

PERSPECTIVE

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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STUDENT RECEIVES NEW SSHRC SCHOLARSHIP

Looking for a scholarship? check your mailbox!

Some pieces of mail can deliver the most incredible information in the blandest way possible. That's what ICS junior member Neal DeRoo discovered one day in May when he opened up a letter from the Social Science Humanities and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) which informed him he had been awarded a prestigious scholarship.

Sort of.

"It's really weird. The form that I got (from SSHRC) doesn't say 'congratulations' anywhere, nor does it say 'you were accepted,'" explains Neal. "It just says 'notice of award'. There's not even a cover letter!"

Neal is one of the first recipients of SSHRC's new master's-level Canada Graduate Scholarships program. The program gives \$17,500 for one year to students pursuing master's degree work. This year, over a thousand students received such a grant (and presumably also received unceremonious

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INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES
Christian Graduate Education since 1967

HERMAN DOOYEWEERD CHAIR ANNOUNCED

"This Remembering Gratitude"

If there wasn't fanfare, there should have been.

The recent celebration held in Toronto for the reGeneration! campaign on May 28 was the setting for the announcement of the designation of the Herman Dooyeweerd Chair in Social and Political Philosophy at ICS. The Chair, an academic position, has been funded for a minimum of ten years through a generous donation from the Verbrugge Family Trust.

"We are very grateful for this gift," said ICS's President Harry Fernhout. "The Dooyeweerd chair honours the important legacy of Herman Dooyeweerd in the development of a highly distinctive, imaginative and comprehensive philosophy shaped by a biblically directed worldview that has been important to the formation of the Institute for Christian Studies and continues to be important to the mission of ICS."

ICS's designated Chairs are unusual in that they honouring the legacy of a scholar rather than the name of a donor. Senior Member and H. Evan Runner Chair in the History of Philosophy Bob Sweetman elaborated on this point in a speech at the reGeneration! celebration: "ICS supporters do not, to this point, seem to be of the sort to want to plaster their name over the chairs and professorships of ICS. So, the institution has

taken a second tact toward chairs and professorships, one that exhibits an even deeper trust in and dependence upon the community it serves." ICS's designated Chairs instead acknowledge people whose

"importance to the institution is so obvious and the institution's gratitude so heartfelt"—key people who have made a significant contribution to the philosophical heritage of ICS.

"These are saints, you might say, that ICS would rather remember than forget; that it would rather be grateful for than indifferent to. And this remembering gratitude makes up part and parcel of what ICS most

values about itself, when it thinks about itself at its best."

In the case of the Dooyeweerd Chair, ICS remembers with thanksgiving the work of Herman Dooyeweerd (1894-1977), a prominent Dutch philosopher and long-time

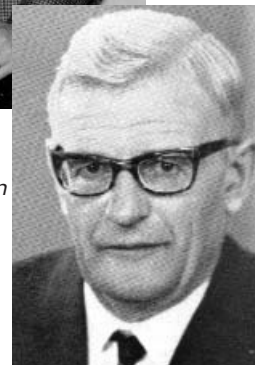
professor at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Dooyeweerd was the chief architect of the philosophical tradition known as 'reformational philosophy.' Dooyeweerd's major work, *A New Critique of Theoretical Thought* (1935, 1954) sets out his idea of a philosophy that holistically brings together various disciplines with faith at its centre.

Dooyeweerd's work was intrinsic to ICS's founding and his influence on ICS is felt even today. "Dooyeweerd continues to be the

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(above) ICS President Harry Fernhout announcing the designation of the Dooyeweerd chair, which honours the influential Dutch philosopher Herman Dooyeweerd (right)



Live From Hong Kong

I've been told that this page in *Perspective* hasn't been called "President's Pen" in some years, which is a shame as I was looking forward to writing from the "Vice-President's Pen" instead! As many of you are aware, ICS's president, Harry Fernhout, is on a three-month Sabbath Leave. ICS has been blessed with one of the hardest working presidents any post-secondary institution could have. Harry has never taken a sabbatical for the past fifteen years he's been President, and staff and faculty virtually had to push him out the door to make sure he took a much-deserved rest! In fact I'm hoping that if he's reading this at all, he's doing so somewhere in Algonquin Park with his dog in tow!

