

## FAREWELL TO FERNHOUT

### Saying Thank You To Harry

By Bob Sweetman  
ICS Senior Member

How was the ICS community to say thank you to the longest serving President in its history? After all, fifteen years at the head of the roller coaster we call the Institute for Christian Studies is by definition a complex achievement filled with exhilarating highs, but also sudden, stomach churning lows. That was the glorious opportunity the community of ICS grabbed as we fought our way through Toronto's snarled weekend traffic to gather in Woodbridge on a Friday evening on May 27.

When we got there we were treated to a sit down dinner, a number of heartfelt tributes by beneficiaries of the various dimensions of Harry Fernhout's work at ICS, the chance to sing a few rousing hymns (at

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## JOHN SUK APPOINTED ICS PRESIDENT

### Going The Distance

By Carol Veldman Rudie  
ICS Board of Trustees Member

The distance from Manila to Toronto is great. Dr. John Suk should know. As the final candidate in the ICS' presidential search he covered that distance by plane twice in less than a month.

The distance from Asian Theological

Seminary professorship to the ICS president is also great. John Suk knows that too. He'll cover that distance in April 2006 when he becomes the Institute's fourth president.

As president elect, John Suk fits well with the qualities needed to lead a global, Christian graduate school. An engaged

scholar, he earned a PhD in Speech Communication at Wayne State University in Michigan. His dissertation on the Promise Keepers rhetoric demonstrates his on-going interest in the importance of purposeful scholarship for maturing Christian thought. Of his academic career, John says, "My diverse education has made me a good critic of our culture and a scholar with deep appreciation for interdisciplinary studies,"

That love of the interdisciplinary accompanies his knowledge of the deeply religious nature of academia. Dr. Jonathan Chaplin, ICS' acting academic dean, summarizes John's ability this way: "He is an experienced scholar and teacher who

understands the cultural and spiritual power of the academy and is conversant with contemporary intellectual currents."

Such insights were demonstrated during John's tenure editing *The Banner*, the official magazine of the Christian Reformed Church. "John is a gifted man of God who has exercised his denomination's trust as its mouthpiece during a transitional decade."



New President John Suk, right, is welcomed by Chair of the Board of Trustees Mark Davies

says Rev. Mark Davies, chair of the ICS board. "He has honed his skills as a theoretician as well as a practitioner of communications in the pulpit, the editorial office, and the seminary classroom. His familiarity with, and appreciation by, the ecumenical church and

academy is still growing." John's heart for and skill at effective ambassadorship promises more opportunities for communicating the ICS mission to long-term supporters and global newcomers alike.

To the task of chief administrator, John Suk brings a servant's heart. "Servant leaders use their gifts to mobilize their communities to help make all things new, now," he says. In his work at Asian Theological Seminary he has learned that "servant leaders ask questions and humbly listen before they act." His love for community comes through in his support of the ICS mission: "ICS values a

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# Endings and Beginnings

On June 30 an important phase of my journey with the Institute for Christian Studies reached its conclusion. That journey began in 1970 when, as a recent graduate of Dordt College, I was persuaded that the fledgling graduate school in Toronto was THE place to go for a year, to deepen my Christian worldview before going on to seminary. That 'one year plan' became a 35 year sojourn, and I have no regrets that God steered my life in this direction. I was proud to be part of the Institute's first formal graduating class in 1975, along with Masuo Miyasaki (who returned to a leadership position in Japan), Lambert Zuidervaat (now at ICS), John Hull (The King's), Brad Breems and Don Sinnema (both at Trinity Christian College).

Ten years later, I was astonished when the Board of Trustees offered me an appointment to teach Philosophy of Education at ICS; as a student, I placed the 'Senior Members' at ICS on a fairly high pedestal, and it was difficult to place myself in that company as a colleague. Five years later I was even more astonished when the Board and the ICS community entrusted me with the role of President. It was an amazing challenge to follow in the footsteps of Bernard Zylstra and Clifford Pitt. I was both humbled and thrilled by this challenge, and for a long time I practically had to pinch myself each morning to think that I was allowed to serve in this capacity. My journey with ICS has taken me through various stages, from student to faculty member to academic colleague to president, and at each stage I've been privileged to learn and to grow, and to be part of the work God's Spirit is doing through the unique and precious institution.

I don't consider my journey with ICS to be finished, however. For one thing, as president of an undergraduate university college, one of



Harry Fernhout  
PRESIDENT

my key challenges will be to participate in the process of faculty recruitment. I want to make sure that my new institution hires people with the qualities of ICS graduates: gifted scholars who know deep, in their souls, what it means to be a *Christian* scholar and teacher. I've already 'warned' current ICS students that I'll be watching their progress, ready to lure them to Edmonton!

As I have said in various contexts, I believe that ICS is headed for a time of amazing opportunity under the capable leadership of my successor, Dr John Suk. With its new degree-granting authority, a growing and talented student body, strong academic programs, and a dynamic faculty of both seasoned and young scholars, ICS is well-positioned to make a strong contribution to Christian higher education in North America and beyond. My prayer is that God will equip ICS with the resources it needs to make a much-needed contribution

to Christian higher education at the graduate level.

