

# PERSPECTIVE

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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## MAY 2006 CONVOCATION

By Janna Hiemstra

Friday, May 26 was a big day for ICS. During Convocation, the Institute saw its biggest graduating class yet, observed the installation of its new president, John Suk, and partook in Nik Ansell's inaugural address.

In fact, Nik was among the sixteen students to receive his degree, which was one of the two PhDs presented. In addition, there were ten Masters degrees awarded and three Masters of World-view Studies – a truly large batch of students who altogether represent a wide variety of interests, backgrounds and goals. As such, Convocation marked a major achievement on the part of the graduates, and at the same time pointed to new opportunities as the graduates continue to develop their own direction in the world.

John Suk and Nik Ansell's involvement also served to highlight ICS's present accomplishments and future direction. In his presidential installation speech, John described ICS's role as providing a critical infrastructure for the Christian community around the world. He affirmed that ICS not only provides top-notch professors and culture-forming scholarship, but does so from a biblical perspective rooted in the conviction that Jesus wants to redeem all of creation. To sum up his own new beginnings with ICS, after the ceremony John was overheard saying, "Being president is a bit scary. But it's exciting too. The ICS is the best little graduate school in the world."

Nik Ansell's inaugural address, *Creational Man/ Eschatological Woman: A Future for Theology*, further picked up the day's theme of redemptive opening. Nik discussed his approach to theology according to a non-hierarchical, 'open endings' understanding. From the standpoint that Sabbath points to an ending that is also a beginning, he stated: "Creation, from the beginning, is eschatologically open. That openness to fulfillment is evident in the original Sabbath. Redemption therefore is not just



restoration but also renewal, a re-opening of history that has become closed down in and through sin to a future beyond what is implicit in its origins." Overall, Nik pointed to the exciting directions that one can go, in both theology and at ICS, so that his

claim "Beginnings are important and good. But we are to live 'out' of the past, not 'in' it", fittingly reflected the day's events.

In the end, everyone who came to participate in the celebration helped to affirm these important transitions. The Church of the Redeemer was filled to the back of the sanctuary, and when the reception began, there were profuse congratulations followed by a good stretch of amiable conversation. In short, a good beginning to fulfilling promises in the present and opening up to new ones in the future.

## LIST OF 2005-2006 GRADUATES

Adam Smith, <i>MA in Political Theory</i>	Natasja VanderBerg, <i>MA in Philosophical Theology</i>
Allyson Dziedzic, <i>MA in Philosophical Aesthetics</i>	Neal DeRoo, <i>MA in Philosophy of Religion</i>
Branson Parler, <i>MA in Philosophy of Theology</i>	Nik Ansell, <i>PhD in Theology</i>
Carol Olson, <i>MWS in Philosophical Aesthetics</i>	Peter Dale, <i>MWS in Political Theory</i>
Jenn Neufeld, <i>MA in Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	Richard Middleton, <i>PhD in Theology</i>
Maria Carrero, <i>MWS in Philosophical Aesthetics</i>	Ronnie Shuker, <i>MA in Systematic Philosophy</i>
Matt Klaassen, <i>MA in Systematic Philosophy</i>	Samson Wong, <i>MWS in Philosophical Aesthetics</i>
Michele Leaman, <i>MA in Philosophy of Religion</i>	Tom Atfield, <i>MPhilF in Philosophy of Religion &amp; Theology</i>

# PRESIDENT'S ANGLE

Years ago I took my five-year-old son David to a Toronto Blue Jay game in the (then) SkyDome. I was a very poor pastor at the time, so I bought really cheap tickets. We sat so high up in the dome that when we looked down at the field, the players looked as if they were all of a quarter inch tall.



I had to watch the game on the Jumbotron TV screen hanging in the outfield beside the Hard Rock Café. My son David, however, never saw the game at all.

He did have fun. There were a bunch of bare-chested, rowdy teens sitting next to him who had big blue letters painted on their chests. There were popcorn, pretzels, and hotdogs to eat. The most fascinating thing for David, however, was the rest room. Once in the door, he stood in shocked amazement

to see one hundred shining porcelain fixtures running down each wall. He thought it so amazing he went back to see the fixtures three times, even though he never finished his one soft drink.

David was so distracted by everything going on around him that he never caught on to the main event. I think his experience is a parable for the temptations that all Christians face as they try to live for Jesus in an amazing, entertaining, and often distracting culture.