Of course, that leaves me with the question of what should spring forth from the "Vice-President's Pen." Actually, I'm not going to do much of it at all. My work at ICS is in advancement, and what advancement people are good at (or should be) are telling other people's stories. I thought I'd share with you instead something about, and from, Jonathan Chan.

Jonathan Chan received his MWS *in absentia* at convocation this past fall. As Jonathan lives in Hong Kong and did a few of his courses through ICS's Distance Learning program, we asked if he could speak—via telephone—at our recent celebration for the *reGeneration!* Campaign. People at the event were struck by what Jonathan had to say.

Jonathan is currently working in Hong Kong as Associate General Secretary of the Fellowship of Evangelical Students, an organization similar to Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship here in North America. As Jonathan explains, "One of our tasks is to challenge students to take the lordship of Christ seriously and to claim (it) in every walk of life."

During his time at ICS, Jonathan devoted much of his studies to the challenges facing Christian educators as they seek to contribute to a pluralistic and secularized public square—a challenge all the more evident in Hong Kong in the six years since its handover to the Chinese. He was very grateful for his time at ICS and spoke of it very warmly: "ICS has been doing a great and important work all these



John Meiboom
VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT

years. From the viewpoint of an Asian and Chinese Christian, what ICS is doing is of significant value in upholding the vision of penetrating society through training how to integrate the Christian faith into different disciplines and areas in life."

Much of his work with Christian students in Hong Kong involves what Jonathan describes as "bridging the biblical world and the contemporary realm." He praised ICS and its Distance Learning program saying, "The particular Christian philosophy of ICS is another way to help open up meaningful dialogue" between these two areas.

What particularly excited people was his assessment of the task ahead for Christian educators in Hong Kong. "I see a need of Christian teachers gaining a view from the biblical perspective," he said. "(I have been invited) to give speeches to groups of Christian teachers and deliver messages on the integration of Christian faith and teaching and the responses have been positive. And we have some 20,000 Christian teachers in Hong Kong."

After the event was held, Jonathan e-mailed me asking for more information on our Faith & Learning Network, and he said in passing, his concern is "getting Hong Kong Christian students to take courses at

Jonathan e-mailed me, saying that his concern is "getting Hong Kong Christian students to take courses at ICS and be a part of the learning process."

ICS and be part of the learning process."

That ICS has been able to assist Christians in Hong Kong is a tremendous encouragement to me as our *reGeneration!* campaign is in its final stages.

When we started this campaign three years ago, we were keen to put forth the message that ICS's vision of "Globally Accessible Graduate Christian Education" was not just some lofty ideal left to be enshrined in a mission statement, but something living and active. And stories like Jonathan Chan's work in Hong Kong, and the benefit he has derived from ICS's work tell me that we are on the right track.

As Jonathan said, "ICS is significant not because of its size but because of its message and vision." And if our president is reading this somewhere in Algonquin Park, I'm sure he would agree! 🙌

SSHRC SCHOLARSHIP *Continued from Page 1*

notification of it as well).

"It's great, it's awesome," says Neal of the scholarship. "Right now I'm really excited. I'm surprised, but not complaining—it's a good surprised!"

The Canada Graduate Scholarship is given to people pursuing a graduate degree whose area of research shows academic excellence, research potential and communications skills. Neal's MPhilF thesis will be the demonstration of his research to SSHRC. The focus of Neal's work will be on the

"implications of confession," explains Neal. "Right now there's been some thinking that (by) confess(ing) your beliefs you're possibly excluding people and that could lead to religious fundamentalism. Or, on the other extreme, you therefore can't confess anything and then you lose your sense of where you



Neal DeRoo

come from, and it sort of (manifests) itself in a postmodern nomad-ism or rootlessness."

"I'm coming up with a way inbetween—where you can confess your beliefs in some way without exploiting other people's, and you can articulate where you come from."

