

PERSPECTIVE

Institute for Christian Studies

Volume 36, Issue 4, December 2002

Equipping Christian leaders around the world

CONVOCATION 2002

Vision is vital and alive

On November 15, ICS celebrated both 35 years of God's provision and blessing and the graduation of Junior Members who successfully completed their Master's and Doctoral programs. The anniversary celebration portion of the evening was marked by a series of reflections on the past, present and future of ICS.

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The opening reflection was offered by **Louis Tamminga**, a member of the 1967 Board of Trustees. Resisting sentimental triumphalism he captured the contradictory character of ICS in the early days through a play of antithetical parallelism. In the early days, he said, the community made a great deal of working "communally"... but, "we were also a little bit clannish." "We made a great deal of the anti-thesis," he remarked, but with it came a division from the "company of some." Through it all, he remembered, "we were alive, we were prophets."

Graduate **Jamie VanderBerg** acknowledged these early days when ICS was "less an institution and more a movement," but shifted the phrase from "a" movement as a noun to "movement" as a verb – to describe ICS as an institution responding faithfully to religious and cultural currents in which the times, quoting Bob Dylan, are *a'changin*. VanderBerg acknowledged the seeming incongruity between a responsive movement of change, and the identity of ICS as a institution – an "institute" by definition being a place of "establishment." Thirty-five years later, he noted, ICS continues to attempt the impossible – to remain true to the movement by which it began, and at the same time, establish itself securely as an institute of Christian higher education. As both a "responsive and

responsible" school, he remarked, ICS is a community of lovers, lovers of wisdom, others and God, who dare to be an "anti-establishment establishment."

Through personal anecdotes Senior Member Emeritus **Calvin Seerveld** spoke too of the "double braided complex" – the "wonderful, colourful, blessing" of ICS, both as an academically respected



institution of advanced Christian learning and a community that can give account of their obedience to Jesus Christ in "simple ways too." Cautioning against identifying the work of ICS with the subversive activities of the early days, Seerveld encouraged those at ICS to pass on to the next generation "a living tradition of Christian philosophical bread for the world."

President **Harry Fernhout** concluded the reflections by acknowledging first the vision of the founders who understood the vital importance of a graduate school where students could come to engage direction-setting issues from a Christian perspective. This vision, Fernhout contended, has not only remained consistent, but continues to be realized in the life of ICS today — citing such achievements as ICS's degree granting authority and their affiliation with the

(Continued on page 3)



from the
president



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A living vision: Part 2

In the previous issue of *Perspective* I reviewed the 35-year history of ICS to celebrate God's blessing on the vision of our founders. Now I wish to look ahead, to explore the vitality of that vision for the exciting challenges ahead, and to elaborate on my conviction that ICS is entering a time when the vision of our founders will be realized in amazing and unprecedented ways.

ICS was born into an academic world that was quite hostile to the notion that religious faith should play a pivotal role in higher learning. Today the mood is different as our culture becomes more aware of the need for spiritual roots in a secular age. Today scholars of various persuasions (religious and secular) are more self-conscious about the role of their commitments in their scholarship. And that presents a great opportunity for ICS scholars to exercise our calling: "to witness to Christ in the academic arena by letting the gospel's message of healing, renewal and restoration shape our pursuit of knowledge and wisdom." Our affiliation with the TST presents a very valuable means of participating in that wider academic arena.

And consider the growth of independent institutions of Christian higher education in Canada. When ICS was founded in 1967, the only other independent Christian postsecondary institution in existence was a junior college that later became Trinity Western University. Today, Christian university colleges stretch from sea to sea: from Trinity Western in BC to Atlantic Baptist University in New Brunswick. Everywhere these institutions are growing. Here in Ontario Redeemer University College is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Yes, even in Ontario, where ICS struggled so long for degree-granting rights and a place on the academic map, God is moving mountains that seemed fixed forever. Five short years ago I did not think ICS would secure its own Ph.D. degree-granting authority in my lifetime. Today I believe that ICS could secure this right by the end of next year. What an affirmation that would be of the vision of our founders, and what an increased opportunity for service and witness for ICS!