At the ICS, we're committed to the main event. We are committed to making sure that whether we're attending to politics or art or education or philosophy—no matter what the setting—we focus on being ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation. We're not against the distractions, but we want to put them into perspective and into the service of Christ.

Graduate education isn't often thought of as a ministry opportunity. The truth, however, is that our graduate universities—

whether public or Christian—are places where culture is created, where society's public ethos is formed, and where those who take up leadership in our most important institutions learn to think. If Christians want to engage the ideological principalities and powers in a redemptive manner, we must be deeply schooled both in worldly wisdom and in the broader kingdom perspective that gives meaning to everything else.

At the ICS, we provide that schooling. Our Senior and Junior members do engage the big ideas of our time. And so, in a small but wonderful way, we help pull back the curtain on the shape and meaning of the world God created and our human responsibilities in it.

Please help us in our mission to stay focused on the main thing—on being Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation to the world of learning and to our culture. Your prayers, gifts, advice, and volunteer time are precious to the ICS. Thanks so much.

*John Suk*

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## ICS' NEW INCOMING CLASS FOR 2006-2007

*By Pam Trondson*

As Director of Student Services, I have the honour of introducing the new incoming class for the 2006-2007 academic year. Three students are transferring from the MWS program into the MA: **Chris Allers** and **Daniel Jesse**, both from Cornerstone, and **Stuart Basden**, who has come to us with a British accent and with

a BA from Moody Bible Institute. Beginning the MWS program we have **Heidi Kerssies**, who has taught in Honduras and was educated at Calvin with additional courses at Simon Fraser and Carleton. She will do a majority of her program by distance on a part-time basis. For full-time MWS studies we welcome **Lorraine Voorberg**, who has a B.Sc. from McMaster and a B.Ed. from

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## SANDER GRIFFIOEN RETIRES FROM THE FREE UNIVERSITY

On June 29, Sander Griffioen officially retired from the Free University, where he taught philosophy of the social sciences and, most recently, inter-cultural philosophy (with a focus on Chinese culture). Prior to his appointment in Amsterdam, the Institute for Christian Studies was privileged to have Sander as a member of its faculty from 1976-1979.

For Sander and his wife Dorine, Canada was more than a way-station. They developed deep bonds with the Reformed community here and friendships flourished. Moreover, Toronto marked the start not only of Sander's teaching ministry but also of Sander and Dorine's family: two of their four children are Canadian (their oldest, Nolda, is pictured here).

In order to highlight the Institute bond, Sander requested that one of the Senior Members

deliver the banquet speech at the gathering marking his retirement.

The retirement event proceeded in three stages. It began with a symposium featuring the book of essays published in honour of

Sander's academic contributions: *Een Weg Gaan: Cultuurfilosofie tussen West en Oost* ("Which Way? Cultural Philosophy between East and West"). At the more formal event following the symposium, Sander delivered a farewell address. The festive day was crowned with a Chinese dinner at a floating restaurant in the Amsterdam harbour.

There the ICS banquet speaker was able to correct a misconception that was disseminated at one of the earlier events, namely, that the country of Sander's second love is China. We all know that this high honour goes to Canada.



## VANDEZANDE TO RECEIVE FIRST ICS HONORARY DOCTORATE

By John Suk

The ICS will confer its first honorary doctorate on Gerald Vandezande at its October 20 convocation. It would be hard to imagine a more deserving person. According to Brad Breems, a professor at Trinity College, "What distinguishes Gerald . . . is his love, compassion, and advocacy for all Canadians, but especially the poor and powerless." Jonathan Chaplin adds, "He deployed valuable insights from the tradition of Reformed social thought creatively, passionately, courageously, and ecumenically. His integrity and openness in dialogue with those of different convictions were exemplary, raising the level and tone of debate."

Gerald was instrumental in helping to secure the ICS's original degree-granting charter. However, his involvement with the ICS was only a small part of his life's work. For thirty-five years until his retirement in 1998, Gerald worked with Citizens for Public Justice to promote public justice in Canada.

Gerald had considerable contact with municipal, federal, and provincial politicians. He advo-



cated for policy alternatives in areas such as economic development, aboriginal rights, educational justice, abortion, environmental issues, and national unity--among many others. Gerald wrote many articles and books, the most recent of which was titled *Justice, Not Just Us: Faith Perspectives and National Priorities*.