The program had just begun when Neal had heard about it. SSHRC grants are notoriously difficult to get, but according to Neal: "I thought 'it doesn't hurt to apply at least and see what happens.' And it turned out quite well obviously." 🙌

source of the distinctive scholarly tools that allow the scholarly community of ICS to work within the academy, having something worthwhile and Christian to say," commented Bob Sweetman,

The task of the professor occupying the Dooyeweerd Chair will be to "continue, promote and develop the project of critical, systematic Christian social and political philosophy that was Dooyeweerd's vision," said Harry Fernhout. "They will do this in active and imaginative engagement with historical and contemporary debates in that field. It is our hope that the occupant of the Chair will actively collaborate with other institutions in advancing his philosophical legacy."

The Herman Dooyeweerd Chair in Social and Political Philosophy will be filled with one of the existing faculty positions at ICS. The Chair holder will likely be announced in the fall. 🙌

REGENERATION! CAMPAIGN

Acknowledging Blessings, Pressing Onward

“So close!” This isn't an exclamation of frustration at the Calgary Flames' game seven loss in the Stanley Cup final. Rather it's the response heard from people at the recent celebration for the reGeneration! campaign after the announcement of the campaign's current total: \$4,653,656.

At a celebration held in Toronto on May 28, people gathered in worship and then heard speeches about the various areas the campaign has supported. MPhilF student Allyson Dziejcz spoke about the critical role scholarships play in the lives of graduate students; H. Evan Runner Chair in History of Philosophy Bob Sweetman spoke about endowed chairs; Library Assistant (and ICS PhD student)



Thanked at the reGeneration! Campaign Celebration were (L-R): Dr. John Hulst, Fred Reinders, Arie Van Eek and John Jeronimus

Michael Nyhof DeMoor provided a live demonstration of the Faith & Learning Network and MWS Graduate Jonathan Chan spoke over a long-distance phone line from Hong Kong to speak about Distance Education.

ICS President Harry Fernhout thanked the campaign co-chairs, Dr. John Hulst and Fred Reinders and then announced the designation of the Herman Dooyeweerd Chair in Social and Political Philosophy.

The event was an opportunity to thank donors and volunteers, to thank God for the blessings experienced thus far and to provide formal closure to the active solicitation phase of the reGeneration! campaign. But there is more to do. Responding to Dr. Hulst's admonition to begin another campaign upon the closure of this campaign, Harry noted, "This campaign isn't finished yet!" Work will continue, thankful for the blessings shown to ICS already, to put the reGeneration! campaign's over its \$5 million goal. 🙌

Papering The World

ICS students will be travelling the world in the upcoming months to present papers at academic conferences. This remarkable flood of paper presentations is exciting not only for the students involved, but for ICS in general, as it attests the quality of scholarship at ICS.

"The range of these paper topics, and of the conferences where they are being presented, demonstrates the quality of work done by Junior Members at ICS," remarks Academic Dean Lambert Zuidervaart. "Our Junior Members are sharing in public the gift of belonging to a community of faith-filled scholars."

MPhilF student Matt Klaassen is the first in the line of presenters. On June 19, he will present a paper entitled "Plato's Reflexive Critique of Poetry" at the Mennonite Graduate Student Conference at the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. The three-day conference, "Religious Texts," will feature graduate students from across the continent. Matt studies in the field of systematic philosophy under the guidance of mentor Lambert Zuidervaart. He will begin the PhD program this fall.



Ruthanne Crápo

Doctoral student Michael DeMoor will be travelling across the ocean to present a paper in Aberdeen, Scotland at the International Reid Symposium (July 12-14). His paper "Reid's Aristotle and the Aristotelian Reid" is a distillation of the concluding chapter of his master's thesis on Thomas Reid, which he completed last fall. After completing his thesis, Michael began his PhD in the field of systematic philosophy under Lambert Zuidervaart.

In October, two all-ICS junior member panels will present papers at conferences. The first panel will be travelling to Prince Edward Island in early October for a conference entitled "Faith, Freedom and the Academy" sponsored by the University of PEI. The participants, MPhilF students Adam Smith and Matt Klaassen and doctoral student Ruthanne Crápo, are giving papers which arise out of their work in this past year's interdisciplinary seminar on North American philosopher Alisdair MacIntyre. The panel, "Faith, MacIntyre and the Academy" will aim to explore the relevance of MacIntyre's work to the theme of the conference.