While the tradition of Christian higher education is different in the United States, there, too, we see great opportunity for service. The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, of which ICS is an affiliate, now consists of 100 member colleges with over 75,000 students. Many of these colleges are increasingly self-conscious about bringing the Christian faith to bear not just on chapel services and social life, but on academic programs. But as I hear time and again from president colleagues, it is extremely difficult to find new faculty who are not only committed Christians but who have a grounded sense of what it means to be a Christian scholar in their chosen field. Providing such people is the very thing ICS has been about from the beginning. As Christian colleges and mainstream universities experience the same generational change we see occurring at ICS, we have an unprecedented opportunity, greater than our founders dreamed of, to realize their vision of placing young Christian scholars in strategic leadership roles.

But the opportunities for service in North America pale in comparison to the movement of the Spirit in Christian higher education in other parts of the world. Today, 80 percent of Christians live outside of

North America and Europe, and the number of Christian believers is growing rapidly in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. Wherever the seed of the gospel has been planted and borne fruit people are now busy with what I call the second wave of missions: building institutions and developing a new generation of leaders to carry the faith forward into the next generations.

Now, it may seem pretentious for little ICS to imagine that it can be a major player in addressing these needs. The fact is, however, that few places in the world offer emerging academic and other leaders what ICS does: non-seminary graduate education with a deep grasp of the role of Christian faith in shaping an integral understanding of various fields of learning. And for 35 years God has always given this little institution a surprisingly effective international role.

Our books and other publications found their way to far corners of the world. Students from farflung lands mysteriously made their way to Toronto year after year. After 35 years the divine lesson is plain: ICS has a role to play far beyond the walls of 229 College Street, to offer its areas of strength (years of reflection on a Christian worldview and Christian perspectives on learning) to those who are eager to benefit from those strengths, wherever they are. That's why I'm so excited about the theme of our institutional plan: building on strengths, for global accessibility. 'Global accessibility' means building on, and being intentional about, the international service role ICS has always played, and bringing that role into the 21st century. It will mean offering some courses off-site, whether within Canada or Quito, Ecuador. It will mean offering select courses on-line so that they are accessible to emerging Christian scholars nearby and far away. It will mean the development of an electronic library of key resources in Christian learning. In all these ways ICS will participate in the movement of God's Spirit in Christian higher education, in North America and beyond, all the while maintaining and developing a strong faculty and a cadre of emerging young scholars, pursuing excellent academic programs on-campus as they prepare for their particular area of leadership.

The vision of our founders is still vital in the life of ICS today. By the grace of God, ICS today carries that vision into a time of wonderful and unprecedented opportunity. That vision has my passion, and that of our faculty and staff. My pledge as president is to carry that vision forward, to meet the challenges before us, to fulfill our mission of honoring the Lord of learning in all that we do. We make that commitment coveting the ongoing prayers of you, our friends and supporters, for God's ongoing care for ICS in the exciting times ahead.

CONVOCATION 2002
(Continued from page 1)

Toronto School of Theology as well as the prolific publishing record of the faculty and the success of its graduates. All of this, he noted, “is evidence that the vision of our founders was not only strategic, but has flourished under the grace of God.” Looking ahead, Fernhout noted that this vision is more relevant than

ever as ICS enters a time of “amazing and unprecedented” opportunity.

After 35 years, ICS continues to play a vital role in the movement of God’s Spirit in Christian higher education worldwide. As each speaker reflected, a central theme was rearticulated – that the vision of the founders 35 years ago is not only vital, but passionately alive today as ICS carries that vision forward to meet new challenges.

M. Vroom of the VU’s philosophy department joined Prof. Henk Hart in supervising the research and writing of Kuipers’ dissertation, and, with Hart, also served as “promoter” at Kuipers’ public defense.

Oppositional in structure, the defense lasts one hour, during which time the candidate introduces the dissertation and then entertains questions from several “opponents.” Kuipers had five opponents at his defense, including Prof. Anton Houtepen of the University of Utrecht and Prof. Sander Griffioen of the VU’s philosophy department. Those present at the defense, including the opponents and members of the VU’s philosophy and theology departments, judged Kuipers to have handled himself admirably, and were impressed by his effort to thoughtfully respond to the questions he was asked, as opposed to slavishly repeating the contents of his dissertation.