"Few Christians in the ICS community have impacted our culture more broadly with their thought and writing than Gerald Vandezande," said ICS board chair, Rev. Mark Davies.

"Fewer yet among those with such an impact are those with a more childlike faith in Jesus Christ than Gerald."

The ICS's doctorate is not the first honour Gerald has received. Gerald was invested into the Order of Canada by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, on October 17, 2001. The citation called him a "powerful and respected voice for social justice". Gerald was also awarded the 2005 Arthur Kroeger College Award in Ethics in Public Affairs on February 9, 2005.

Join the ICS community and Gerald's family and friends on October 20 at the fall convocation to mark this wonderful event!

(Continued from page 2)

Nipissing, and Steve van de Hoef, also from McMaster University. Entering the MA program are Richard Greydanus from Redeemer, Paul Hubble from Ryerson, Sara Geritsma from Dorst, Samara Stob from McGill with courses from Calvin, and Chris D'Angelo from the University of Western Ontario.

We have three students who have completed their MA program at ICS and have been accepted into the Ph.D program. These are Tricia and Benjamin Groenewold-Van Dyk, both with undergraduate degrees from Dorst, and Jeffrey Hocking from Cornerstone. We are also pleased to have Daniel Mullin entering the Ph.D. program, from Redeemer and the University of Guelph.

Please pray for these and all of ICS' students in this next academic year... that they will find ICS to be a life-giving community and will thrive in all of their endeavours.

## A GIFT FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT ENCOURAGES GIVING

In Canada, the 2006 Federal Budget enhanced the incentives to donate publicly traded securities (shares or mutual funds) directly to charities by eliminating capital gains tax when such appreciated securities are donated. In the US there are similar benefits to gifting appreciated securities.

This means that there is a significant tax advantage to making such gifts, allowing you to make a larger gift. The side chart makes this advantage concrete.

This information is approximately accurate for a Canadian situation, but different provincial tax rates will cause it to vary and each personal situation is different, hence please consult professional financial advisors to determine if the information applies to you in this way.

To make a gift of this type to ICS in Canada, direct your broker to transfer the security or shares to the account of the Institute for Christian Studies at CIBC Investor's Edge, account #579-93905, and notify John Meiboom, VP Advancement: jmeiboom@icscanada.edu that you are doing so.

To make a gift of this type to Friends of ICS in the US, direct your broker to transfer the security or shares to the account of Friends of ICS at Robert W. Baird & Company, DTC #0547, account #3913-3764, and notify Alice Greidanus at greidanus@friendsofics.org that you are doing so.

For further information or questions please email John Meiboom, ICS Vice President of Advancement, at jmeiboom@icscanada.edu.

If you wish to donate appreciated securities to more charities than just ICS, you could make such a gift through Christian Stewardship Services (a registered charity designed to distribute gifts to other charities like ICS, a CSS partner agency) and ask them to distribute the gift to your list of charities. This saves you having to direct smaller amounts of shares to multiple charities, thereby reducing brokerage costs. Contact CSS at admin@cssservices.ca.

This article primarily uses information produced by Christian Stewardship Services [www.cssservices.ca](http://www.cssservices.ca)

	Cost & Value of donation of securities/shares
Cost of securities at time of purchase	\$10,000
Value of securities at time of donation	\$50,000
Capital Gain (Value – Cost)	\$40,000
Taxable Portion of Gain if securities not donated	\$20,000
Tax credit based on Value (45%)	\$22,500
Tax payable if securities sold but not donated (thus saved if donated)	\$9,000
<b>Total tax saved on gift of \$50,000</b>	<b>\$31,500</b>
<b>Net cost to Donor of \$50,000 value to charity (Value – Tax Saved)</b>	<b>\$18,500</b>
Tax credit for donation of \$50,000 cash	\$22,500
Net cost to Donor of \$50,000 cash gift to charity (Cash – Tax Credit)	\$27,500
<b>Net benefit of donation of Appreciated Securities vs. Cash Gift</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>

## JONATHAN AND ADRIENNE FLY TO NEW SHORES

By John Suk

This summer, Senior Member and Holder of the Dooyeweerd Chair, Jonathan Chaplin, informed us that he would be leaving the ICS to move to Cambridge, England, where he has been appointed Director of the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics at Tyndale House. Naturally, this means that Senior Member in Aesthetics, Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin, Jonathan's spouse, will be leaving the ICS too. She will, however, stay through the Fall semester. Their son Paul will be staying in North America for some time longer, as he sets off for Calvin College in Grand Rapids, and their daughter Lucia will attend a new high school in Cambridge this fall.