"This is an important opportunity for ICS Junior Members to present the results of their ICS work in a national forum on the place of faith in the academy," says Senior Member in Political Theory Jonathan Chaplin, who organized the interdisciplinary seminar and will be chairing the panel.

The second panel will be presenting at the annual meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy in Memphis, Tennessee on October 28-30. The panel consists of doctoral students Ruthanne Crápo and Dianne Bergsma and MPhilF student Natasja VanderBerg, all of whom work in the area of philosophical theology. The panel, "French Fluids in the Feminist Stream: On the Permeability of Matter," focuses on the work of philosophers Luce Irigaray and Julia Kristeva.

"It is nothing less than wonderful that Ruthanne, Dianne and Natasja will together be presenting at SPEP, the premier Continental philosophical association," comments Senior Member Jim Olthuis, mentor of the three participants. "The fact that they are not only finding their philosophical voices as Christian women in philosophy, but that they are finding a forum of repute augurs well for the future." 🙌

Our Stories, Our Selves

By Allyson Dziedzic
ICS MPhilF Student

"It's not the theatre that's dying; it's men and women..." -Ron Reed

Sometimes it's hard to get excited at the end of March in Toronto, when everything is still wet and cold and those beautiful little things luckier people in warmer climates call "leaves" and "flowers" have not yet sprouted. But if you were anywhere near the ICS, there certainly was reason to be excited. This year's Art Talks! presentation, "Words Made Flesh: Restoring Faith in the Theatre" gave anyone interested quite a bit of food for thought, and an entertaining time as well.

Friday night started out with Ron Reed's presentation on "Why Stories Matter." Reed, the Artistic Director of Pacific Theatre Company, which he started in 1984, began and ended the evening with stories. After his lecture, Reed gave us a good example of his take on exactly why stories matter with his one person play *Top Ten Thousand of All Time*, a piece about human life post-apocalypse. At times humorous, and with a smattering of excellent accompaniment songs, (the premise of the play was Reed's character doing a radio station count-down of the top songs of all time) Reed was able to give an example of the type of art he had spoken on earlier that night.

In fact, throughout the two days that the talks went on, that's pretty much what we did; we talked about stories. And there was certainly a lot to talk about. Besides Reed's stimulating lecture and subsequent one-person play, the panel the next morning offered a lot of different perspectives on theatre and storytelling. David Copelin, former Artistic Director of ScriptLab, began the discussion with the claim that since we are all made in God's image, we too have the ability to create.

This is part of how faith works in our lives, and in our stories. Faith can't be kept separate; it wants to flow out into our daily lives and the art we produce, whether the outlet is conventionally "religious" or not.

The outlet in question here was theatre, and theatre can't be kept separate from faith anymore than any other part of our life can. One of the reasons for this, Reed argues, is because theatre is incarnational; when we act in theatre we become more ourselves. In this process of becoming, in theatre and the stories created that we act, watch and hear, we don't necessarily become better Christians—rather there is "more of us to be Christian with," more room

(Left) Ron Reed performing "The Top Ten Thousand of All Time" (below) Panelists David Copelin, Dennis Hassell and Jacquie P.A. Thomas



for faith to flourish. Narrative is, after all, a key way that humans make sense of their lives; Reed calls it an "essential part of being human." This is partly because of the similarities among humans. "There is a commonality among us; if I speak deeply enough about me, I will be speaking about other people too," said Reed.


This "commonality" was brought out at the panel, where founder and artistic director of Theatre Gargantua, Jacquie P.A. Thomas identified bringing out such commonalities

was the responsibility of an artist. She argued that a writer, actor or director has to try to be truthful; to do stories that really interest them and hope that those stories will be of interest to the wider global community. One shouldn't be writing just because that particular topic seems hot at the moment, and what people want to hear isn't always what you can, or should, be saying. The stories that interest us may be obviously relevant to what is going on in society at the time, or they may just have an underlying theme or color that catches our attention. Dennis Hassel, Artist in Residence of Brookstone Performing Arts agreed, but added, "Somewhere in my heart I believe that theatre can be a revelation."