In the preamble to his question, Prof. Houtepen called Kuipers’ dissertation “a piece of modern apologetics of religious commitment for which we have to be grateful in these skeptical times” and a “magnificent piece of work.” Asked to provide the examination committee with an external reader’s report, Prof. Peter Schouls of the University of B.C. and Simon Fraser University also had high praise for the study. He described the first chapter as “the sort of insightful chapter that might lead persons to rethink their position on Locke, on the nature of reason and religion, and on the nature of the Enlightenment.”

Kuipers’ dissertation has been published by Editions Rodopi, and is available for purchase through ICS (see new books).

Graduate profiles

Following the 35th Anniversary reflections, degrees were awarded to students who had successfully completed their respective academic programs at ICS. This year four graduates were honoured.



(L. to r.) Jonathan Chaplin (chair), Bob Sweetman (internal reader), Jim Olthuis (mentor), Jamie VanderBerg and David Goicoechea, (external reader, Brock University).



Ronald Kuipers with co-promoters Hendrik Vroom (l.) and Henk Hart (r.).



Samuel Bodapaty
Master of Worldview Studies

Sam came to ICS in the fall of 2000 shortly after his arrival in Canada from India. In India, Sam had graduated with a degree in politics and economics from Nagarjuna University and then had worked for many years as a financial journalist in Bombay, and later as Chief Editor of the Financial Express, a leading Indian business paper. Sam came to ICS to reflect on his professional experience in economics, public policy and the media from out of a biblically-informed worldview, and to prepare himself to return to public engagement in

India, which, as his mentor Jonathan Chaplin noted, for the Christian minority there, is no easy task.

Donald Sackey
Master of Worldview Studies

Donald came to ICS from West Africa on a



wave of familial generosity. A year of graduate study at a North American institution was held out to him, provided he first went to ICS for a year and followed its Worldview Studies program. Working with mentor Bob Sweetman, he began to apply basic worldview categories of cultural analysis to the cultural circumstances of western-educated West

Africa. Donald is now doing a graduate program in French at Queen’s University in Kingston.

Jamie VanderBerg
Master of Philosophical Foundations

On November 8, Jamie VanderBerg passed his thesis examination to complete the requirements for the M.Phil.F. program at ICS. Jamie came to ICS part time in 1998, followed by two years of full-time studies. After a leave of absence, he started writing his thesis in November of 2001, 3 months before he began working at Jubilee CRC in St. Catherines as Director of Ministries.

His thesis, entitled *Forgiveness: The Gift and its Counterfeit*, drew on the work of philosopher Jacques Derrida to examine the difficulty we experience in forgiveness – not only philosophically, but experientially. To keep the philosophical nature of forgiveness “on the ground” Jamie

chose several access points for a more general audience which could serve as cultural touchstones for exploring forgiveness: the lyrics to Pink Floyd’s rock album *The Wall*, the writings and interviews of Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel and a painting by artist George Langbroek entitled “There’s a Crack in Everything” which was a response to 9/11.

Ronald Kuipers, Ph.D.

On September 5, 2002, at 10:45 in the morning, ICS doctoral candidate Ronald A. Kuipers began the one-hour formal defense of his Ph.D. dissertation, entitled *Critical Faith: Toward a Renewed Understanding of Religious Life and its Public Accountability*. After the successful completion of this final hurdle, Kuipers achieved the rank of Doctor of Philosophy, which culminated his ten years of study at ICS, during which time he also completed ICS’s M.Phil.F. program. Prof. Hendrik

Student award winners

Following the granting of degrees at this year's Convocation ceremony, special recognition was given to three students for their achievement within their programs and the life of ICS.

Dean's Award:

Awarded for high academic achievement in the first year of study at the Master's and Doctoral level.

M.Phil.F. level:

Luke Moord

Luke Moord completed his undergraduate studies at Cornerstone University in 2000 with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies. There he was introduced to ICS by way of Matt Bonzo, Professor of Philosophy at Cornerstone, who is currently finishing a doctoral thesis at ICS. As a second year student, Moord is in the M.Phil.F program and is studying under the mentorship of Jim Olthuis in Philosophical Theology. He is interested in French post-structuralist discourse, particularly that of Jacques Derrida, and the relationship of such thinkers in regards to the Philosophy of Religion. Upon completing his Master's work he hopes to venture into a doctoral program, potentially at ICS.

