

PERSPECTIVE

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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NEW STUDENT PROFILES

MAKING THE FUTURE EXCITING TO EXPLORE

by Allyson Dziedzic (ICS MA student)

Over the past few years, ICS has attracted a variety of students from very different backgrounds. There has been a buzz of activity, as is shown by the amount of junior members that presented papers or spoke on panels at conferences in the past year. This year's new crop of junior members-- fifteen new full-time students and several part-time students, four of which are completing their degree by distance--is no exception to that trend. They are an exciting and excited bunch who are already settling in and making contributions to life at the Institute.

They come from places all over the globe: here in Canada, in Manitoba and British Columbia, in the States from Michigan, Illinois, and Pennsylvania, from England in Cheshire, from Barbados, from Hong Kong, and from Seoul in South Korea. Regardless of their background, they were all drawn here with one thing in common—a love for faith and academics grounded in a strong sense of community.

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INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES
Christian Graduate Education since 1967

ICS NAMES INTERIM PRESIDENT

by Allyson Dziedzic (ICS MA student)

The Institute for Christian Studies is pleased to welcome Morris Greidanus, retired pastor and former Campus Minister at the University of Toronto, who recently agreed to serve as ICS interim president from September 2005 to April 2006. Morris brings a lot of experience to the position, as well as a long history with the Institute itself; he has been a member for more than thirty years, served on the board, and his most recent project was working for the Friends of ICS, a group in the United States that promotes and supports the Institute there.

In addition to Morris' history with ICS itself, he has considerable experience working on or with boards, whether with ICS, in the church at the classis or Synod level, or on other academic boards. He has also taught at both the high school and college level, and takes pleasure in working in an academic arena. The ICS board felt that these experiences, together with Morris' spiritual depth and sense of humour, would make Morris the right candidate for the ICS Interim Presidency.

Morris said that he enjoys working in a diverse setting — a place where one begins to understand the depth of Paul's words to the church at Ephesus concerning the different parts of the body. Cooperation and a respectful dialogue of different talents help produce wonderful fruits for the community here and at large, and he loves being a part of that interaction.

Besides Morris' experience in teaching and ministry, and his assistance in advocating in the U. S. for the Institute, he has also worked chairing and speaking at conferences for ICS where his keen sense of humour and his spiritual guidance were deeply valued. For this reason, Morris is pleased at the chance to work even closer with ICS in its mandate to advance Christian scholarship and provide Christian graduate education that addresses the spiritual foundations of learning and equips Christians around the world to be effective leaders in all parts of society.



PRESIDENT'S ANGLE

I am calling my “president’s corner” the *President’s Angle*, for I am doing this interim presidency half-time, and half of a 90 degree corner is a 45 degree angle.

There are advantages to this angle. One of the advantages is that it gives me a perspective on ICS that’s both insider and outsider. For two weeks I’m at every committee and board meeting and in the middle of what’s happening at ICS. The next two weeks I’m out of the loop: I get many emails, I get some mail, but like many of you I’m miles from Toronto, and there are grandkids’ hockey games to attend, a sermon to write, a committee to attend, a patient to visit, snow to shovel. It’s not exactly schizophrenic, and heaven forbid that it’d be dichotomous, but there is some disconnect.

So how do we solve that disconnect? It’s easy for me. I return to Toronto and catch up. It’s harder for you, but we are trying to keep you informed.

- As you read this you have *Perspective* in your hand or on your screen. That’s one way we keep you informed, but it arrives less frequently than Communion was formerly observed in Reformed churches, so you may long for more.
- We send appeals for funds from time to time. Very necessary, for as education gets higher the cost gets higher! Thank you for responding generously.
- We send by mail or email the *President’s Prayer Letter*, begun in 1988 by President Clifford Pitt, and used by many. Its focus is prayer items in and for the ICS community; if you would like to join in praying for ICS’s mission in higher education, please send a request to mgreidanus@icscanada.ca or write to the office.
- We have a fine website with basic information on ICS and news releases and recent events. Please check it out at www.icscanada.edu.

