Educational Services position

by Rosanne Lopers Sweetman

Along with the creation of the new office of President of the AACCS/ICS, the office of Director of Educational Services was initiated in January, 1983. Dr. Robert VanderVennen, who served as Executive Director of the AACCS since 1974, will fill this new position. Although the exact description of this position is still being finalized, his responsibilities include many things: all publications by the AACCS and its staff, conferences, seminars, special lectures, and every form of educational outreach that the AACCS provides.

A large part of his time will be taken up with work on AACCS publications--facilitating the publications of books and papers, trying to assist the senior members in getting things written and published, and some editorial work. The recently established relation between the ICS and University Press of America (UPA) has created a lot of extra work in preparing the manuscripts for printing. The papers given at the 1981 conference "Rationality in the Calvinian Tradition" are being published through this arrangement, and the papers from the 1978 conference on social sciences are currently being prepared for publication.

Bob is also involved in the editorial committee working with Senior Member Hendrik Hart to prepare his book on ontology for publication with UPA. With Senior Member Al Wolters, Bob is revising parts of the text for a book on a Christian worldview which Al completed in the past year, and is trying to find a suitable publisher. Some of the material to come out of the work at the ICS, which has been long awaited by our supporters, may now finally come to light because we have someone heading up our publication efforts in a concentrated way.

In addition to his work on publications, Bob has responsibility for all the structured ways in which the ICS reaches out to others outside of the academic setting, particularly at the popular level. Although he will not be involved in the details of organizing the programs of educational service, he oversees and helps to plan conferences, short courses, seminars, and the

campus outreach program.

From its inception, Bob has been closely involved in the AACCS Academic Paper Series, a service that provides occasional papers--written by ICS senior and junior members and by other reformational scholars--to subscribers and interested persons at a minimal cost. He will continue to oversee and execute this program.

Bob has been deeply involved in the struggle to get a charter so that the ICS can grant degrees (see story page 1). Over the coming weeks, the application for a charter to grant the Master of Philosophical Foundations degree will create much extra work on his part, but it is not an area of work that will demand a lot of his time once the charter is passed.

Built in to the new position of Director of Educational Services will be some consultation and participation in development work. Bob has always worked closely with the Director of Development and on development projects of his own, so that this will be a carried-over responsibility. He hopes not to be involved in the business and finance end of things, as he was when he was Executive Director. There is obviously some carry-over because of his experience in this area but other than his involvement in the Task Force on Finances (see story page 16) he will not have responsibility for business or financial matters.



Working for the AACCS for 8½ years as a busy administrator is a tiresome job. For that reason, Bob will take off one day per week as an extended sabbatical. The difference between this sabbatical and the sabbaticals that the ICS senior members get every eighth year is not only that he is stretching it over a longer period of time than one year, but also that he is taking only 80% of his salary now.

How is he refreshing and renewing his resources during his sabbatical days off? Bob is particularly interested in the relation between science and faith. He is writing an article which deals with the question "What does Christianity have to say about chemistry?" Also, he has been involved in the creation-evolution debate for more than 25 years and is keen to have Christians take sound positions on this issue, to have attitudes that fit the Bible and good scientific practice. He would like to compile his ideas and thinking on this issue into an article to give guidance to high school biology teachers.

For thirty years, Bob has been involved in the American Scientific Affiliation and its Canadian counterpart, the Canadian Scientific and Christian Association, an organization of Christians who are scientists and who want to present a Christian witness in their field of study. He has been involved in the board and in the administration of the CSCA for the past ten years. His work with this group of scientists, too, ties in closely with his efforts to provide insights and opportunities to share ideas for groups of Christians engaged in fields of study not taught at the ICS.

Bob does not foresee any change in the direction of the ICS now that Bernard Zylstra is President and he is Director of Educational Services. "Zylstra has been in a leadership position in the ICS for many years, and has influenced the direction of the ICS throughout that time. The Task Force on Finances may dictate some changes, however."

"What I like best about my new position is that I have more time to reflect on things we might do, and I feel good about that. I am not so bogged down in administrative detail." He foresees a good working relationship with Zylstra. "We complement each other very well; we have good respect for each other. I appreciate Bernie very much and have always been able to work well with him. He is the kind of person who is always ready to listen and is prepared to change his opinions on the basis of what he hears from you."

Rosanne Lopers Sweetman is educational services coordinator for the AACS/ICS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

A turning point

by Bernard Zylstra

- 1956: The Association for Reformed Scientific Studies--now AACS--was founded.
- 1967: The Institute for Christian Studies was opened.
- 1983: The Lord willing, the Government of Ontario will officially recognize the power of the ICS to grant degrees.