Ph.D. level:

Daniel Napier

Daniel Napier, the 2002 Dean's Award Recipient for the Ph.D. program, comes to us from California by way of Greece where he ministered to churches for two years and Texas, where he pursued degrees in Biblical Studies (B.A., Institute for Christian Studies in Austin, Texas) and History of Theology (M.A., Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary). He continued pastoring full time during his years in Austin as

well. At ICS, Daniel is focusing on ancient philosophy as the intellectual milieu of the church fathers. Ancient conceptions of love and discourse have particularly caught his attention and he plans to write his dissertation under Bob Sweetman on Augustine's appropriation of these themes.

Daniel is married to Karly Susanne Napier with whom he has a two year old daughter, Rebeccah Elise. Upon completion of their time at ICS, Karly and Daniel plan to return to minister in Eastern Europe and help build a seminary there. In his free time, Daniel enjoys playing with Rebeccah, swimming and participating in the Scottish Highland Games. He also competes as a superheavyweight in Olympic-style weightlifting for which he is currently ranked #2 in Ontario and #12 in Canada.

Student Life Award:

Awarded to a Junior Member who has contributed greatly to the development and nurturing of community life amongst Junior Members at ICS.

Natasja VanderBerg

Natasja VanderBerg is an M.Phil.F student in the area of Philosophical Theology. She has completed her course work and is now working on her thesis. Her interests inside the classroom include French Feminist theory, especially the work of Luce Irigaray, and issues of social justice. She is also filling the role of Receptionist and Student Services Administrative Assistant at ICS full time.

Outside of the classroom, Natasja has been involved in various committees, including serving on Academic Council for two years

and representing the student body on Senate. She has also organized all Junior Member meetings, including a couple of symposia in which students shared papers with their fellow students. Before arriving at ICS, Natasja graduated from Calvin College with majors in Religion and Philosophy.

2002/2003 Scholarship and Award winners:

Jonathan Weverink, Ph.D. – Summer Conferences Award

Chris Bosch, Ph.D. – Bernard Zylstra Scholarship, ICS Entry Scholarship

Ruthanne Crápo, Ph.D. — Laura Dale Award, ICS Entry Scholarship

Luke Moord, M.Phil. F. – Peter Steen Award, Dean's Award

Yorick Schulz-Wackerbarth, M.Phil.F. – Wilma Lorraine Northrop Cumming Scholarship

Natasja Vanderberg, M.Phil.F. – Student Life Award

Daniel Napier, Ph.D. – Dean's Award

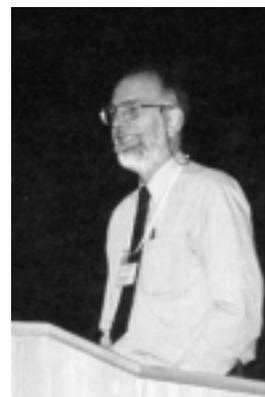
Chong Park – ICS Entry Scholarship

Kyubong Lee – ICS Entry Scholarship

A Living Legacy

An 'Outsiders' Insights at the H. Evan Runner Conference

By **Yorick Schulz-Wackerbarth**, M.Phil.F student



Keynote speaker Al Wolters speaks of Runner's devotion to his faith and his students.

In honour of the late Dr. H. Evan Runner, six institutions of higher learning combined their efforts and resources to make an event happen: the H. Evan Runner Conference, commemorating the extraordinary influence of this man, not only on the institution he had taught at most of his career (Calvin College), but also on the formation and development of Dordt College, Trinity Christian College, The King's University College and Redeemer

University College. As for the ICS, Runner was more than just an important figure in its history. In fact H. Evan Runner can be considered the Institute's father in many ways: not only was he central to the conception of the idea of an institution for graduate Christian studies, but he was also the teacher of many of the first generation of ICS faculty members.