I want to close with a warm THANK YOU to the ICS support community for entrusting me with a leadership role in this unique institution for the past 15 years. I am grateful for the privilege of representing the mission of ICS to provide graduate education inspired by the Gospel's claim that the key to wisdom and knowledge is found in Jesus Christ. I am proud of the Institute's strong support community. You, individually and collectively, have taught me a great deal about commitment, generosity and grace. I appreciate your prayers, support, encouragement, and, in many cases, friendship. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity. May God richly bless ICS in the years to come. 🙏

## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S COLUMN

# Building On A Sure Foundation

Behind my Manila apartment building another one is going up. I walk by the construction site everyday, on my way to the gym.

Two weeks ago, using only picks and shovels workers began breaking up the old concrete sidewalks and ramps that used to surround the property. Next, they poured new concrete, one bucket at a time, for new sidewalks. Finally, they covered the new concrete with a very attractive layer of decorative stone.

One week ago, the same workers used picks and shovels to break up the new concrete up. From what I can tell, somebody forgot to install the twelve-inch sewer pipes that were supposed to go in under the sidewalk. Some foreman, charged with making sense of the architect's wise plans, didn't.

That foreman certainly wasn't Harry Fernhout! I'm honored, excited, and eager to take up the job he's



John Suk  
PRESIDENT-ELECT

vacating—in large measure, because he and his faculty got the ICS plans exactly right.

Our blueprint, the mission statement, says the ICS exists to address the spiritual foundations of learning. As an institution, the ICS exists to make Paul's joyful, "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" a common refrain in Christian and secular universities all around the world.

I want to add my voice to the choir of supporters, faculty members and students who believe that there isn't a square inch of the universe where Paul's song shouldn't be sung. My wife Irene and I will move to Toronto next May, when my term with Christian Reformed World Missions as a professor at Asian Theological Seminary ends. We can't wait! 🙏



# "A Truly Memorable Moment"

By Jonathan Chaplin  
ICS Academic Dean

On June 13, Royal Assent was given in the Ontario Legislature for "Bill Pr14." This innocuous-sounding code was important to ICS as the piece of legislation intended to amend what we at ICS know as the ICS Act.

Royal Assent was merely the final necessary formality. On June 8, Bill Pr14 had been approved by the Committee on the Regulations and Private Bills. The Bill was sponsored by MPP Rosario Marchese, whose support for the Bill had been invaluable throughout its long process of gestation. Harry Fernhout, in one of his final presidential acts - perhaps his most symbolically significant - took his seat at the table and spoke briefly but lucidly to the motion to pass the Bill.

It was truly a memorable moment for

myself, Student Services Director Pam Trondson and outgoing Associate Academic Dean Ansley Tucker as we witnessed ICS

history in the making. The amended ICS Act authorizes ICS, for the first time in its 37-year history, to grant its own MA and PhD degrees.

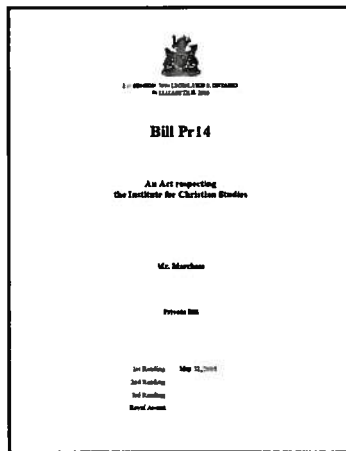
Since 1984 ICS has been empowered to grant the M.Phil.F (Master of Philosophical Foundations) degree. But this nomenclature was deliberately unusual, and it often generated problems for ICS graduates in gaining recognition for their ICS programs elsewhere. In addition, since the early 1980's ICS students have been able to enroll - at dissertation stage - in the doctoral program at the Free

University of Amsterdam. This was an excellent arrangement and it will continue in the future in a different form. But it left the

content of our doctoral program wholly determined by the Free University, and the credibility of our program entirely dependent on that afforded by them. Moreover, it depended on successive renewals of ministerial consent by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The amended ICS Act offers us independence on both counts. It is a hugely significant symbolic public confirmation of ICS's

academic excellence. We give thanks to God for this wonderful gift. 🙌



## Upcoming Events

### Catch the President's Tour John Suk on the Road from Oct. 13 to Nov. 14, 2005

Public Lecture Series

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

Christian language doesn't always compute for non-Christians. In this pointed, pastoral lecture John Suk explores what the phrase "a personal relationship with Jesus" might mean for people—whether Christians or seekers—saturated by popular culture.

#### Locations:

Thursday Oct. 13	ICS, Toronto, ON (4th Floor)
Monday Oct. 17	Redeemer University College, Ancaster, ON
Monday Oct. 24	Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI
Tuesday Oct. 25	Trinity College, Chicago, IL
Thursday Oct. 27	Dordt College, Sioux Centre, IA (Rm C160)
Thursday Nov. 3	The King's University College, Edmonton, AB (SAC)
Thursday Nov. 8	First Christian Reformed Church, Calgary, AB
Friday Nov. 11	Willoughby CRC, Langley, BC

All lectures begin at 7:30 pm

The tour will include Open Houses in a variety of locations. Contact ICS for further information.