Yes. 1983 will stand out in our history. Why? Because it represents a new beginning. This is immediately clear to us if we look at the past, the present, and the future.

To begin with, our founding fathers and mothers established the AACS on the basis of a clear Biblical principle: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom and knowledge, not only in home and church, but also in school and university.

It was not a popular principle. During the Fifties, Canadian and American universities became increasingly secular. This meant that more and more areas of learning were being withdrawn from the Word of God, the revealed source of ultimate Truth. Scientific reason replaced divine revelation. The founders and members of the AACS have been fighting against this trend in education for nearly thirty years. They knew that the secularization of the university meant the secularization of society. So they fought back, on the basis of the Biblical idea of truth, knowledge and science.

The battle they fought was tough because public opinion by this time held that while linking revelation to knowledge may be permitted in theology, it is clearly out of place in the university. As soon as the battle began to focus on the need for a Charter to grant degrees, the Government's initial answer was predictable. The ICS can have a Charter, it was said, to grant theology-type degrees. The issue was clear. The nature and the very existence of the ICS were at stake. But we stuck to our principle.

The Lord blesses faithfulness to Biblical principle, in the life of persons and institutions. His blessings were evident in the amazing support which we received in our struggle for a Charter during the last three years. The support came through loud and clear from the members of the AACS. But it

also came from all sorts of unexpected sources--from our numerous friends in the academic world, from nearly every church in Canada, from practically every sector in Canadian society. And the Lord's blessings are now evident in the decision of the government itself. Justice has prevailed.

Indeed, from the vantage point of our past struggle, 1983 will stand out in our history.

And what of the present? The recognized power of the ICS to grant the degree Master of Philosophical Foundations means that our students will be less subject to overt discrimination because they chose to study at a graduate Christian liberal arts institution. In the past, our students were never quite certain whether our M.Phil. degree would be recognized in their future work. This will now change for the better, especially in Canada. To be sure, the ICS itself must continue to guarantee the quality of its degree program. That is the case with every academic institution. And we are not afraid of this challenge. But there is more. This recognition of our degrees will make the ICS a much more appealing place to study for college graduates everywhere. In the past a degree from the ICS was a potential stumbling block; in the future it will likely become a jumping board.

Indeed, from the students' vantage point, 1983 will stand out in our history.

What about the future? Let's be clear about the larger picture within which the ICS finds itself. The spiritual home of the ICS is in the renewal of Christianity in Canada and the United States. If this renewal is to have lasting impact upon our culture it must be marked by many things. It must be unashamedly true to the revelation of the Scriptures. It must unmistakably point to the spiritual meaning of personal life in the midst of materialistic confusion and nihilistic despair. It must courageously address the social and economic issues of the day. Finally, the spiritual renewal must be marked by a clearly identifiable Christian worldview that is up-to-date, has philosophical depth and theoretical breadth. In other words, the renewal of the Christian faith today must provide an all-encompassing outlook for Christian leaders and a Scripturally directed philosophy for professors and students in the world of the university. That's where the ICS fits in. Along with other institutions of Christian higher education in both Canada and the United States, the ICS desires to contribute to the development of a Christian worldview and a Scripturally directed philosophy. In this effort it is distinctive because of its roots in the Reformed confessions of the Christian church, because of its graduate character, and because of its focus on the philosophical foundations of the arts and sciences. The degree Master of Philosophical Foundations adequately describes the work completed at the ICS.



*Gerald Vandezande, C.T. McIntire
and Bob VanderVennen display letter*

Since 1967 we have welcomed students from each generation to join us in this indispensable service. Beginning in 1983, because of our Charter, we can welcome them, very likely in greater numbers, and send them into their field of service with an officially recognized stamp of approval.

Indeed, from the vantage point of the future, 1983 will be viewed as a turning point in the history of the Institute for Christian Studies.

Discovery '83 a multiple success story



Interest in issues being raised was high, as proven by the large and varied turn-out.

Discovery '83 was a tremendous success in almost every way. Participation (110 besides ICS staff and students and guest speakers) certainly exceeded our expectations. Student interest in issues being raised was high--if the buzz of conversations in the hallways during break times is any indication. This event provided an opportunity to meet and converse with a group of students from a wide range of denominational and geographic backgrounds: most of the participants came from Ontario and small groups came from Montreal, Ottawa, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and New York.