- And recently we have established a weekly email newsletter, *Channel 229*, which presents a few events or news items about ICS each week. The name refers to our address, 229 College. It’s free, of course, please give it a try. Ask me to put you on the list at mgreidanus@icscanada.ca or subscribe by sending an email to mdaymon@icscanada.edu with a message that contains only the line: “subscribe channel 229” and your email address.

I hope that you’ll try to stay connected, for there are good things happening at ICS as you see in the rest of *Perspective*. Of course, if you were subscribed to Channel 229 you could have been happy about the good news you are reading in *Perspective* already weeks ago.

Morris Greidanus

SUCCESSFUL SUK TOUR

Even though he doesn’t begin until April 2006, ICS’s president-elect, John Suk has already been active. In order to introduce him as the ICS president, ICS invited John to go on a speaking tour. He generously agreed to do this ahead of his start date while he was between teaching semesters in the Philippines. His talk was titled, *Speaking of “a Personal Relationship with Jesus.” Saying What We Mean*. In his speech he addressed head on the difficult issue of what our experience of God means to us, and what language is most appropriate to describe that experience. Does the language of “relationship” fit for all believers? Does it make sense to those who don’t identify as Christians? Where does all the talk of a “personal relationship” with Christ originate, and what does it mean?

Starting in October and continuing through the middle of Novem-

ber, Suk explored these questions on a tour which took him across North America, lecturing in nine locations in three provinces and three states over nearly five weeks.

The busy tour started out October 13th, in Ontario with a lecture at ICS and then at Redeemer University College on the 17th. Open houses were hosted for John in several Ontario locations as well. Then John took his lecture to Calvin College in Michigan, Trinity Christian College in Illinois and Dordt College in Iowa. Again, open houses were hosted in various homes to introduce John to some of the ICS support community in those areas.

In November, John’s tour continued in Alberta and British Columbia. He had engagements in Edmonton, lecturing at The King’s University College hosted by former ICS president, now TKUC president, Harry Fernhout; followed Calgary, AB, and then



Suk speaking at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL

(continued on page 6)

IN THE SHADOW OF EMPIRE

Sylvia Keesmaat addressed two ICS Worldview Conferences this fall. The first of these events took place in Ottawa at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on September 24th. The second one took place in Woodbridge at Toronto District Christian High School on October 1st.

Sylvia spoke on the theme of Biblical Faith in the Shadow of Empire. She walked through the Scriptures with the conferees and talked with them about the ways in which the biblical story of God's people living under the influence of an empire helps us to see how we can and should live our lives in a world where "empire" influences also exist. The highly interactive session brought out many ideas.

The Ottawa event was a first of this kind in that city and was an outstanding success with over 80 people in attendance. Conferees' comments about the conference included "great atmosphere", "great presentations", "worthwhile event", "great location", "intelligent, insightful dialogue", and "all of it was excellent". ICS was grateful for an excellent organizing committee in Ottawa with such notables helping as Martin Mudde, Kathy and Larry VanderGrift, Walter Neutel, Lisa Chisholm-Smith, Wilma Runia, Ray and Mary Ellen Boomgaardt, and Jackie Van Wijk. Is it any wonder that a committee like this succeeds? Both events saw great interaction, with a great diversity of people attending with many different backgrounds, and both young and old. The next ICS Worldview Conference with Sylvia speaking on this theme will be in Surrey on January 28th. Check the ICS website for details www.icscanada.edu/events/conferences/.



Sylvia Keesmaat delivers her keynote talk in Toronto

NEW STUDENT PROFILES

(continued from page 1)

"I wanted the emphasis on the religious significance of philosophy that ICS provides" new junior member Stephan Zylstra, says, adding that he's really enjoyed his classes and the discussion they provide, both inside and outside the classroom. The atmosphere of discussion is something many of them have remarked that they find particularly appealing. "There's a lot of very good seminar work and a feeling of contributing to the conversation," says new junior member Michael Mols.

And they have been contributing. Besides just taking part in normal class activities, this year's students have taken positions on committees, doing workstudy, and organizing activities to help foster the kind of community ICS is known for. There's really no place like it, is the comment heard over and over again. "ICS is all I was hoping for." First year MA student Yvana Mols says.