And so the stage was set for a rousing discussion. Questions flew on topics ranging from the responsibility of the artist, to the disconnect between performers and the audience and the issue of censorship or accountability. The fundamental issue of theatre's role in the larger community was debated, and then the question was raised—what is the community? For whom is theatre written and performed? What role, if any, does it play in helping people interpret their lives?

Once the floor was open and the audience got involved, an already good panel discussion became even better; so much so that someone suddenly quipped, "we're all theatre people here, aren't we? We've all been asking ourselves these questions, and now we can do it in a group, and get feedback." The amount of energy that happens in a room of people all excited about the same thing, all concerned with similar issues, and dealing with similar problems, who are suddenly able to discuss them in public is an electrifying experience.

And that, at least for me, was definitely worth getting up those few extra hours earlier on a Saturday morning. Reed may be right that doing theatre is like "trying to nurture a poor little dying plant in unhealthy soil with not enough sunlight" but more often than not, that seems an apt enough metaphor for life. Maybe that's one reason theatre can speak so loudly to us. And then again there's always the hope—even in a cold Toronto March—that Spring will come.

Flowers? Yeah, we can grow them here. 


Arts, Politics and the Public Good

In early May two senior members of ICS offered talks in Edmonton, Alberta. Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin spoke on “Art and the Curious Church”, walking the audience through art’s relationship with the church. Jonathan Chaplin addressed “Religious Discourse in a Liberal Democracy”.

Adrienne shared her thoughts with some 30 people who were largely a mix of ICS supporters and art practitioners. She noted that while images have at times been considered of lesser value, images can also be too important, leading to idolatry.

Representational images were banned in the Reformation, however other aesthetic expressions remained, such as architecture, rhetoric (sermons), poetry (bible), music, and ritual. John Calvin spoke against images that purport to be representations of God. “There surely is nothing less fitting,” he said, “than to wish to reduce God, who is immeasurable and incomprehensible, to a five-foot measure.” He did see the arts as one of the many good gifts bestowed by God on his creation.

Adrienne noted that it is important to use art in the church, but equally important to bring Christian art to public places as well as our own homes. The church should not just support art and artists for what they can do to enrich the Sunday worship service, but support them in such a way that they can be a “salting” salt and a “lighting” light in the world. Discussion was plentiful. Those working in the arts shared from their own personal experience, with interest in the role of words and images in different contexts.

Jonathan spoke on the theme of “Religious Discourse in Liberal Democracy” at The Kings University College (TKUC) as part of the ‘roundtable on religion and public life.’ It was organized by TKUC professor of political science and ICS graduate John Hiemstra. At this seminar, attended by local ICS supporters and faculty from TKUC and the University of Alberta, Jonathan showed how many secular-minded liberal thinkers try to keep religious talk on the margins of public debate, but for very dubious reasons. He then made some suggestions as to how religiously motivated citizens should speak politically, emphasizing the need to avoid merely defending their own interests and instead promoting a politics of the public good. 

Blurring Boundaries and Shadowing Empire

Where Christian Community is going, and how our faith flourishes in a violent world will be the foci of ICS’s conferences over the upcoming year.

Following from the success of ICS’s new one-day conferences on “The Beautiful Risk” with Jim Olthuis, ICS is launching an ambitious plan to provide one-day conferences in at least six locations over the next year.

The conferences, now dubbed “ICS Worldview Conferences”, will feature ICS faculty as keynote speakers with programming and workshops organized locally.

ICS will host these conferences in Surrey, British Columbia, Toronto, Ontario, and Calgary and Edmonton Alberta. It is hoped that in 2005 ICS will expand this roster with additional conferences taking place in possibly Eastern Ontario, Northern BC and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

ICS senior members George Vandervelde and Sylvia Keesmaat will be keynote speakers for conferences during 2004-2005. Sylvia and George’s conferences have distinct themes from each other that will stimulate and engage Christians looking to expand their horizons.