A main strength of the conference was the academic focus which gave shape to the discussions and presentations, providing the challenge to students to integrate their faith with their studies and vocational plans. ICS Senior Member C.T. McIntire led off the conference program with a cultural assessment of our times. ICS graduate Brian Walsh gave an inspirational address Saturday morning which brought theoretical issues down to earth while emphasizing the many dimensions of life and the need for Christian community to bring about the needed renewal. Senior Member Calvin Seerveld's meditation on Sunday morning, in a combined worship service with the congregation of Little Trinity Anglican Church, sounded just the right note to round off the conference--words of comfort and assurance that hope for all kinds of people is in Christ.

Workshop topics covered a broad range and covered most participants' interests. Especially popular was a panel discussion on Christians in the arts, in which author Hugh Cook, musician Wendy Bartley, and artist Peter Dykhuis participated. A Saturday evening "whoopee" and a Sunday lunch provided appropriate settings to celebrate God's gifts to us, with good music and singing, good food, and good atmosphere to mix socially with one another.

During a feedback session on Sunday afternoon the overwhelming impression was that this conference truly helped students in their search for an answer to the question "What does my Christian faith have to do with my studying?" In the range of educational services provided by the ICS, this will surely remain a highlight.



C.T. McIntire analyzed the secular forces in our culture.



An attentive workshop group.



Participants came from Montreal, Ottawa, southwestern Ontario, Pittsburgh, New York and Detroit, representing at least five mainline denominations.



Bob Hudspeth, engineering instructor, led a workshop on alternative technologies.



Composer Wendy Bartley took part in a panel on Christians in the arts.



Richard Middleton, former ICS student, led one inspirational period of devotions.



Educational consultant Agnes Struik gave many insights for Christian teachers and students.



Participants chose from a series of workshops in five areas: education, political science, philosophy, arts, and natural sciences.



Singing folk and blues tunes is Marj Snyder, ICS alumna from New York City.



The Saturday evening program of fun and entertainment ended with a lively concert by Harmony Storm, a band from Hamilton, Ontario.

From the inside track

by Kathy Vanderkloet

ANNE BURGHGRAEF was born and raised in Oshawa, Ontario. She attended Christian grade school and high school, then went on to Calvin College for two years before finishing her undergraduate studies in psychology and sociology at the University of Western Ontario in London. Among her high school teachers was at least one former ICS student. As you may have guessed, the ICS was no recent discovery for her.

Nevertheless, it was not a foregone conclusion that she would study at the Institute. In fact, she already holds a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree from the University of Toronto and has a great deal of experience working at counselling and clinical work.



Anne Burghgraef is trying to regain a sense of direction for her life and studies

After she finished her undergraduate studies in 1978, Anne worked for a year in a Christian group home for delinquent teenaged boys and at a juvenile detention centre in London. She also spent a summer in Toronto working at the Fred Victor Mission with men on skid row. And last summer was spent working as a counsellor with the Catholic Children's Aid Society.

She found the counselling work increasingly frustrating, however. "I felt that I was doing band-aid work--patching up accomplished disasters without having any formative influence. My work was blocked by such societal problems as unemployment and housing difficulties."

Her frustration was increased by her sense of a lack of direction at the end of her studies at the U. of T. "By the time I graduated with my M.S.W. I felt very fragmented. I'd lost a sense of history and consequently of where society was headed. I had learned a lot of techniques and skills, but never looked at the larger picture of society to see why the people I counselled were in the straits they were in."

A year of travelling through Europe in 1981 rekindled her interest in history and other cultures. She began to realize that "it's not just us in the world. We share this globe with a lot of people who think very differently."

She's now enrolled at the Institute in the Certificate Program, taking political science courses in addition to the required philosophical and biblical foundations courses. She's trying to regain the sense of direction she'd missed in her studies at the U. of T. "Philosophical foundations is very good for putting things in their historical context, looking at theories critically, developing a framework of handling different issues and theories," she says. She also enjoys the variety of students at the Institute. "That in itself is a very growing sort of experience. It's very exciting because they ask questions I wouldn't think of asking, or which I simply take for granted. That helps make me more aware of and more critical of what I'm doing."

Anne is toying with the idea of returning next year either full-time or part-time. She is undecided about what she wants to do later, however. She does not think she will return full-time to counselling, preferring to

work at a policy-setting level. "All policy is based on choices, on values, on how we perceive the world and its problems--in short, on our life vision or perspective. I've always been concerned about injustice. Ideally I'd like to work for a Christian organization that is trying to provide solutions that go beyond band-aid measures. But I'm grateful for the 'front line' experience I have had; I needed that to make me more sensitive to people and to integrate what I'd learned theoretically with reality."