What more could one say about a grad school? Perhaps only what MWS student Stuart Basden says, "Since coming here I've become much more socially and ecologically aware. ICS has made the future an exciting place to explore." It's good to have another group of students coming in

with the enthusiasm to do that exploring, and we look forward to seeing what direction each of these new junior members takes what they are learning.

STUDENT FOCUS

Luke Moord, Kristina Jung, and Jeffrey Hocking all presented papers at the "After Evangelicalism" Conference at Cornerstone University (Grand Rapids, MI) this past September. Luke's paper was entitled "Moral Pedagogy and the Christian University: an Encounter with Seyla Benhabib." Jeffrey and Kristina jointly presented "The Body of God: Embrace or Annihilation?"

Robert Brink co-wrote a paper on faith-based schooling, which was presented at the Canadian Political Science Association in June.

Jon Zeyl presented a paper at the Midwest Society for Christian Philosophers at Lincoln Christian College and Seminary, Lincoln, IL, in April of this year. He also has a book review coming this November on Jeremy R. Carrette's *Foucault and Religion: Spiritual Corporality and Political Spirituality* (Routledge Press, 2000).

Michael deMoor gave a paper on "Friedman's Neo-Kantianism and Quinean Holism" at the Society for Student Philosophers at Grand Valley State University (Grand Rapids, MI) this past October. Also in October, Michael gave "The Philosophy of Art in Reid's 'Inquiry' and its place in 18th Century Scottish Aesthetics" at the Central Canada Seminar for the Study of Early Modern Philosophy at the University of Guelph. This paper was also given, in a previous form, at a conference at Baylor University in April and will be published in the spring by the Journal of Scottish Philosophy.

Rachel McGuire responded to Hans Boersma's book *Violence, Hospitality and the Cross* at the meeting of the Canadian Evangelical Theological Association at the University of Western Ontario (London, ON) this past May. She will also be giving "Imperial Echoes in Jesus' Cursing of the Fig Tree in Mark" at the Society of Biblical Literature's meeting in Philadelphia, PA later this month.

ART TALKS!...LITERALLY

by Janna Hiemstra (ICS MA student)

After a year of rest, Art Talks! made an exceptional comeback this November with its exploration of the relationship between art and theology. The event was kicked off with an art exhibition at the newly renovated Toronto School of Theology building, which provided a fitting environment for the work of some of the most talented and accomplished Christian artists in the Toronto locale. Not only did the sculpture, drawings, banners, and numerous paintings have a cozy setting, but the attendees of the opening as well. While sipping wine and enjoying the background music, many participants played into the name of the exhibit: 'Exploring the Threshold: Art and Theology in Dialogue'. This came as no surprise in the presence of work such as Wojciech Macherzynski's paintings hung in the shape of a cross, each featuring intense portrayals of different parts of the body. Other work, such as Janet Read's abstract paintings and Bruno Capolongo's realistic depictions of city buildings, were found by some to be more difficultly pinpointed as specifically Christian. Accordingly, questions were raised concerning what exactly constitutes Christian art. Thoughts and conversations percolated, and the stage was successfully set for the following two days.

On Friday night, clarity and clear thinking on the issue were offered by John Franklin, the director of Imago, in his lecture, 'Art and Theology: The Use and Abuse of Reli-

neither art nor theology should be
subsumed by the other, but rather that
more 'art talk' is needed for the
mutual benefit of both



Senior Member Emeritus Calvin Seerveld and John Franklin, Director of Imago



*Adrienne Dengerink-Chaplin discussing artist
Lynn McIlvride Evans' work*

gious Art Talk'. He took an exploratory approach to the topic by providing a historical background which examined the ins and outs of how art and theology have developed along side of each other. He pointed out that contemporary society has designated art with a revelatory role, and it is the task of artists, theologians and the church

community to seek out what it means to responsibly navigate this territory. He stressed that neither art nor theology should be subsumed by the other, but rather that more 'art talk' is needed for the mutual benefit of both. In view of this need, Franklin gave thanks for the scholarship already done by people such as Rookmaker, Seerveld, and Wolterstorff, and encouraged the continuation of critical thinking in order to deepen our understanding of the relationship between art and theology in view of serving the greater community.