The loss of these two faculty members is going to be difficult for the ICS. Both Jonathan

and Adrienne were deeply appreciated by students and the wider ICS community.



When asked what it was that he hoped to do in Cambridge, Jonathan said he'd like to

put the resources of the reformational intellectual tradition to work in addressing the challenges and healing the hurts of the contemporary academy and society.

Before looking for work in the UK, Adrienne plans to concentrate on completing a couple of writing projects, including a revised edition of *Art and Soul* and a slightly more academic sequel to it. She's also glad to know that after years of unsuccessful lobbying, the extra picture tracks she's wanted to display the ICS art collection are finally being installed just before she leaves. Reflecting on her years at the ICS, Adrienne recalls "wonderful, probing students and a stimulating Christian academic environment."

Jonathan was to be on sabbatical this year, so filling the gaps caused by his leaving won't be too difficult. A search has been put in place to find a new holder of the Dooyeweerd Chair.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH JOHN SUK

By Murray Johnston

One Friday morning towards the end of July, I had the pleasure of talking at some length with John Suk. Of course, this wasn't my first conversation with the new president of the Institute for Christian Studies. I had been working reception at ICS for some time; consequently, I had many opportunities to get to know the people who ensure the smooth running of the school. Perhaps the most striking thing about my interactions with John has been the ease with which our conversations moved back and forth between ICS business and biblical, theological, and philosophical concerns. A discussion about certain ICS regulations turned quite naturally into a series of reflections on the meaning of Galatians 5:1, "For freedom, Christ has set us free." One moment we'd be talking about the wording of a memo to the ICS Senate; the next moment the writings of American thinkers such as William James and Kenneth Burke would occupy our attention. This last figure holds an important place in John's intellectual formation. John turned to Burke's work in his PhD dissertation in Communication from Wayne State University, in order to analyze the rhetorical practices of "Promise Keepers' preaching." John's effort won the Religious Communication Association's 1999 "best of year" award.

John's commitment to good administrative practices and his delight in the life of the mind complements his passion for teach-

ing. He loves the energy of the classroom. He began his career as a teacher at Durham Christian High School in Bowmanville, Ontario. And he comes to ICS most recently from the Asian Theological Seminary, where he served as an assistant professor, offering courses in Biblical Hermeneutics, Theology, and Homiletics. He emphasized that his students in the Philippines were truly hungry for Christian learning. They lacked the sense of entitlement so common in North American circles, where education is increasingly understood in terms of a series of prudent steps

*John brings to his new position more than a sense of adventure. He believes, in the words of the prophet, that "walking humbly with God" is essential to the Christian way of life.*

along a carefully laid career path. "My students," John continued, "wanted a Christianity that didn't withdraw from the world but engaged it, seeking its transformation." Not surprisingly, both John's students and his colleagues responded enthusiastically to the books he recommended, for instance, Brian Walsh and Richard Middleton's *The Transforming Vision* and Al Wolter's *Creation Regained*. They felt that the Reformational tradition had something to offer them. At the same time, however, John is careful not to make a fetish out of his tradition. He wants to bring Reformational philosophy into conversation

with other traditions and disciplines, believing that the Reformational voice has something to contribute to and learn from contemporary cross-disciplinary, ecumenical, and inter-religious debates. Indeed, John recognizes that if the Reformation tradition is to remain true to its most authentic impulses, it must be open to ongoing *reformation*. On this score, he observed that the Reformational tradition's emphasis on rationality and system has tended to marginalize the more gentle habits of the heart. The world of feeling, he stressed, is also part of God's creation order.