GARY DUIM's interest in political theory came to life at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. He enrolled initially in the agriculture program at Dordt after having worked for three years on his father's farm in Granger, Washington. He was drawn by the liberal arts program as well, however, and his growing interest in the work of the Association for Public Justice (APJ) prompted him to switch from agriculture into the political science program.



Gary Duim's interests in both theology and political theory are well served at ICS

"I loved Dordt," he says. "After high school I felt directionless, didn't know what to do, so I decided to farm for a while. Those were years of hard searching for me. Dordt helped me discover my roots in Reformed Christianity, and thus opened up my life." His Dordt years included a one-semester internship in Washington, DC, working for the Washington Office on Latin America (an information lobbying group concerned with human rights violations in Latin America), an experience which was valuable for the exposure it gave him to the workings of government at various levels.

Gary finds that his broad range of interests is well served in his courses at the Institute. He wants to pursue both specific political analysis and theory, and the larger philosophical and theological questions pertaining to it, and is able to do both here. "Modern Political Analysis (taught by Paul Marshall) was a survey of contemporary views on how to understand and study politics, which I found very interesting and enjoyable. On the other hand, in Eschatology (taught by George Vandervelde) we discussed such questions as

what is the role of the state in the world's history? How should we look at that as Christians? Should the state be seen as something creational or as the product of sin? The way one answers those questions will definitely influence one's concept of politics."

Gary is enrolled in the M.Phil. program, and hopes to complete the work for it in two years. After that, he's not sure what he'll do. Eventually, however, he would like to teach political theory at a Christian college. "The political science field is opening up particularly in evangelical colleges. People are thinking about it a lot, but there's not too much direction to their thinking yet; there's a lot of opportunity to help give that direction."

JACK PORTER is no stranger to the Institute. We met him three years ago when he spent one semester working with C.J.L. Foundation as part of his undergraduate program of study at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He used that one semester internship to gain practical experience in Christian political work, and to write a paper entitled "Towards Understanding Politics from a Christian Vantage Point." Jack emphasizes that this paper was just beginning research, written more or less as a primer on a Christian perspective on politics. "I wanted to use it to communicate ideas of the

reformational perspective on politics to students at university who had no exposure to this view," he comments.

Although he comes from a Roman Catholic background, Jack describes his perspective as having been essentially humanist prior to his conversion at college. "I basically wanted to be a good person," he says, "but as a political science student studying world problems, I found myself very frustrated by the lack of real hope in the humanist perspective. A great light was shed on my life and studies when I was converted and came to see Christ as Lord of life, that the problems of life are part of sin, and that healing comes through Christ. That put things into perspective."



Jack Porter came to the ICS to gain a coherent life perspective in preparation for training in law

He was greatly aided in this period by a program sponsored by the Pittsburgh Coalition for Christian Outreach on discipleship and Christian living. ICS graduate Bill Rowe was teaching a course on Christian historical and philosophical perspectives which Jack attended. "I lived for Tuesdays when that class met," he recalls. "I began to wrestle with how to work out a Christian perspective in my life, and apply that also to my other courses."

Jack came to the Institute to broaden his perspective in preparation for training in law. He needs to deepen his understanding of the state, justice, law, so that he can enter the legal profession with a coherent Christian vision of life from which to work and live. He first took a year-long break from his studies, however, working in a home for mentally handicapped adults. That experience was very valuable to him as he learned to appreciate the gifts and talents of the handicapped and to understand their struggles to live in a society that prefers to ignore their existence.

Jack is pleased with his study at the ICS thus far. In his opinion it is a very good place to do in-depth philosophical foundational research--to learn to be a Christian scholar. He speaks especially well of the biblical foundations course (taught by George Vandervelde) which has helped him in his understanding of the Bible.

Kathy Vanderkloet is administrative assistant to the President of AACCS/ICS

Task Force studies AACCS financial concerns

by Robert VanderVennen

When you regularly need to borrow money to pay your bills, you know you're in some financial trouble. That is the situation at AACCS this year.

It is too easy to say that we've always had financial troubles which we have always managed to survive. Since misery loves company, it is easy for us to be comforted by the fact that everyone else has money problems these days too. We would like to say that the money problems are temporary and will go away, but in our honest moments we admit that we can't see that 1983-84 will be any easier than this year.

So the AACCS Board of Trustees felt it necessary to appoint an eight-person Task Force to see how serious our financial problems really are, and to see what will be needed for us to have a financially stable future. The Task Force is mandated to come back to the Board of Trustees in May with its assessment and recommendations for action. The membership consists of Trustees Ary de Jong, Ben Vandezande and Betty Westrik; Curator John Olthuis; and staff members Paul Marshall, Robert VanderVennen, Aileen Van Ginkel and Bernard Zylstra.

