

Perspective

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 3, OCTOBER 1993

News from the graduate Institute for Christian Studies

ICS Summer School with Wycliffe College a Smashing Success

The 70 students who took one of the four courses offered in the new ICS-Wycliffe College summer school program gave the program strong thumbs-up approval.



Director
Grant Lemarchand

The students came from various denominations, both lay people and seminarians, from the various colleges of the Toronto School of Theology of the University of Toronto.

Brian Walsh, the Institute's coordinator of the program, taught "Christian Discipleship in a Declining Culture," and Paul Marshall taught "Christianity and Politics." ICS Fellow and Oxford University Lecturer N. Thomas Wright taught a course on "What Will We Do with the Gospels?" and Wycliffe professors Marion Taylor and Anne Jervis team-taught "Women in the Bible."



Brian Walsh

An atmosphere of congenial fellowship was a striking part of the program, reports Walsh, central to which was daily worship. The Right Rev. Peter Mason, bishop of



Thomas Wright

the Anglican Diocese of Ontario and former Principal of Wycliffe College, set the tone in the first worship service. Summer school instructors and students took turns opening the

Scriptures in the other noon hour services.

When ICS discussed the terms of agreement for the program, Paul Marshall said, "I see that both institutions have equal responsibility for financial losses, but my question is how will we divide the profits?" Marshall was prophetic, but the modest surplus from the first summer will seed the 1994 summer school program.



Paul Marshall



Anne Jervis

"I see that both institutions have equal responsibility for financial losses, but my question is how will we divide the profits?"





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Harry Fernhout

Other people's problems

Having a close look at other people's problems and challenges is a great way to put your own in perspective. This was my experience at a conference in Hungary in August. The conference dealt with the problems and prospects of higher education in the Reformed Christian tradition in the countries emerging from communist domination in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Reformed College in Debrecen, Hungary, site of the conference, was founded in 1538. That's a mere 20 years after Luther sparked the Reformation! This long heritage added a tragic dimension to the stories told at the conference. Although the Reformed Colleges in Hungary have recovered their impressive buildings and their exceptional, historic libraries, they must start afresh in developing academic programs that embody a Christian perspective.

Yet the Hungarians are richly blessed compared to their ethnic cousins in Romania. Although the Reformed church there has a much higher official membership count than, for example, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, there are no institutions of Christian higher learning in Romania, other than a small seminary. Four decades of state-imposed atheistic university teaching have wiped out the non-clergy intellectual leadership in Romania and other

countries. The process of developing Christian higher education must begin at ground zero.

Some of the conference speakers stressed the importance of challenging the next generation with a new vision, that of an "organic culture" centred in a Christian view of life. This emphasis deserves applause. But the challenge is immense. With the old communist-inspired worldview in tatters, the eyes of Central Europe have quickly turned westward, longing for the promised land of Western consumerism.

The values and vision of secular Western culture are moving into the vacuum with lightning speed. On the eve of Hungary's national holiday, for example, the stage on Debrecen's main street featured the Western-style rock band "Sphinx" singing in English, sponsored by the local McDonald's restaurant. Christians seeking to rebuild an "organic culture" confront a whirling worldview shift, just at a time when their institutions and intellectual leadership are weak and vulnerable.

The struggles confronting our brothers and sisters in academic institutions in Central and Eastern Europe are not unfamiliar to us at the Institute for Christian Studies. We too struggle with the spirits of the age. We too strive to gain a voice in the academic mainstream, raising a banner for the Renewer of thought and learning. We too struggle with a shortage of

intellectual and financial resources.

Yet the intensity of the problems and challenges in the former communist lands makes our own pale by comparison. The stories told by the Hungarian, Czech, Slovakian, Romanian and Lithuanian conferees led our thoughts in our devotions to Psalm 13, "How long must I bear pain in my soul?" The psalmist's complaint is appropriate when things are not as intended in God's good creation. But as we lodged our complaint together, we also noted the psalmist's awareness that God's reputation (not his own) is at stake in this situation. So we joined in calling on God to hear our lament for the sake of God's Name, asking him to empower us to bring glory to that Name, whether in Central and Eastern Europe or North America. We ended where the psalmist ends: "I trust in your steadfast love; my heart rejoices in your salvation."