John comes to ICS with the love and support of his family. His wife, Irene Oudyk Suk, an accomplished psychotherapist, is a constant conversation partner, lending him her unique perspective and insight. And there's scarcely a conversation with John that does not include mention of his children. He has two sons William and David and two foster children Mariya and Gillian. When we met that Friday morning in late July, he told me a story that harkens back to his first years as a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church. His family had planted a maple tree beside Redeemer Christian Reformed Church, in Sarnia, Ontario. Years later, one of his children asked him, "How will we find one another following the resurrection of the dead?" In the end, they decided to meet at that maple tree in Sarnia. On another occasion, John

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# DISTANCE LEARNING

## COURSES FOR 2006-2007

### Biblical Foundations

(Spring Semester)

Nik Ansell

CSTC 1010 Area I · CASC

*This course will explore the Bible as the ongoing story of and for God and creation, paying special attention to the way in which God's story is intertwined with the story/ies of humanity and the world. In asking whether and in what way the Bible is also our story, we will attempt to identify which hermeneutical methods might help us discern its significance for present-day life, including the direction it may provide in and for the academic enterprise.*

### Religion, Life and Society: Reformational Philosophy

(Fall Semester)

Lambert Zuidervaart

Submitted for CSTC certification · CASC

*An exploration of central issues in philosophy, as addressed by Herman Dooyeweerd, Dirk Vollenhoven, and the "Amsterdam School" of neo-Calvinian thought. The course tests the relevance of this tradition for recent developments in Western philosophy. Special attention is given to critiques of foundationalism, metaphysics, and modernity within reformational philosophy and in other schools of thought.*

CSTC - Christian School Teacher Certificate. Sponsored by the Ontario Christian School Teachers Association (OCSTA) [www.ocsta.org](http://www.ocsta.org)

CASC - Christian Academic Studies Certificate, sponsored by the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE) [www.iapche.org](http://www.iapche.org)

All courses can be credited towards ICS' Master of Worldview Studies degree program, which consists of eight courses or six courses with a thesis.

### Ways of Learning

(Fall Semester)

Doug Blomberg

CSTC 1540 Area III · CASC

*This course is an investigation and evaluation of current understandings of the learning process in the classroom, with special attention to the diversity of ways of learning and the influence of worldviews in shaping various theoretical positions and educational practices. An extended action research project enables students to test theoretical concepts in concrete contexts.*

### Wisdom and Schooling

(Spring Semester)

Doug Blomberg

CSTC 1514 Area II

*This course explores the thesis that a biblical view of wisdom provides a legitimate alternative to the theory/practice paradigm, which has dominated the practice of schooling at virtually all levels. It considers the implications of this for how we address epistemological issues and for how we conceive of learning, teaching and curriculum. An integral epistemology is proposed, in which knowing is construed as a process of immersion, withdrawal and return. This translates into a curricular rhythm of play, problem-posing and purposeful response.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Convocation, Presidential Inauguration, Honorary Degree Conferral

In October, ICS will be having yet another Convocation. John Suk will give his inaugural address entitled *Until Wisdom and Compassion Embrace*, and Gerald Vandezande will receive the honorary Doctor of Letters Degree.

October 20, 2006, 8 p.m.  
St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
383 Jarvis St., Toronto

## Art Talks!

November 10/11, 2006  
Institute for Christian Studies,  
229 College Street, Toronto  
4<sup>th</sup> floor (Nov. 10), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Nov. 11)

## ICS Worldview Conferences

(keynote and workshops 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

### Burning Questions? Biblical Answers? Can an Ancient Text Guide Us?

Keynote address by Richard Middleton  
Workshops by various others.

- Woodbridge, ON,  
Toronto District Christian High School  
Saturday, October 28, 2006
- Surrey, BC (location to be confirmed)  
Saturday, February 3, 2007
- Calgary, AB (location to be confirmed)  
Saturday, March 3, 2007
- Edmonton, AB (location to be confirmed)  
Saturday, March 17, 2007

## Pastor's Conferences

### Reading God's Worldly Word: Preaching and Witness for Postmodernity

- Sumas, WA, Cedar Springs Christian Retreat Center  
Monday, November 6, 2006  
Speakers/Facilitators include Nik Ansell, Ken Boonstra, Mark Davies, Mike Goheen, Phil Reinders, John Suk, John Van Sloten
- Toronto, ICS  
Monday, February 26, 2007  
Final list of speakers/facilitators to be announced but includes many of those listed above.

## Symposia

ICS, 229 College Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Toronto

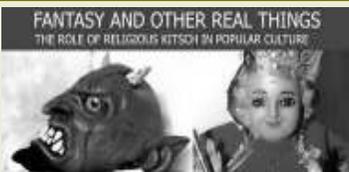
### That They May Believe, A Festschrift for George Vandervele

Friday, September 29, 2006, 5 p.m.