On that note, the Saturday morning Symposium took definitive action, as the panel and participants were more than eager to carry on the discussion. The panel consisted of John Franklin (philosopher and theologian), Lynne McIlvride Evans (visual artist), Michael Mills (pastor and president of the Ontario Society of Artists), Janet Read (visual artist and poet), Ted Rittig (visual artist and artist in residence at Queen's University), and Gerald Vandering (visual artist). Adrienne Dengerink-Chaplin mediated the conversation which addressed the questions of how theology is to avoid confining the arts to a secondary role; how artists can engage theology without compromising their artistic integrity; and how the academic and artistic communities can be positively brought together. Seeing as artists, curators, dealers, theologians, and philosophers were well represented among the participants, the result was a stimulating expression of frustrations, insights and hopes. Overall, there was a feeling that that the discussion had only begun, but that coming together as a community to do 'art talk' was taking a step in the right direction.

Faculty Profile: Lambert Zuidervaat

This is the first in a series of articles that will be appearing in Perspective, based on interviews designed to highlight different ICS Senior Members.

Lambert Zuidervaat, Senior Member in Systematic Philosophy, has had a very productive past year that has seen the fruits of much labor. His book *Artistic Truth* was published in 2004, and since then was featured in a special session sponsored by the Canadian Philosophical Association and the Canadian Society for Aesthetics at the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities in May. He also received a SSHRCC grant to complete a manuscript on *Art in Public*.

Lambert became convinced that there is a Christian philosophy ... rooted in Scripture and the Hebraic notions of truth, yet conversant with Western philosophy.

Truth and art have been major interests for Lambert since the 1970's. At that time he was at the Institute as a student, and became impressed with the work of Cal Seerveld on art's importance in society and Henk Hart's work on the Gospel of John and the Biblical notion of truth. Catching the spirit from these two influences, Lambert became convinced that there was a project to be done; a Christian philosophy had to be developed that was rooted in Scripture and the Hebraic notions of truth there, and yet still conversant with Western philosophy and its Greek theories of truth.

As he spent time developing this particular thread, Lambert became acquainted with German-Jewish philosopher Theodor Adorno's work on truth in art and eventually taught a class at the ICS in 1991 on truth in art in Adorno, Heidegger and Gadamer. With this, he realized that he was not going to be satisfied with just a historical treatment of truth; rather, he wanted to propose his own conceptions. A careful study of current North American figures

enhanced by the work he had already done with German philosophers as well as the Biblical notion of truth produced prompted him to write the book *Artistic Truth*.

Here Lambert is not attempting to isolate truth in art, but to spell out the way in which art is "webbed and nested within the major structures of society" and how those structures give—or don't give—art the support it needs. He calls this developing an "interdisciplinary social philosophy of art." This has seen fruition in the past year, as Lambert received a three year SSHRCC grant of \$45,000 in monies for graduate students to help him in researching and completing *Art in Public*. He is especially excited about this project because it allows

him to be able to "pull together many different pieces of a puzzle" with which he has been working for years, integrating the theories he has been developing along with the practical work and experience with such groups as the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts in Grand Rapids, MI.

One of Lambert's main goals is holding together what he sees as two threads in philosophy: philosophy as a rigorous, demanding discipline and as a practice contributing to the disclosure of society and human flourishing. In Reformational philosophy in particular he finds an source for his work, because of its insistence on the need to think through and articulate in a convincing way the legitimacy of a faith oriented philosophy, and to account for normativity. Or as Lambert puts it, to "spell out the principles according to which society can flourish and human life can be in line with what God wants."

With this emphasis on the flourishing of human life under God's will, Lambert is looking forward to teaching in the spring on issues sur-



rounding globalization, and next fall on the topic of truth. He is looking to possibly publish another book on Adorno (this time on Adorno's social philosophy) and to continue his work on the manuscript for *Art in Public*. It is this relationship between teaching and researching—where one's research informs one's teaching and one's teaching informs one's research—that he finds one of the best aspects of the Institute.