This shared trust allowed us to leave the conference with exhilaration rather than despair. For this trust lies at the foundation of our efforts to give expression, in our common academic calling, to our hope of new life. Trust in God's love, and trust that God is setting things right, allowed each of us to go home to our own problems and challenges with a new sense of the breadth of our mission, and a new sense of worldwide partnership in the body of Christ.

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JUNIOR MEMBERS

Introducing ICS students

Stoffel Francke, 26, came to ICS a year ago from The Netherlands, where he is also a student at the Free University of Amsterdam (VU). He came to ICS after hearing a talk given there by ICS President Harry Fernhout, which stimulated his interest.

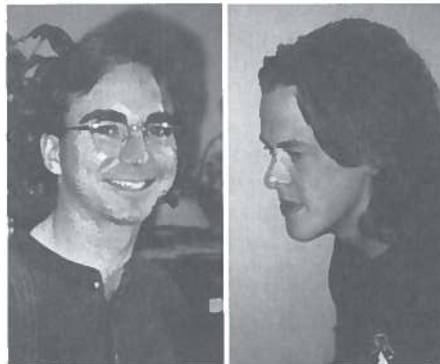
At the Institute Stoffel is studying systematic philosophy with Hendrik Hart in the ICS/Free University Ph.D. program. He is working on a philosophy of language that investigates texts and narratives as a part of reality which is perceived as story.

He says that what he "really likes about the ICS is that the academic work has a focus on what is happening in the world. It has a practical as well as a theoretical impact, and is tied to a community."

Stoffel expects to complete his degree in theology at the VU in December 1993.

John Enns-Wind, 29, is a new student at ICS. He was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, but at the age of 3 moved with his family to Newcastle, Ontario. His father, who was Mennonite, was killed a year later in an automobile accident. His mother later remarried, which explains John's hyphenated name.

After graduating from high school John spent a year travelling in Europe



ICS students John Enns-Wind (left) and Stoffel Francke.

and in Israel. He says that this travel made him more aware of human conditions and the various journeys that people undertake. But he adds that he feels like he is "on an odyssey much like that of Odysseus, only Odysseus was cunning and knew where he was going, and I am not cunning and don't know where I am going."

After his year of travel John enrolled at Brock University, in the Liberal Studies/Politics program. That gave him the chance to study all subject areas as well as his specialization, political theory. At Brock he met Richard Middleton and Leah Bradshaw, both of whom recommended that he think about studying at ICS.

John became a Christian in 1990 and says he feels like a young Christian. He is full of questions, but wants to learn more and be challenged by those questions.

Carroll Guen Hart Receives Ph.D.

Carroll Guen Hart was granted the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the Free University of Amsterdam in late spring for a study of the philosophy of Richard Rorty. The degree was given for her study in Toronto in the joint Ph. D. program between ICS and the Free University. Her promoter (supervisor) was Hendrik Hart, and her co-promoter was Nicholas Wolterstorff.

Rorty, one of the key American philosophers today, claims to be a disciple of John Dewey, a claim that many dispute. In her dissertation entitled *Grounding without Foundations, a Conversation between John Dewey and Richard Rorty to Ascertain Their Kinship*, Carroll creatively built an imaginary conversation between Rorty and Dewey by placing extensive quotations from each on the same subject side by side. The conclusion of her own commentary on the "conversation" is that Rorty is no clone of Dewey but that he indeed continues in Dewey's philosophical



tradition. An interesting aside is that Hendrik Hart's own doctoral dissertation is a study of John Dewey.

Carroll's research is important for ICS supporters, says

Hendrik, because she works in depth at the question of whether, in our age of relativism, it is possible to have firm ground to stand on if we reject rational foundations (unchanging truths), as most secular and Christian philosophers do today. Carroll says "yes" to that question, and she makes her point in a solid and distinctly feminine way, says Hendrik. He adds that Carroll's study is directly related to the Institute's research on the meaning of the "creation order."