On September 18 in Surrey, BC, George

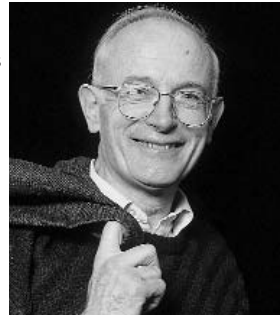
Vandervelde will be the keynote speaker for a conference with the title, “Crossing Thresholds, Blurring Boundaries: What next for Christian Community in the Emerging

World?”. This conference will examine the nature of Christian community and the possibilities and pressures facing it in a postmodern age. This conference will also take place in the Greater Toronto Area in late October.

Sylvia Keesmaat will be the keynote at conferences in Calgary and Edmonton in winter of 2005. The topic for this conferences is still in development, but possible titles that have been bandied about are intriguing and include: “Too Long in Exile: Biblical Faith in the Shadow of Empire” and “In the Shadow of Empire: Biblical Faith in a Violent World”.

Both conferences will be highlighted by workshops on a wide range of topics that complement the theme, led by talented scholars and church and community leaders.

If you live in BC, look for a postcard announcement followed by a brochure in your mailbox soon and mark September 18 on your calendar. If you’re interested in being on a local organizing committee, contact Graeme Burk at gburk@icscanada.edu. 



George Vandervelde and
Sylvia Keesmaat

Upcoming Events

Junior Member Orientation

ICS, Toronto, ON
September 6-7, 2004

ICS Worldview Conference

Crossing Thresholds, Blurring Boundaries: What Next for Christian Community in the Emerging World?
Surrey, BC
September 18, 2004

Jim Olthuis Exaugural

Location TBA, Toronto, ON
September 24, 2004

Symposium

Featuring Sylvia Keesmaat
ICS, Toronto, ON
October 13, 2004 (TBC)

ICS Worldview Conference

Crossing Thresholds, Blurring Boundaries: What Next for Christian Community in the Emerging World?
Toronto, ON
Date TBA, Late October

The Roller Coaster Ride Continues

ICS President Harry Fernhout wasn't kidding when he said in last June's *Perspective* that the road to amending and expanding ICS's degree-granting capacity had become a "roller coaster ride". The past few months has provided ICS with the occasional adrenal high. Recently, there has been a dip. Fortunately, it's nothing *too* low.

ICS's submission to the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board was received in February. In April ICS was visited by PEQAB's Quality Review Panel, a team of three external professors who assessed ICS's programs. The panel's report was, overall, glowing, praising ICS for the range of courses offered, the mentorship provided by faculty and the rigour of ICS's programs. Furthermore, ICS's master's and doctoral programs met or exceeded the provincial quality benchmarks on all counts.

It was hoped that, in the wake of this, PEQAB would discuss the reports and recommendations of the teams that conducted ICS's organizational and program reviews at their May meeting. From there, it was still possible to begin work on obtaining consent from the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities before the summer recess of the legislature. Excitement mounted. We were even talking about how our new degree granting status would be the front-page article about in this issue of *Perspective*!

But the roller coaster ride took a slight dip. PEQAB decided to deal with ICS at their June meeting. This meant that resolution of ICS's application will be delayed until the summer, and the legislative amendment to the ICS Act delayed until the fall.

To cover this delay, the Ministry will extend the consent given to ICS's current doctoral program with the Vrije Universiteit in the Netherlands for a few more months.

While this delay is frustrating, ICS continues to receive positive indications concerning a favourable outcome. Expect the roller coaster to take a sharp, and decisive, turn upward sooner than you think! 🌀

Continuing Affiliation

To paraphrase Sam in *Casablanca*, this looks like the continuation of a beautiful friendship.

In the five years since ICS became an affiliate member of the Toronto School of Theology, ICS has benefited from the contact with TST's students, who have, in turn, benefited from the philosophical breadth and depth ICS provides. Additionally, ICS students benefit from the academic diversity TST's course offerings provide.