Scholarship Giving Opportunities

- The Marinus Koole Memorial Scholarship
- Harry and Hilda Fernhout PhD Scholarship
- Jean Olthuis Memorial Scholarship

If you wish to contribute to any of these scholarships in honour of these people, please send your contribution to ICS marking clearly the purpose of the donation.

If you want to discuss setting up another scholarship, please contact:

John Meiboom,
VP Advancement,
jmeiboom@icscanada.edu
or phone ext 224.

EDUCATING FOR SHALOM

ICS GRADUATE AND FORMER PRESIDENT
INAUGURATED AS COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Proclaiming that The King's University College (TKUC) in Edmonton, Alberta is "out to change the world!", Harry Fernhout, former ICS President and ICS graduate, was inaugurated as President of TKUC.

John Meiboom, ICS Vice President of Advancement and Harry's long time colleague, represented ICS at the inaugural along with distinguished guests from many other higher educational institutions.

In his inaugural address, *Restless Delight: Educating for Shalom*, Harry asserted that "Christians are agents of transformation". Shalom is more than the Hebrew word for peace; it is at once a vision of a society where "every creature (is) in community with every other, living in harmony and security toward the joy and well being of all", and a charge "to do what we can to contribute to the healing of our communities, our society, our world." In front of several hundred guests, the



The King's University College celebrated the inauguration of Dr. Harry Fernhout as president.

presidential chain of office was ceremonially passed from Henk Van Andel to Harry Fernhout. Harry was obviously moved by the welcome that he received in recent months. Harry and his wife Hilda greeted guests at a wonderful reception after the ceremony.

Upcoming Events

- December 9, 1:30 pm Symposium at ICS, Thomas McIntire "Reading History Through the Eyes of Religion: The Unsettling Thought of Herbert Butterfield"
- January 28, ICS Worldview Conference "Biblical Faith in the Shadow of Empire" with Sylvia Keesmaat, Surrey, BC.
- November 26, Convocation and Suk Installation
- Late February (tentatively) Symposium with Henk Vroom
- *History of Christian Thought* — a new course by distance in January, 2005. Contact rburry@icscanada.edu for more details.

Check ICS website for details.

Successful Suk Tour

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Langley and Smithers in BC. Each of the latter three lectures was held in a local church.

This tour has been a great experience for ICS and by all accounts for the ICS support community and the broader community as well. It would not have happened had it not been for tireless ICS staff. Jenny Krabbe, ICS Western Canada staff member, working from Calgary, spent many hours above her paid hours to make sure this tour was a success.

Vidya Williams, ICS Donor Relations staff person at head office also spent countless extra hours making sure that mailings went out and information was tracked well. And, of course, it couldn't have happened without John Suk who gave up his vacation time to come and tour for ICS well in advance of beginning his position at ICS as President. ICS faculty, staff and students, as well as ICS supporters, all look forward to the day that John joins the ICS team as its leader and seek God's blessing on him as he finishes teaching at Asian Theological Seminary and prepares to move to Toronto to take up his new duties in late April.

Attendance at the events was excellent, ranging from seventy to one hundred and fifty people on any given night. At each event there were lots of questions asked and good interaction took place. In the words of attendee Michael Fallon, the Christian Reformed Campus Pastor at McMaster University in Hamilton, Dr. Suk's speech was a "challenging, gutsy presentation" that took a hard look at the prevailing language used to describe our experience of God.

Audio CD's of the lecture are available at the ICS bookstore for \$10 plus \$3 shipping. To obtain one, visit the Institute's website at www.icscanada.edu or call ICS toll-free 888-326-5347. You can read a shortened version of John's talk by going to: www.perspectivesjournal.org/2005/11/essay-relationship.php

FACULTY FOCUS

Nik Ansell led a workshop entitled "Shadows and Light: Judges 19 as text of Terror and cry for help" at a recent ICS conference. In addition, the book version of Nik's dissertation, entitled *The Annihilation of Hell: Universal Salvation and the Redemption of Time in the Eschatology of Jürgen Moltmann*, came out as a small print run for all the academic libraries in Holland. A commercial version of the book is forthcoming. On November 16th, Nik defended his doctoral dissertation and was awarded "cum laude" status.