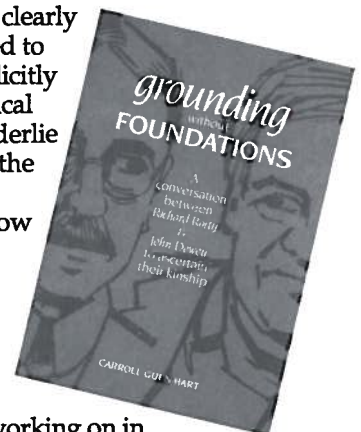
Carroll received her B.A. degree from the University of Utah. She was always asking searching questions, for which her profs said she needed to study philosophy to get answers. But philoso-

phy didn't answer her questions because it was taught in isolation from other academic subjects. It was the interdisciplinary character of ICS study that brought Carroll to Toronto.

She received her M. Phil. F. degree from ICS in philosophical aesthetics with Calvin Seerveld.

She saw more clearly that she needed to attack the explicitly the philosophical issues that underlie literature and the arts.

Carroll is now applying her integrative philosophical ideas to her interest in social justice, which she is working on in relation to Citizens for Public Justice. A limited number of copies of Carroll's thesis, imaginatively illustrated by her artist husband, Willem, are available through ICS at \$20.00 each.



Summer family conferences build community

Alberta conference discusses the family

ICS members and friends in Alberta and Ontario outdid themselves in arranging family conferences over the August holiday weekend that helped people grow and have a great good time.

Creative people in the Edmonton area invited Jan DeWaal, family counsellor and former resident of Edmonton, to lead them in dealing with "The Changing Family: Creation's Puzzle." She was helped by workshop leaders Melle Pool, John Sneep, Peter and Cheryl Mahaffy, Hank and Jan Kuperus and youth leader Harvey Klok.

A Sunday worship service led by Rev. Peter Boodt and a daily newspaper edited by Minnie Boschma helped to pull it all together. The conference, attended by 170 people, was held in Deer Valley Meadows, east of Lacombe in the Parkland area of Alberta.

Jan DeWaal wrapped up the conference by challenging people to imitate God's "covenant way." Conferencees paired up and "covenanted" with each other to do some concrete things within their families over the next year.

Ontario conference held for 35th year

It's hard to believe that ICS has held annual conferences in Ontario for 35 years! This year's conference was not inward looking, as it might have been, but was shared with the 30th anniversary of Citizens for Public Justice on the theme, "Let Justice Flow."

The theme was developed by both organizations, with Kathy Vandergrift of Edmonton and Gerald Vandezande of Toronto as keynoters. They emphasized doing justice in our time as Jesus compels us. Gerald emphasized the empowering of Jesus for all who do justice, and Kathy's work in the office of the mayor of Edmonton gave her the background for her practical approach.

Workshops fleshed out the theme, accented by worship and recreation. Sylvia Keesmaat's articulate reflections on Scripture for our time indicated that God is the source of justice.

Though attendance was down from earlier years, the multi-faceted conference, held in good weather at Hamilton District Christian High School in Ancaster was a time of great blessing for those eager to follow the Lord of justice.



Long-time ICS friend Gordon Spykman dies



Dr. Gordon Spykman, a stalwart friend and shaper of ICS died on July 13 following a heart attack. His unexpected death brought a deep sense of loss and sorrow to the ICS community. He

had retired a year ago from service as professor of Religion and Theology at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

From the early days of his work as a pastor in Blenheim, Ontario, Spykman helped shape the vision for Christian higher education which led to the founding of the Institute. He was much appreciated as a regular speaker in the several public lecture series that ICS sponsored in the 1960s and 1970s.

For the past ten years Spykman was a member of the ICS Senate. He gave countless hours of service to various ICS committees. Most recently he was a dedicated member of the committee which reviewed the Institute's biblical and philosophical direction.

The spirit of Spykman's contribution to ICS was well-expressed in an address presented at the 1987 ICS membership meeting. He appealed to ICS to maintain its "pontifical task." He explained that "pontifical" comes from Latin words meaning "to build a bridge." Christian scholars are called to build bridges to Christians busy in other societal spheres. ICS has the task of providing serviceable insight to people at home, in the pulpit, in schools, the political arena, health care, etc. Spykman's comments displayed his characteristic blend of commitment to higher learning and love for the broader, non-academic Christian community.