At the three meetings held thus far the Task Force members have looked at the pattern of income and expenditures of recent years, and especially the effects of inflation. Inflation has driven costs up rather dramatically even though the programs have not expanded nor have salaries risen enough even to compare adequately with what people in similar positions elsewhere are being paid. Recent high interest rates have added to the problem.

Should we operate on a strict "pay as you go" basis, or is it permissible to run up small deficits in hard times because the borrowed money is secured by our building which increases in value each year? Will the general economy improve so that people will be able to contribute more generously? Will we be able to improve our situation without needing to cut important services? These are among the questions the Task Force will be facing in the coming weeks.

We are not the only Christian agency facing problems of this kind. We have decided to consult with a number of other Christian organizations in the hope that shared concerns may lead to actions for the good of all.

We ask that you support this urgent study with your prayers, and we invite you to give us your suggestions.

Robert VanderVennen is Director of Educational Services for the AACCS/ICS

Guest lecturers at ICS



Dan Heap

In November and December varying political visions and experiences were outlined to students, staff and guests of the ICS in three visits by Christian politicians. The series was set up by campus outreach teacher and ICS Junior Member Jon Chaplin, primarily for the course he teaches on political action.

First in the series was Dan Heap, Member of Parliament in Ottawa for the region in which the ICS is located, and an Anglican priest. Heap condemned the current dominant political philosophy which he said stresses competition and results in increased inequality between rich and poor.

The Scriptures emphasize sharing and cooperation in community, and Heap advocated that the government follow alternative policies that encourage these Scriptural ideals. A spirited discussion followed in which his socialist approach was challenged, but all appreciated his call to the church to become involved in reconciliation between persons and groups who are caught in the current unemployment crisis.

Tone Careless, Acting Director of the Ministry of Inter-Governmental Affairs at Queen's Park (Ontario), in his presentation on November 26 gave

an inside story on how government makes decisions and sets policy. According to Careless, the economy is the Number One priority of the government, and it is willing to sacrifice almost all other commitments to get and keep the economy moving. In contrast to developing a unified perspective or global vision for the direction of the nation, government views the broad political horizon superficially and therefore changes are geared towards immediate results. He also pointed out that the government is less concerned about the individual than about interest groups. If a special interest group is naive or concerned only about one specific issue, the government will not respond but will simply wait until it dies.

Ben Vandezande, recently elected as alderman in St. Catharines, Ontario, and director of Outreach Niagara, a community political action organization, gave the third presentation of the series. He outlined with graphic illustrations his idea of an alternative political vision and how he attempts to mobilize people into political awareness and action. Vandezande said that for most people their private lives revolve around home, work, school, church and friends while publicly they are consumers. They receive government policy, and except in cases where they can get something tangible out of it for themselves, they do no more than vote and send an occasional letter to their representatives. Vandezande maintains that for effective political action that will promote a more just society and a government that is sensitive to all dimensions of our lives, this gap between private and public lives needs to be closed.



Ted Plantinga

On January 14 Dr. Ted Plantinga, professor of philosophy at Redeemer College in Hamilton, gave a presentation to aesthetics and philosophy students and staff at the ICS on the thought of Wilhelm Dilthey, a nineteenth-century historian and literary critic. Brian Walsh, graduate student in religious studies at McGill University in Montreal and former student and employee at the ICS, gave two presentations in late January to the ICS staff and student body. His first presentation was on "Symbol and Reflection in Paul Ricoeur's Thought"; his second was on "Creation and Eschatology in Jurgen Moltmann."

AACS Remittance Form

The AACS is an association of over 2,000 members from 24 countries worldwide. Our purpose is to promote Scripturally directed learning and biblical reformation of scholarship. Our main project is the Institute of Christian Studies, a graduate school for research and teaching.

Membership is open to all who agree with the purpose and religious position of the Association.

Financial support is most welcome and needed, since most of our money must come from donations. Donations in support of our work are tax-deductible for residents of Canada, U.S.A. and The Netherlands, when sent to the organizations listed below. *Perspective* is sent free of charge to all members and donors. Non-donors are asked

to pay a subscription fee of \$8 per year. *Perspective* is mailed to interested persons in a total of 44 countries.