ICS, at its recent Board Meeting, consented to renew its agreement with TST for another five years. The arrangement between TST and ICS has been expanded somewhat to allow ICS courses taught by its doctoral students to now be listed in TST's course calendar. This puts ICS on an equal footing with TST's other member institutions in this respect, and allows ICS doctoral students the opportunity to design and teach courses that have as wide an exposure as ICS's other courses listed with TST.

The relationship between TST and ICS allows for a unique, faith-based dialogue between the disciplines of philosophy and theology, but it also fills a unique niche within TST itself. Over the years, TST's member institutions have phased out many of



Toronto School of Theology President Christopher Lind is poised with pen in hand to sign the renewal of ICS's agreement with TST, flanked by ICS Board of Trustees Chair John Hulst (left) and ICS President Harry Fernhout (right)

its courses in philosophical theology. As a result, ICS provides a valuable service to TST and to theology students in Toronto; one which will continue to develop over the coming years. 🌀

ICS News

Each year, ICS honours two students, one with the highest academic standing in the doctoral program and one with the highest academic standing in the MPhilF program, for their achievements in the previous year with the Dean's Award. At the ICS spring retreat, this award was given to **Ruthanne Crápo** (PhD) and **Matt Klaassen** (MPhilF).

Retiring senior members **Jim Othuis** and **George Vandervelde** will be honoured in special celebrations during the fall. Both Jim and George will be feted with Special Convocations featuring their exaugural addresses and a special reception. Jim Othuis' exaugural will be held on **Friday, September 24** and George Vandervelde's will be held on **Friday, November 19th**.

On May 28, ICS welcomed five new members to the **Board of Trustees**: **Carol Veldman Rudie** (Midwest USA and Canada), **Chris Gort** (Central Ontario), **Joe Koole** (from Toronto, representing the members at-

large) and **Andy Kuyvenhoven** (from Brampton, representing the members At-Large) and **Peter De Boer** (Southern Alberta). The Board elected **Rev. Mark Davies**, of Lynden, WA, as the new Chair. Working closely with Mark as Vice Chair will be **Simon Frankruyter** of Newmarket, Ontario, who will also chair ICS's Executive Committee. **Janny Eikelboom** will continue as Board Secretary, while **Joe Koole** becomes as Treasurer. Special thanks must go to all departing Board members, Board Chair **Dr. John Hulst** and Vice Chair **Rika VanderLaan** for their service "above and beyond the call" over the past few years!

Senior member **Lambert Zuidervaart** concludes his one-year term as **Academic Dean** at the end of June, just in time for the launch of his book, *Artistic Truth: Aesthetic Discourse and Imaginative Disclosure* (Cambridge University Press). The book challenges the prevalent assumption in philosophy that there is no such thing as artistic truth, and examines artistic truth, "as a process of imaginative disclosure". It will be published in late August.

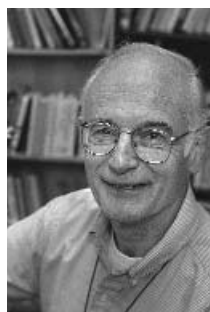
Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin gave two lectures for the faculty at The King's University College in Edmonton on May 5, entitled: "Faith Scholarship and the Arts: Building Foundations", and "Work in Progress: Towards a Faithful Aesthetics," as part of their faculty "Re/Sourcing" conference. She also led faculty on a local gallery tour. Whilst in Edmonton she also spoke for a group of ICS supporters and other interested people on the subject "Art and a Curious Church." From May 19-22, Adrienne attended an international



conference on Theological Aesthetics, entitled "Beauty of all things Beautiful: Theology and the Arts" at St. Bonaventure University, NY.

On June 1st Adrienne presented a paper, "Art and Embodiment: Biological Roots and Phenomenological Shoots", to the Canadian Society for Aesthetics (CSA) at the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Winnipeg, where, as president, she also chaired the society's annual business meeting. On June 2nd she represented the CSA at the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences' final consultation meeting to discuss their proposals on research renewal in Canada. She also wrote the foreword for a book on kitsch, *A Profound Weakness: Christians and Kitsch* by Betty Spackman, to be published by Piquant and a short article "So You Visit a Museum: How to Understand What you See" published in *Areopagus Journal*.