With the many Christians whose lives Spykman touched, the ICS community gives thanks for the blessings we have enjoyed through this faithful servant of God. HF





EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Bob VanderVennen

New book on Christian teaching published by ICS and Calvin Center

The Institute and Calvin College have cooperated in publishing the book *Educating Christian Teachers for Responsive Discipleship*. The book, published in the Institute's series *Christian Studies Today*, contains five major papers about preparing Christian teachers for the classroom. There is a brief response to each, including one written by President Harry Fernhout. The papers were written by Peter DeBoer, Harro

Van Brummelen, Doug Blomberg, Robert Koole and Gloria Stronks, all of whom were Fellows in 1991-92 at the Center for Christian Scholarship at Calvin College.

DeBoer writes about Christian curriculum theory; Van Brummelen proposes a collaborative model of teacher education; Blomberg includes a case study of a graduate school curriculum for teachers in Christian schools as part of his discussion of curriculum; Koole argues that schools should be organized to develop collegiality among teachers in order to reduce their feelings of isolation; and Stronks describes a procedure to enable prospective teachers to become reflective practitioners.

The book of 151 pages contains papers given at a conference held in April 1992. You can buy it in paperback from ICS for \$24.50.

ALUMNI

Ko Takariki, ICS student from 1970-73, is now Assistant Professor of Cultural History at Rio Grande University in Japan. He participated in our 25th Anniversary Campaign, and looks back on his study at ICS "with nostalgia."

Iskandar Saher writes from the Christian university in Satya Wacana, Indonesia, where he is campus chaplain, that he has been given responsibility for a new program in Christian Education Teacher Training. In addition the university is opening a new program in Doctor of Ministry. Iskandar has gained approval for including in that degree a department called Doctor of Ministry in Campus Ministry, which he is organizing.

Glenda Hildebrand, whose concentration for the M. Phil. F. degree at ICS was philosophical theology, has been appointed Special Assistant to the mayor of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Jonathan Chaplin, who has the M. Phil. F. in political theory from the Institute, recently received the Ph. D. degree from the London School of Economics. His dissertation research was on the topic of Herman Dooyeweerd and pluralism. Jon and his wife Adrienne live in Oxford, England, where Jon teaches at Plater College,

whose special focus is Roman Catholic social thought.

Bruce Wearne and **Keith Sewell**, ICS alumni in Australia, organized a two-day conference in July on "Economics and Integrity." It was the Second Annual Reformed University Students Conference, but most of those who attended were professionals rather than students. Wearne and Sewell gave two of the five addresses at the conference, which was enthusiastically received by those who attended.

We congratulate **Marcia Hollingsworth**, former Development Director at ICS, on receiving the Ph. D. degree in Clinical Psychology from Western Michigan University. Marcia is a psychotherapist in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Enrolment Reaches New High

A record-high of 44 students are enrolled in degree programs at ICS this year, 37 of whom are full-time students. Several of these are in the doctoral program, and others are studying for the Master of Philosophical Foundations or Master of Worldview Studies degrees, or the master's program in Education for which we have applied for degree status. The total enrolment this year, in addition to summer school registration is 61

Keesmaat devotionals

We've had so many requests for a copy of the three devotionals that our new faculty member Sylvia Keesmaat gave at our Ontario family conference that we have printed them for distribution. The titles are *Eden and Israel: A Failed Vision*, *Israel Called: A Restored Vision*, and *The New Earth: An Alluring Vision*. You can get a copy from ICS for \$2.00 plus \$1.00 for mailing.

New book by Mouw and Griffioen

Eerdmans has just published a new book by two close friends of the Institute, Richard J. Mouw and Sander Griffioen. The title is *Pluralisms and Horizons: An Essay on Christian Public Philosophy*. Mouw and Griffioen give perspective to the confusing variety of pluralisms, dialogue with the leading contributors to the pluralism debate, and convey a yearning for a transformed social order.

If you've always wanted to know about feminism get it from the source... WOMEN!

ICS offers a Master's Program in Worldview Studies: *Women's Studies 2010*

Rejoining the feminist conversation: reclaiming our past, finding our voice

The seminar seeks to reclaim the Christian roots of feminism, understand its history, and work toward finding our voices in the contemporary postmodern conversation.