Bob Goudzwaard

Thursday, October 19, 2006.

Time and Title TBA



November 10 & 11, 2006

Betty Spackman, painter, installation and video artist, and author of *A Profound Weakness: Christians and Kitsch* (Piquant Editions, 2005) will be giving the 10th 'Art Talks!' lecture entitled "Reality Check: Truth, Lies and Plastic Eyes". The lecture will take place at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Institute for Christian Studies building at 229 College Street, and will be followed by a reception.

kitsch, and will take place at ICS, from 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., followed by a student forum from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. During the entire event there will also be an art exhibit by friends of ICS and Imago celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Art Talks!

Check the ICS website for further details to follow soon.  
[www.icscanada.edu/events/](http://www.icscanada.edu/events/)



The next day there will be a symposium that continues with the theme of religious

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mentioned that his son David had embarked on a sailing voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. One could hear in John's voice both fatherly concern and a sense of excitement at what his son would be experiencing. David no doubt comes by his sense of adventure honestly. One feels that John's stewardship of ICS promises to be a very exciting time indeed. At the same time, though, John brings to his new position more than a sense of adventure. He believes, in the words of the prophet, that "walking humbly with God" is essential to the Christian way of life. Responding to God's call by accepting the position of president of ICS and becoming responsible for the welfare of the school has been both an honour and a deeply humbling experience. ICS has long been part of his life. As he puts, "I grew up with ICS."

## FACULTY FOCUS

### Nik Ansell

At convocation on May 26, Nik delivered his inaugural address as Senior Member in Theology, entitled "Creational Man/ Eschatological Woman: A Future for Theology". A copy of this address will be available on the ICS website shortly. Later that month, he attended the 75th Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences held at York University. In early June Nik was interviewed on the Book of Revelation for Omni 1 TV on the show *3-D Dialogue*. He also published "Commentary: Daniel 7: 13-14, 27" in *Third Way* 29/5 (June, 2006), a publication for which he has worked as section editor since 1996.

### Doug Blomberg

In July Doug Blomberg led a seminar for teachers at Mount Evelyn Christian School in Melbourne. Then in August he presented a paper at the conference of the International Network of Philosophers of Education in Malta, where he also served on the Program Committee. On returning to Toronto, he travelled to Tennessee to lead a number of workshops at St Paul Christian Academy, following that with a trip to Grand Rapids for consultation with co-authors on the sequel to *A Vision with a Task*.

### Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin

In March Adrienne spoke to a group of students of the Inter-Varsity Graduate Fellowship at York University on the topic of "Faith in Art in a Postmodern Culture". In April she was invited to New York City to give the annual lecture for the Arts Ministry program of the Redeemer Center for Faith and Work, a project falling under the umbrella of Redeemer Presbyterian Church. The lecture, entitled "Art as Vocation: Signposts for Christians in a Postmodern City", was followed by a book signing session for Adrienne's book *Art and Soul*. In the preceding days Adrienne contributed to a class on Contemporary Cinema and Culture organized by the Baylor [University] in New York Program, as well as a Religion and Film class at Princeton Theological Seminary. In May Adrienne presented the paper "Vision as Symbolic Form: Susanne K. Langer's Extension of Ernst Cassirer's Philosophy of Culture into a Philosophy of Art" at the annual conference of the Canadian Society for Aesthetics, which met as part of Congress. Adrienne continues to serve the society as Communications Secretary with responsibilities for the website and a newly set up listserv via the University of Toronto. Adrienne contributed to the May issue of *Christianity Today* with a one-page article

called "Visual Spirituality" responding to the question whether the visual portrayal of God is a violation of the second commandment. She also wrote a chapter on the subject of beauty for the second edition of *It Was Good: Making Art to the Glory of God*, edited by Ned Bustard (Square Halo Books, forthcoming Summer 2006).

### Jonathan Chaplin

Jonathan completed his term as Dean at the end of June and is now preparing for his move to the UK in early September. His final official duty for ICS as Senior Member is to convene and speak at a panel on Religion and Democratic Citizenship at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia at the end of August. Two leading American political theorists, Professors Nancy Rosenblum and Gerald Gaus, are on the panel. Jonathan has also been appointed to a two-year term as Senior Fellow of the Work Research Foundation. He will return to Toronto in early November to give a lecture in this new role, as well as to deliver the Zylstra Lectures at Redeemer University College.