## JOHN SUK APPOINTED

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spirit of partnership, dialogue, and respect for diversity," he says. He wants to help the community achieve its own ideals in whatever way he can.

Eagerness to communicate ICS's vision and mission comes naturally to a man who has been nurtured within the ICS community and who loves that community deeply. In his varying experiences as student, scholar, editor, preacher, high school teacher and professor—both within and outside that community—John Suk learned the strength of the perspective that nurtured him. Along the way, he says, "I've discovered that my reformational perspective is a great filter for understanding the world." His desire to serve this community shapes his personal vision for his place within it.

No matter the distance between Manila and Toronto, between professorship and presidency. The most important distance is that of the heart. There, Dr. John Suk and the ICS are in exactly the same place. 🙌

## HARRY FERNHOUT FAREWELL

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times accompanied fetchingly, if discordantly, by Michael Jackson's "Thriller" throbbing its way past our event host's overworked sound barrier) and Harry Fernhout's blessedly audible bravura performance in response to the tributes and the communal gratitude that they voiced.

As I looked around the room, strained my ears to hear the speeches or my vocal chords so that my speech could be heard I marveled again at what a privilege it is to serve this community, its faithful supporters, its generous volunteer board and senate, its lively faculty and students. And what a blessing it has been to have been shepherded for so many years, through all the excitement, by such a fine man as Harry Fernhout. We thank Harry, of course, but also our provident God. It has been quite the ride. 🙌



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ICS STUDENT STORIES: MARIA TERESA CARRERO ALCANTERA

## Enlarging The Worldview

By Maria Teresa Carrero Alcantara  
ICS MWS Student

When I just arrived to ICS in September last year, I had a lot of mix emotions inside. On the one hand I was excited to begin a master program that I had been so much looking forward to, and on the other hand I was a little scared for this was the first time that I would be in a foreign country, far from home in Lima, Perú, and for quite a long period of time. I wondered many times if I could deal with this and at the same time keep up with the academic demands. However, when classes started, very soon I discovered the kind of positive impact community life at ICS has on students. I have felt throughout these past months that I have always been at home, and I am very aware that this



has really made a difference in my academic performance. Community life at ICS -students, profs and staff- is part of the learning experience. We are not only encouraged to develop professionally, but personally as well, and at ICS we learn how to do this while living in community.

Now that I am done with my Masters of Worldview Studies in Aesthetics, I feel I cannot thank enough God and ICS for the way my conception of life has positively changed. If I were to give a word to define this change I would say it is *enlargement*. The interdisciplinary approach of ICS trains people to live in this God-given world fully, considering the importance of each of the many aspects of life. As part of this, we are taught to rethink our professions and disciplines, and become aware that they are God's multiple, varied and creative ways of bringing the Kingdom to this world ... and this makes me look at everyday-life work experience as such an exciting thing to come! 🌍

### News From ICS

#### Board of Trustees Meeting

Chairman Mark Davies opened our May 27 ICS Board Meeting by reminding us of the need for FROG: Full Reliance on God. It was an important reminder of what must guide us in a meeting that, even more than usual, was busy, difficult and momentous.

**Momentous:** Approval of a new President: John Suk (effective in mid-2006); a report on rapid progress on the ICS amendment in the Ontario legislature (since passed!).

**Difficult:** A lot of discussion of the severe staff cutbacks, and a recognition that better planning and more consultation is needed to deal with funding shortfalls; and farewell to outgoing President Harry Fernhout who has shown outstanding leadership, and will be sorely missed.

**Busy:** In addition to the foregoing, approval of the budget and the recommendation to search for an interim President; approval of the Senate's recommendation to reappoint Jonathan Chaplin, Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin and Doug Blomberg; discussion of future relations with the Vrije

Universiteit; and congratulations to Lambert Zuidervart on receipt of an important grant.

*Riemer Boomgaardt*

#### New Scholarships

We are pleased to announce two new scholarships for ICS students. The **Harry and Hilda Fernhout PhD Scholarship**, created in honour of Harry's twenty years of work for ICS (fifteen as President). Various people donated a total of nearly \$50,000 to endow this scholarship allowing a scholarship of about \$2,500 per year. This was presented to Harry and Hilda at Harry's farewell dinner on May 27. The **Marinus Koole Memorial Scholarship** has been established thanks to donations from the family. This scholarship honours the legacy left by Marinus Koole, a former chair of the Board of Trustees, who passed away on December 11, 2005 at the age of 82. It will initially support a scholarship of \$2,400 per year.

If you want to establish a scholarship at ICS or if you want to support one that is already in place, please contact John Meiboom at ICS extension 224 or email [jmeiboom@icscanada.edu](mailto:jmeiboom@icscanada.edu)

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