Instructors: *Carroll Guen Hart, Ph.D.*
Janet Wesselius, Doctoral Candidate in Philosophy, ICS.

Mondays 7:00 to 10:00 pm.
(Starts January 1994) **Fee schedule:**
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SENIOR MEMBERS



George Vandervelde spent two weeks in August in Santiago, Spain, at the Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. Accom-

panied by his wife Bea, George represented the Reformed Ecumenical Council and the World Evangelical Fellowship. In his extensive popular report in the September 10 issue of *Christian Courier*, George accents the participation in the Conference of 300 people from all corners of the world.

Hendrik Hart had a busy and productive summer after his return from Amsterdam with his wife Anita for the final examination and awarding of the Ph. D. degree to his student Carroll Guen Hart. He wrote a 100-page article on the subject of creation order in the reformational philosophical tradition. He wrote an article for *The Other Side* on testifying to the truth in a pluralistic society, and an article on feminism and philosophy of religion for *Hypatia*. His article on the grace of God was published in *The Other Side* in September.

Henk also presented two papers at the Learned Societies meetings in Ottawa in June. One was for the Canadian Philosophical Association and the other for the Society of Christian Philosophers. In July he gave two seminars at a conference in Minnesota on science and the church.

During the summer Henk received word that he was given honorable mention by the Associated Church Press in the category of theological reflection for an article on Romans published in *The Other Side* last year.

Brian Walsh presented a paper with J. Richard Middleton in Ottawa in June for the Canadian Evangelical Theological Association on *The Christian Worldview in a Postmodern Culture*. While in Ottawa Brian met with ICS supporters there, speaking for them on *Keeping Covenant in the 90s*.

Brian taught a course in the ICS



in Ontario.

With his wife Sylvia Keesmaat, Brian taught a week-long course on *Worldview Thinking* for InterVarsity's program *Campus in the Woods*.



Calvin Seerveld spent two months of his year-long sabbatical leave with his wife Inès in Saarbrücken, Germany, consulting with Professor Lorenz Dittmann. Funds for this

consultation came from a grant from the Canadian government. In a lecture at the local university he introduced his cartographic methodology for art history. He gave an introduction to the lecture, and led the discussion which followed it, in the German language.

Cal's article "Vollenhoven's legacy for art historiography" was published in vol. 58 of *Philosophia Reformata*.



James Olthuis gave his presidential address at the annual meeting of the Canadian Theological Society on "Crossing the Threshold: Sojourning Together in the Wild

Spaces of Love," in which he gave glimpses of a postmodern society. In September Jim addressed a supper meeting of the King-Bay Chaplaincy in downtown Toronto on the theme "We Take Better Care of Our Car than of Ourselves." Jim was elected to the Board of the Midwestern Region of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies.

In July Jim was extensively quoted in a major article in *The Toronto Star* dealing with stress. The article was syndicated by Canadian Press, which

summer program with Wycliffe College (see the article in this issue). He also gave a seminar on justice and contemporary music to young people at the ICS Family Conference

called Jim "one of the country's most prominent theologians," and it was reprinted in newspapers throughout Canada. Jim said, "We take better care of our cars than we do of ourselves," and "There should be as many counselling stations in this country as there are gas stations."

Ken Badley gave a paper arising out of the ICS Interdisciplinary Seminar at the annual meeting of the Canadian Philosophy of Education Society. He titled it, "Indoctrination in a Pluralistic Society."

In June Ken taught a course to 30 students at the University of Regina on *Foundations of the Curriculum*. In July he taught a course, *Integral Learning and Faith-Learning Integration* at ICS to seven students from New Jersey, Owen Sound (Ontario) and Metro Toronto.



Paul Marshall with his wife Diane spent a week in Austria at Schloss Mittersill where Paul taught a course on work and vocation to 25 students from many lands, including Romania, Serbia,

Hungary, Poland and India. He then spent a month in Oxford, England, for a study program and speaking at conferences in Oxford and Bristol. Diane's time in England was cut short by the death of her mother in Vancouver.