Members and other friends can financially support AACS by making a donation to the following organizations:

U.S.A.
AACS Foundation
3201 Burton Street, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Netherlands
Calvinistic World Association
Potgieterweg 46
1851 CJ Heiloo
(gironummer 17 75 496)
(specify for AACS)

Canada and other countries
AACS
229 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 1R4

- ☐ Please send more information.
- ☐ Enclosed is a donation.
- ☐ Enclosed is a subscription fee.
- ☐ I would like to become a member. Please send me an application.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____



Development notes

by Aileen Van Ginkel

Most of you received a letter and perhaps a phone call last December asking you to help us out with a donation before the end of the year. By the middle of January, we were able to assess the results of our year-end appeal.

During December and the first two weeks of January, we received about \$75,000 in donations--a marvellous amount, all things considered. Even though this was \$45,000 short of our goal of \$120,000, we understand why we didn't reach our goal. The poor economy has affected everyone's ability to give, and the big drive for the AACCS' 25th anniversary, lasting from the fall of 1981 into the spring of 1982, also explains a lower-than-usual response to our year-end appeal.

I think that it would be unrealistic to expect that you, our members and supporters, would be able to donate substantially more than you have in the past. However, we do hope that you'll help us in making our income *more constant*. (What generally happens is that we have one "fat" month followed by three or four "lean" months.)

In the upcoming months, we'll be informing you about ways you can support our work financially which would help to even out our income patterns. Endowments for certain programs, annuities, trusts, loans (also see form below) and post-dated cheques--all these avenues of giving could be explored more fully.

However, having a more constant income will not solve the problem of our budget deficit. To find a long-term solution we really need to expand the number of our members and supporters. That's why we're planning to organize local membership drives all over Canada and in some parts of the United States. These drives will take place over the next two to three years. Beginning with membership efforts this spring in the Toronto area, we hope, with the help of local members in each community, to interest many more people in becoming members of the AACCS.

Now you know what we have up our sleeves for the coming months. I hope that we'll continue to be effective partners in developing the work of the AACCS/ICS.

Aileen Van Ginkel is Director of Development for the AACCS/ICS

LOAN FORM

Interest rates for our loan program are now set quarterly (January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1), and are tied to the interest rates for daily interest savings accounts at the Royal Bank of Canada. Interest for this first quarter of 1983 is at 7.5%.

____ Please send me further information about the AACCS Loan Program.

Name _____ Address _____

A word about the student aid program at ICS

by Robert VanderVennen

A student writes to say that he or she wants to study at the Institute, but is not able to afford it. What can we do?

The Christian community would lose a great deal if students who want to serve the community with the abilities gained by Christian higher education would not be able to get that education because they did not have the money. The Institute responds to this, as do most colleges and universities, by making financial aid available to those who genuinely need it.

We ask students who need financial help to share openly with us all the financial resources they have, including help from parents, friends, church, scholarships, etc. We expect them to work part of the year to help with their costs, and to take out educational loans where possible. We try to combine work and loans with outright grants to make up the difference between costs and resources. Some students work part-time at the AACs, doing necessary library or janitorial work.

Student costs are quite low, partly because we keep tuition low compared with most independent colleges and universities. Tuition this year is only \$1,300 (about the same as Canadians pay at Ontario universities). For twelve months we estimate that a single student can get by with \$1,750 for housing, \$900 for food and \$1,200 for other expenses, for a total for the entire year of only \$5,150. These costs for a married couple without children are around \$8,300 for 12 months, including tuition for one.

We give financial aid only to full-time students who are accepted into a degree program. Aid is given to master's degree students for not more than two years, and for doctoral students for not more than three or four years. Grants are given for one year at a time, but are renewed if the student is doing good academic work and if the need continues. ICS students, like graduate students anywhere, do academic work year-round if possible, and we are willing to help them financially for a 12-month school year.

We are helped by forms of financial aid to American students which can now be used at the Institute. For the first time one of our students has a Guaranteed Student Loan from his state, a loan which does not accumulate interest during student days and can be repaid at reasonable terms after graduation. One of our students is receiving money from the U.S. Veterans Administration. Canadian students receive student loans on good terms through provincial governments.

This year we are giving financial aid to fifteen Institute students who have shown that they need it. We are committed to \$33,900 to help them meet their costs.

Upcoming events

JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR CHRISTIANS ONE CENTURY AFTER KUYPER

lecture series by Nicholas Wolterstorff, professor of philosophy, Calvin College

March 11, 8:00 pm - *World-Formative Christianity: medieval and 16th century Calvinist view*

March 12, 1:00 pm - *The Structure of the Modern Social World*

3:30 pm - *Lima or Amsterdam: Liberation or Disclosure in Contemporary Theology*

March 25, 8:00 pm - *The Rich and the Poor: causes and obligations*

March 26, 1:00 pm - *Nation against Nation: nationalism in South Africa and the Middle East*

3:30 pm - *Can the city be an object of delight?*

FEE: \$25.00 for the series. \$6.00 per single lecture. Telephone registration (416)979-2331.