### Ron Kuipers

On June 1, 2006, Ron presented a paper entitled "The Subversive Force of the Imaginary: Christianity as Radical Possibility in the Thought of Paul Ricoeur" during Congress at York University. He also co-presented a paper entitled "Probing the Supposed Link Between Security and Secularization," with Dr. Mebs Kanji of Concordia University in Montreal (at the Fifth Annual Lilly Fellows Program National Research Conference, held at Calvin College, Nov. 10-12, 2005). This same paper is slated to be published in a forthcoming volume edited by James K.A. Smith. Dr. Kanji and Ron will also be presenting a second instalment of this joint research project at the Faith in Democracy conference sponsored by the Political Science Department of the University of Northern British Columbia, September 22-23. Ron will then be attending the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, to be held this year in Washington D.C. Nov. 18-21, where he will present another paper on Paul Ricoeur for their Philosophy of Religion section.

### Calvin Seerveld

Cal recently published an article on "Global Culture" in George Vandervelde's retirement volume, *That the World May Believe* (Michael W. Goheen and Margaret O'Gara, eds., 2006). He also published a chapter in Sander Griffioen's exaugural compilation called "Ways-of-life and becoming elderly wise" (*Een Weg Gaan*, edited by ICS alumnus Govert Buijs, the Free University faculty of philosophy, 2006). In August 2006, *As I See It*, a book on Peter S. Smith's engravings and woodcuts, will be published by Piquant Press, containing an introduction by Cal entitled "No Endangered Species".

### Bob Sweetman

On May 6th Bob gave a paper called "Milbank, Scotus and the Univocity of Being" for the International Duns Scotus Society during the 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI). In June, his article, "On Prudence, Appropriation of the Past and Historical Inquiry: A Response to Thomas Albert Howard", appeared in *Fides et Historia* 37:2 (Summer/Fall, 2005); 38:1 (Winter/Spring, 2006): 35-39. July 1 marked the beginning of his sabbatical as Research Associate at the Pontifical Institute, and for the academic year 2006-2007. During this time he hopes to finish two book-length manuscripts: *Delineations: Reimagining the Adventure of Integral Christian Scholarship*; and *Exemplary Care: Stoic Therapy, Dominican Pastoral Narratives and the Transformation of Human Identity, 1225-1275*.

## ICS PODCAST

If you are interested in hearing recordings of certain ICS member presentations, visit our site at:

<http://www.icscanada.edu/audio>

The following recordings are currently available:

### Mission: Possible

ICS's Role in the Transmission of a Christian Heritage  
Ron Kuipers' address to alumni at ICS, May 27, 2006

### Speaking of "A Personal Relationship With Jesus" Saying What We Mean

John Suk speaking at Redeemer University College, October 17, 2005

### The Spirit of God and The Times of Our Lives

Exaugural address by Hendrik Hart, Convocation, November 30, 2001

## FACULTY FOCUS

### George Vandervelde

At the end of April George participated in the Reformed-Catholic Dialogue (World Alliance of Reformed Churches, North America) at Sienna College in Albany, New York. Then in June he attended the Christian Reformed Synod, meeting in Grand Rapids, MI, to present the Interchurch Relations Committee report on the Catholic view of the Eucharist and its condemnation by the Heidelberg Catechism. (Synod basically accepted the IRC's recommendation that the CRC disavow the Catechism's presentation and condemnation of the Catholic Mass.) From June 18 to 23, he attended the Global Christian Forum consultation in Warburg, Germany.

George is a member of the organizing committee of this attempt to develop a worldwide network of churches and ecumenical organizations that includes the entire spectrum of Christian traditions: mainline, Evangelical, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox (Eastern and Oriental). On June 29, he

attended the events and festivities on the occasion of Sander Griffioen's retirement as Professor of Social Philosophy at the Free University, where he presented the banquet speech.