Paul's paper, *Do Animals Have Rights?* was published in *Studies in Christian Ethics*, and his paper "Quentin Skinner and the Secularization of Political Thought" was published in *Studies in Political Thought*. He continues to write a column of reflections on politics for *Christian Week* and *Christian Courier*.

Paul was keynote speaker at a week-long conference at Calvin College on *Revolution in Christian Philosophy*. His book *Thine Is the Kingdom* has been translated into Chinese in Hong Kong, and the translation is also available in North America.



DEVELOPMENT NOTES

John Meiboom

For several weeks in May and June dozens of volunteers spent time on the phone with many of our supporters. The purpose of the calls was threefold. First, we thanked people for the support they give us over the year. Second, we asked them for donations to meet our June 30 year-end obligations. Third, we made these calls so we might know our supporters better.

We learned a number of things. Some of our members or their spouses had passed away, and others are struggling with serious illness. Some marriages had ended, but others started. People moved to new locations for a variety of reasons.

We also heard from many about church difficulties, while others told us of financial pressures because of college and Christian school tuition payments, which often take up a very large portion of family income. We heard about the financial struggles of many other charitable organizations which are close to the hearts of our supporters.

Another important concern mentioned—even more important than the last—was about people's work. Many people are unemployed or underemployed. Businesses are struggling, and many feel uncertain about their future. There seems to be considerable economic uncertainty.

We need to spend time in prayer for all of these people, but I ask you especially to remember in prayer the last group: the unemployed, the underemployed and the struggling business person.

Let me also tell you the good news. Many of the calls did result in a positive financial response. We are very grateful for this, and we praise God that even in uncertain times God's people are generous and continue to believe that it is important to have a Christian graduate school, a place of academic activity that is rooted in the Word. Praise God!

New Editor for *Perspective*

With this issue **Bob VanderVennen** becomes editor of this newsletter. Bob has worked for ICS for 19 years, holding various administrative positions. In his earlier years with ICS as Executive Director, he was deeply involved with *Perspective*. At present he manages ICS's book publishing and bookselling programs, and directs the correspondence course program.

Bob and his wife Mary recently returned from teaching a six-week course in English in Chengdu, China, as members of a team with the agency English Language in China.

We warmly thank Diane and

Reinder Klein who have ably edited *Perspective* for the past two years. They have given *Perspective* a special sparkle. The demands of their consulting work and their moving some distance north of Toronto have made it hard to continue their editing for us.

Since Bob fancies himself no designer he has engaged **Willem Hart** to look after design and production of *Perspective*. Willem's professional association with ICS goes back well over thirty years. During that time he has been responsible for most ICS publications and advertising, including the very first issue of *Perspective*.

Two new staff members made possible by Anniversary Drive

From the success of the 25th Anniversary Financial Campaign we now have two full-time staff members.

Marcille Frederick has become our first full-time professional librarian in many years. She's bringing better organization to our small, focused collection of books, periodicals and other learning materials.

Marcille received the Master of Library Science and M.A. in History degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. For two years she was head librarian at the university's School of Journalism. She is also a graduate of ICS, receiving our M. Phil. F. degree in 1991.

The Institute library exists to provide information for ICS to do its work, she says, along with the library privileges we have at the University of Toronto. She sees our library as serving Junior and Senior Members and administrative staff, but also the worldwide reformational community of people interested in the issues ICS deals with. She's sure that the computer will play an increasing large role in providing library services.

Wanda Coffey-Bailey is our new Director of Student Services. Her major responsibility is in Admissions, where she recruits prospective students for ICS and relates with them from their initial contact through their

completed application for admission. After they are accepted, she stays with them in the non-academic aspects of their time at ICS, and after graduation as Alumni Director.

Wanda received the Institute's Master of Arts degree in Worldview Studies in 1992. Last year she worked part-time at ICS in student recruitment. Her new responsibilities include the orientation of new students at ICS, helping them find housing, organizing chapel services, helping them apply for jobs when they leave, and developing an Alumni Newsletter.

Wanda is married and the mother of two children. Her husband James, who has also studied at ICS, is Dean of Students and a philosophy teacher at Ontario Bible College.



New staff, Wanda Coffey-Bailey (left) and Marcille Frederick

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