AACS/ICS news

On November 16 Senior Member C.T. MCINTIRE was formally appointed to the Advanced Degree Faculty of the Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto where he is cross-appointed on the faculty of Trinity College. M.A. and Ph.D. students at TST can take his course "History of the Secularization of Western Thought and Society" for credit towards their degrees and McIntire can participate in the supervision of Masters and doctoral theses. Fifteen students are enrolled in his graduate seminar which began January 4.

Director of Development AILEEN VAN GINKEL spoke on "The Influence of the Christian Reformed Church on the Integration of Dutch Immigrants in Canada during the 1950s" to a men's breakfast at the Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church in Toronto on January 8.

Senior Member JAMES OLTHUIS participated in a televised debate on the CBC show "The Great Debate," hosted by Pierre Berton, on January 25. His opponent was Russell Legge, President of the Canadian Council of Churches and the resolution was "God is not omnipotent." Jim took the position during the debate of defending God's almighty power.

JAMES OLTHUIS attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in New York City December 18-22.

Senior Member CALVIN SEERVELD made a presentation on hermeneutical method for the members of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship in Grand Rapids, Michigan, during January.

Senior Member PAUL MARSHALL lectured on "Christian Views of War" at Little Trinity Anglican Church in Toronto on January 15.

PAUL MARSHALL participated in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod Study Committee on Human Rights, of which he is a member, when they held their latest meetings in Toronto January 18 and 19.

An interview with PAUL MARSHALL appeared in *Calvinist Contact* on January 14. The subject of the interview was recent trends in Canadian politics.

Director of Educational Services ROBERT VANDERVENNEN has been appointed to the advisory board of the Association of Christian Scholars, a new group interested in applying Christian thinking to academic thinking and to issues in society. Its chief vehicle will be an academic journal, whose editorial board is composed of Christian scholars, including Senior Member and President BERNARD ZYLSTRA. The Association's address is P.O. Box 9000, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, USA.

PAUL MARSHALL has written a 40-page research paper on "Voluntarism in Social Policy" in which he advocates that the government of Canada support rather than undercut community volunteer organizations. The research was sponsored by Citizens for Public Justice (formerly known as the CJL Foundation) and is available from them for \$3. Their address is CPJ, 229 College Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4.

ICS Fellow A.B. CRAMP will conduct a one-week seminar on "Economics in Christian Perspective" at the Institute June 27 to July 2, 1983. Those interested in registering for this seminar are advised to contact the ICS.

The AACCS is one of two recipients of the proceeds of "An Evening of Baroque Music" to be held March 26 at 8:00 P.M. in the Grace Christian Reformed Church, Scarborough, Ontario. Jan Overduin, organ, and Erik Schultz, piccolo trumpet, will perform works by Bach, Albinoni, Corelli and their contemporaries. For more information, contact the AACCS (979-2331).

CAMPUS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Campus Outreach Coordinator SUSAN BOWER has led three sessions of the Adult Education Forum at Church of the Redeemer in Toronto on Sunday mornings during January. The topics have been "Work as Service: Service as Work," "Cultural Formers, not Cultural Followers," and "Models of Christian Work."

Campus Outreach teacher RICHARD MIDDLETON has been very busy with speaking engagements during the past term, besides several preaching assignments. On September 30 he introduced and kicked off the year's theme for the University of Guelph InterVarsity Christian Fellowship group with a meditation on "Truth and Responsibility in the Gospel of John." On November 11 he spoke to the IVCF group at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, on "A Philosophical Defense of Christianity" where he focussed on the biblical understanding of the nature of good and evil in the cosmos--in contrast to the main philosophical opinions. On November 12 and 13 he led an elders' training retreat for the Kortright Presbyterian Church where he is a member and an elder. From December 22 to 27 he was the speaker at Southwestern Ontario's IVCF "International Christmas" camp held near Guelph. He led a series of Bible discussions each day and preached on Christmas day on John 1, the incarnation of the Word.

Alumni action



Brian Walsh

BRIAN WALSH has now been fully accepted into the Ph.D. program in religious studies at McGill University, Montreal, on the basis of his master's degree at the Institute plus his good achievement in the first semester at McGill. Thus his Master of Philosophy degree at the Institute has been given full value at McGill. This is important recognition for the Institute as well as a good achievement for Brian. He has also been appointed to teach a course on Christian worldview in McGill's summer credit program.