George Vandervelde has been on another world tour. From April 29-June 5 he was in Hong Kong attending the Asia Regional Meeting of the Global Christian Forum and also meeting as part of the Continuation Committee to plan the next regional event to be held in Africa in 2005. The Global Christian Forum is an international movement that attempts to bring into conversation large sectors of Christianity that are not involved in ecumenical discussions, especially Pentecostals and Evangelicals, with representatives of mainline, Catholic and Orthodox churches.



On June 11, George was in Washington, D.C., presenting a paper on "Theological

Reconciliation between Reformed and Catholic Understandings of the Eucharist" at the Catholic Theological Society of America on Reformed Catholic Relations, dealing specifically with the Christian Reformed Synodical Committee study of Roman Catholic understanding of the Eucharist in relation to the Heidelberg Catechisms' harsh judgement on the Mass. From there, George was in Grand Rapids, Michigan from June 14-17, attending the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, which will deal with the proposals of the above committee (on which George serves), chief among which is the recommendation to disavow the judgement mentioned above.

Jonathan Chaplin gave a paper entitled "Blessed be the Ties That Bind: Theories of Civil Society in Christian Perspective" at the conference "Christianity and the Soul of the University" in March at Baylor University, Texas, where he also served as respondent on a panel on "Christianity and Political Liberalism." He gave the same paper at a panel he convened on "Religion, Civil Society, and Civic Virtue" at the Henry Center Symposium on Religion and Politics at Calvin College in April, and also served as respondent to a panel on political philosophy. Six ICS students also attended the Symposium. Jonathan then gave two lectures in May on "Christian Scholarship and Political Studies" at the annual faculty "Re/Sourcing" conference at The King's University College in Edmonton. While there he also gave a presentation on "Religious Discourse in Liberal Democracy" to a "Roundtable on Religion and Public Life" convened by John Hiemstra, ICS alumnus and TKUC professor of political science.

Jonathan has also published an article on "Lessons from Old Europe" in the March edition of the Work Research Foundation's web-based journal, *Comment* (www.wrf.ca/comment) and served as member of the Working Group on Civil Unions, convened by Gerald Vandezande, which successfully sought leave to intervene in the Supreme Court hearings on the reform of marriage law, upcoming in October.

Lambert Zuidervaart and Junior Member Matt Klaassen attended a conference, "Heidegger / Adorno: Aesthetics, Ethics, Technology" at the University of Montreal at the end of April.

Lambert presented a paper "Heidegger, Truth, and Authenticity: Adorno's Critique Revisited," and took part in the round table discussion that concluded the conference. A few days later he and Matt corrected the page proofs for Lambert's book *Artistic Truth: Aesthetics, Discourse, and Imaginative Disclosure*, which Cambridge University Press will publish in August.



In April **Doug Blomberg** participated in the Educational Consultation organized by the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Grand Rapids. In May he hosted a group of students from the Ede Christian University, The Netherlands, and completed the submission of a publication proposal for *Wisdom and Curriculum*.

Alumni News

David Smith (MPhilF, 1997) has been appointed the first director of the new Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning at Calvin College. The Kuyers Institute will focus on promoting Christian teaching and learning from pre-kindergarten through college, and will foster research and professional development in Christian education.

Barbara Carvill (1971), who also serves as Chancellor of ICS, recently earned Calvin College's highest honour, the Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching. Barbara, who teaches in the German department at Calvin, also had a book she co-wrote with David

Smith recently published titled, *The Gift of the Stranger: Faith, Hospitality and Foreign Language Learning*.

Christina Belcher (MWS, 1994) has returned from New Zealand to take up a teaching position in the school of education at Trinity Western University in British Columbia. She is also working on her PhD at Monash University in Australia.

The latest issue of ICS's twice-yearly alumni publication, **AlumniCS**, is distributed to alumni with this issue of *Perspective*. To obtain a copy, contact Graeme Burk at 1-888-326-5347 ext. 225 or gburk@icscanada.edu



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