Ron Kuipers will be co-presenting "Security and Secularity: A Renewed Role for Religion?" with Dr. Mebs Kanji (Concordia University, Montreal) at the upcoming "Secularity and Globalization: What Comes After Modernity?" conference at Calvin College. In addition, Ron's paper: "Reconciling a Shattered Modernity: Habermas on the Enduring Relevance of the Judeo-Christian Ethical Tradition" will be published in a forthcoming book entitled: *Faith and Enlightenment: Friendly Enemies?* (Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi).

In May, **Doug Blomberg** presented a paper critiquing Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences at the Canadian Philosophy of Education Society conference (London, ON). He had articles published in the Wholistic Education SIG Newsletter (American Educational Research Association) and the Christian Teacher's Journal. In July, he taught the course "Theories of Instruction" at Redeemer University College on behalf of the Ontario Christian Schools Administrators' Association. In August, he was an invited panelist at the Association for Reformational Philosophy international symposium on Ethics in The Netherlands, and also presented a paper entitled: "Teachers: the living curriculum". In September, he presented "The formation of character" at the Spirituality, Justice and Pedagogy

conference at Calvin College, where he also met with co-authors of *A Vision with a Task* to plan a sequel.

In September, **Cal Seerveld** introduced his translation of the Older Testament Song of Songs as an oratorio, where it was superbly presented by the music/theatre departments of Cornerstone University (Grand Rapids, MI). He also gave a plenary lecture entitled "Needed: biblical recovery of human corporeality & historical institutionality in God's world" at the "After Evangelicalism" conference at Cornerstone. In addition, Cal wrote a short preface to the Dutch/English translation edition of Dirk H. Th. Volleghoven's *Introduction to Philosophy* (Dordt College Press, 2005) edited by John H. Kok and Anthony Tol.

This past July, **Sylvia Keesmat** was a plenary speaker at the Ekklesia Project Conference in Chicago, speaking on "Empire in the Biblical Story". She also gave two plenary keynotes at ICS' conference entitled "Biblical Faith in the Shadow of Empire" in Ottawa and Toronto this fall.

In September, **Jim Olthuis** spoke on worldviews and led a chapel service at Bryan College (TN). In October, he led a seminar on spiritual care for the sick at Oshawa General Hospital. He also co-edited a book with Jamie Smith entitled *Radical Orthodoxy and the Reformed Faith* (Baker Academic, 2005).

Jonathan Chaplin was a contributor to a roundtable discussion on a book on natural law by J. Budziszewski entitled *What We Can't Not Know*. It was organized by the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, and held at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington DC this past September.

Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin organized and contributed to a book symposium around Lambert Zuider-

vaart's book *Artistic Truth* at the Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Western Ontario in May. The symposium was a joint event of the Canadian Society for Aesthetics (CSA) and the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA). Adrienne finished her two-year term as President of the CSA this summer but will continue to serve on the committee as Communications Secretary which includes responsibilities for the CSA's newly to be launched website. Over the past year Adrienne has been a member of the TST Arts Committee which organized the exhibition *Exploring the Threshold: Art and Theology in Dialogue* and gave a short speech at its opening reception in their newly renovated building. Adrienne wrote the foreword to the recently published book *A Profound Weakness: Christians and Kitsch* by Betty Spackman (Piquant, 2005), and also spoke at its informal launch at Wietse and Kathryn Posthumus' house. She published an article entitled "Art and Embodiment: Biological and Phenomenological Contributions to Understanding Beauty and the Arts" in the electronic journal *Contemporary Aesthetics*; a chapter entitled "The Invisible and the Sublime: From Participation to Reconciliation" in *Radical Orthodoxy and the The Reformed Tradition* (Baker, 2005); and a chapter entitled "Phenomenology: Merleau-Ponty and Sartre" in the second and revised edition of *The Routledge Companion to Aesthetics*. (Routledge, 2005).



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