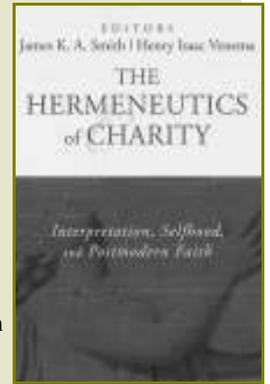
### Lambert Zuidervaart

Lambert gave the keynote address to the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy during the 2006 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at York University. His speech was titled "Alienated Masterpiece: Globalizing Adorno's Dialectic of Enlightenment." In April he presented "Reformational Philosophy after Dooyeweerd and Vollenhoven" as part of a symposium called *Dooyeweerd or Vollenhoven: Does It Make a Difference?* at Redeemer University College. Lambert learned recently that his book *Artistic Truth* (Cambridge University Press, 2004) has been selected as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2005 by *Choice*, the journal of the American Library Association.

## A DAY FOR CELEBRATING THE ICS COMMUNITY

By Janna Hiemstra

On Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>, ICS enjoyed an influx of past and present members to participate in an Alumni Lunch as well as a Symposium on Jim Olthuis' festschrift *The Hermeneutics of Charity*. The lunch began with a delicious bowl of chili and found an appropriate ending in Ron Kuipers' speech entitled "Mission Possible: ICS's role in the Transmission of a Christian Heritage". Afterwards, the ICS community was further affirmed in light of Jim Olthuis' work. His past students, many of whom are now colleagues and contributed to the festschrift, expressed their gratitude for Jim's guidance and teaching over the years. The community spirit continued into the concluding celebratory wine and cheese reception, and the day ended with a feeling of having witnessed the fruit of ICS's mission in the world.



## STUDENT & ALUMNI FOCUS

### Larry Baker

At the end of June, the Christian Scholars Conference took place at Rochester College in Michigan, and Larry presented a paper on Rorty's liberal view of religion and its deconstruction by Jacques Derrida.

### Michael DeMoor

Michael gave a paper at the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science in early June, and will present another paper at a conference on Aristotle's *De Anima* at the end of September. Then in August he will do his comps, as well as continue teaching a month-long course at Tyndale in September and early October.

### Ruth Kerkham Simbao

After being in Boston at Harvard for a few years, Ruth went to Zambia for

dissertation research and lived there for two years. She married Zenzo Simbao, and is now back in South Africa teaching at Rhodes University (in the Eastern Cape) in the Fine Arts Department. Ruth focuses specifically on the Arts in Africa and the African Diaspora. She is also wrapping up her dissertation so that she can graduate next year. Zenzo was a professional performing musician in Zambia and is now doing a music degree at Rhodes.

### Daniel Oduro Sem

Citizenship and Immigration Canada recently assessed Daniel's academic credentials and community involvement and approved his application for landed status. Daniel also published an article, "Understanding Peace: What Peace Is Not", in *First Light*, a biannual publication of the Cana-

dian Centre for Victims of Torture (Spring/Summer 2006).

### Janet Wesselius

Janet was recently awarded the sessional teaching award in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta. In addition, she was presented with the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Sessional Teaching, a prestigious prize for which all faculties are considered in nominating potential candidates. Then, on July 1, Janet took up her tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Philosophy in the Augustana Faculty at the UofA.

### John Zeyl

John presented a paper on Book XIII of Augustine's *Confessions* for the Canadian Society for Patristic Studies during Congress at York University.

## FOUR SSHRC GRANTS FOR ICS STUDENTS AND FACULTY

By Janna Hiemstra

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) is a federal agency that supports university-based research through generous grants to student and faculty projects. In the upcoming 2006-2007 academic year, ICS is privileged to have four SSHRC grant recipients. Michael Nyhoff-DeMoor is planning to use his grant to investigate questions about public moral and political arguments. Stephen Zylstra will examine William of Ockham's philosophy in regards to his shift from a metaphysical to an empirical approach. A new incoming student, Paul Hubble, will focus his studies on the philosophy of science and epistemology, with an emphasis on the question 'how we should act'. Finally, Lambert Zuidervaart received funding for his book project titled *Art in Public: Politics, Economics, and a Democratic Culture*. Included in this project is the employment of ICS students Matt Klaasen and Tricia VanDyk. Both will work as research assistants, and Tricia will also serve as Lambert's teaching assistant for a first-year course.



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<b>SOLIDARITY AND THE STRANGER: <i>Themes in the Social Philosophy of Richard Rorty.</i></b> A sympathetic and incisive study of Rorty's efforts to put human thought in the service of the many problems of today. Kuipers, Ronald A., 1997, 137 pages	\$36.80	\$14.99	\$ _____
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