Richard Middleton

A book written by BRIAN WALSH and RICHARD MIDDLETON, both former Institute students, has been accepted for publication by Inter-Varsity Press. Tentatively titled *Quest for an Authentic Life*, the book contains the core of the Christian Perspective courses which Brian and Richard have taught on university campuses for a few years as part of our Campus Outreach program. It is a basic statement of a Christian worldview in a secular society. Editor-in-Chief James Sire, who has widely written and lectured on Christian and other worldviews, spoke in highly positive terms about the book manuscript. The book will probably be

available early next year.

PETER ENNESON, 1980 ICS alumnus, has been very active this past year in the fields of graphic design and layout for book and magazine publishers. His latest work can be seen in a new illustrated collection of poems entitled *Scrabbling for Repose*, written by John Terpstra. It was published in Toronto this past December by Split Reed Press, for which Peter is the artistic director. The book is available for \$6.50 (prepaid) from Split Reed Press, 229 College Street, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4.

DAVID KOYZIS, Ph.D. student in political theory at Notre Dame University in Indiana, has an article titled "Progress as an Object of Faith in the Thought of Friedrich A. von Hayek" in a forthcoming issue of *Christian Scholar's Review*.

Announcement: AACS involved in recording

Those of you who have attended any of the AACS conferences will remember group singing as one of the conference highlights. We're asking people in the Toronto area to tune their voices early this year in order to join us in a project that the AACS is sponsoring with Toronto Central Christian School. Dr. Bert Polman, professor of music at the Ontario Bible College and member of the Christian Reformed Church Committee on Music and Liturgy, will be directing a group of volunteer singers for a recording of traditional and contemporary songs, including familiar conference songs, which are suitable for use in worship services. The recording is set tentatively for April 9 in the Grace Christian Reformed Church in Scarborough, Ontario. We'll keep you all posted!



Letters to AACS/ICS

As a supporting member it is time to send you a letter of appreciation for the excellent work you are doing. The conferences and lectures are of high quality and stimulating. It gives us Biblical direction in this confused age. It is a blessing to be a part of this body whose "founding fathers" had a vision to carry on what was so precious to them in the "old country" --namely a free university based on true reformed Christian principles ready to battle against the ever-increasing humanism. It is also tragic that so many of our Reformed people are deaf to the calling that if we are to retain and to maintain the Reformed outlook of "total Christian living in all aspects of life", we must support higher education so that we can place young men and women in this world to set forth the Reformation. It is sad that anti-intellectualism is so prevalent among our people--who have established themselves comfortably and have the resources. We need to come to grips so that we don't lose ground and handicap ourselves by not having enough men and women who are trained and taught in Christian institutions and can give leadership and direction to our world.

I am interested in aesthetics and landscape architecture, and would love to be able to follow a course by correspondence.

British Columbia

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INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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Two more ICS students complete M.Phil. program



(l-r) Paul Marshall, Harry Leith, Clarence Joldersma, and Hendrik Hart after the exam.

Clarence Joldersma fulfilled the requirements for the M.Phil. program by successfully defending his thesis in an examination on November 29. His thesis "Beliefs and the Scientific Enterprise: a framework model based on Kuhn's paradigms, Polanyi's commitment framework, and Radnitzky's internal steering fields" analyzes the thought of these three thinkers. Senior Member Hendrik Hart, who was Clarence's mentor, said of the thesis, "It is thorough, to the point, clear, and enlightening as well as competently

organized and integrated." Hart and the other members of the final examining committee--Senior Member Paul Marshall and York University professor Harry Leith--were unanimous in their positive appraisal of Clarence's work.

Clarence, a high school teacher since 1979, is currently teaching biology at the Christian high school in Smithville, Ontario, and lives there with his wife, Grace, and their young son, John.

On February 3 Carroll Ann Goon successfully defended her thesis "A Critical Exploration of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*" and thereby completed the requirements to earn the M.Phil. degree. Her thesis was an attempt to do a close reading of the text and then to view the novel in its historical context. Her mentor, Calvin Seerveld, called the thesis "a piece of superior work." ICS Senior Member Al Wolters, York University professor Hollis Rinehart, and Yale University professor Ronald Paulson were equally impressed with her grasp of the material and her insightful knowledge. Carroll wants to do further graduate study but her plans are not yet clear.



Carroll Ann Goon discusses her thesis with her mentor Senior Member Calvin Seerveld.

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NOTES: Almost home free...ICS and government agree on degree title, Administrative re-alignments at AACCS/ICS [Bernard Zylstra President], VanderVennan assumes Director of Educational Services position, Two more students complete M.Phil program

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