The Conference, held at Redeemer University College and organized mainly by ICS administration and faculty, presented the academic occasion of celebrating and confirming Runner's achievements. In the two-day event, those influenced by Runner in their academic career as well as their personal lives, gave papers and presentations surrounding Runner the person and teacher, as well as Runner the academic scholar. As an outsider to the tradition (the tradition Runner was not only a part of, but significantly helped shape in its manifestation on the American continent) I found myself quite unprepared for what to expect at this conference. I soon realized that I was, in fact, one of the few who had never actually met the man everyone was so enthusiastically deliberating. This enthusiasm induced a feeling of being surrounded by a 'band of disciples,' so to speak, fondly remembering the highly charismatic and animated

upcoming events

Christianity and Learning lectures 2003

February 27 & 28, 2003 @ 229 College St. Toronto
With **Miroslav Wolf**, the Henry B. Wright professor of theology at Yale Divinity School.

ICS Ontario Summer Conference 2003

August 16, 2003 @ Redeemer University College
New one-day format, with keynote speaker **Jim Olthuis**

Spring Worldview courses @ ICS (January-April)
for credit or audit:

teacher who had left an undeniable mark in the lives of all those fortunate enough to have attended his lectures, participated in one of his famous clubs or become personal friends with this obviously very passionate professor who expressed such genuine care for his students.

At the first plenary session, Al Wolters emphasized these very qualities in Runner – his charisma, his care, and his devotion to both his faith and his students. These qualities, Wolters pointed out, were the main force behind Runner’s consider-able influence on so many people’s lives. In the well-balanced portrait Wolters painted for his audience, he also emphasized that it was not the academic achievements, nor the actual pedagogical skill, that could in any way constitute the ‘essence’ of what should be considered Runner’s ‘legacy.’ This scholarly ‘shortfall’ (the lack of Runner’s academic accomplishments) was evident throughout the conference in that all the speakers (in the sessions I was able to attend) struggled to present and discuss philosophic issues or insights that were actually authentically ‘Runner.’ This, however, did not put a damper on the depiction of a fascinating personality these lectures made vividly present to a ‘newcomer’ like myself. On the contrary, the significance of Runner’s legacy became progressively clearer to me in the course of the conference: it was not necessarily a corpus of scholarly ‘results’ Runner had left behind, but rather a living body, consisting of the people whose lives he had so meaningfully shaped, spiritually touched and inspired to exercise the faith he preached ... and to exercise it in *every* area of their lives, not just in academia. ‘Life is Religion’ was his central theme, and thus, in many ways the ‘slogan’ of the conference. In the concluding plenary speech, **Robert Sweetman**, as the holder of the H. Evan Runner Chair at ICS, identified this ‘slogan,’ as the key to a true conservation and safeguarding of what could be considered a Runner legacy. Thus, Christian scholarship truly standing within Runner’s legacy, is scholarship that is “self consciously attuned to the shape of the Christian heart, individually and communally.” In consequence to such an ‘extra’ philosophical ‘core’ of any true Christian philosophy, a core that is ‘essentially’ a scholarly mystery, yet can be known and attended to, Christian scholarship inheriting the legacy of H. Evan Runner is empowered by the humbling insight, as Robert Sweetman put it, “that when we and our scholarly traditions prove a blessing and do edify, it is in some mysterious way God’s work, Providence. That work is in the end the heart of the matter, or, from our standpoint, a matter of the heart; all such work is religion, life, all of life is religion.”

Relational Psychotherapy and Faith

Jim Olthuis: Mondays, 7-10 pm

The Openness of God and the Biblical Text

Henk Hart: Tuesdays, 7-10 pm

Naming the Revealed Mystery

George Vandervelde: Wednesdays, 7-10 pm

Art and Aesthetics in a Post-Modern World

Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin: Thursday Evening, 7-10 pm

See our website www.icscanada.edu for more information

Japanese professor explores the impact of different religious traditions

Dr. **Hisakazu Inagaki**, Professor of Christian Philosophy at Tokyo Christian University in Chiba, Japan, presented his paper, “Person, Society and Religions”, on September 20, for the first symposium of the new semester. Inagaki’s paper primarily focused on the role of individual religious freedom in Japanese culture, and the historical development of the separation between Church and State. Following the historical development of religion in Japan, Inagaki compared the bodhistva movement in the East, with the reformational movement taking place in Europe. At the time, according to Inagaki, both movements called for an order that transcends the order of political power and control.

Concluding his paper, Inagaki highlighted two of Luther’s theses, “a Christian is a king who stands over all people and not subject to anyone. A Christian is a servant who serves to all people and subject to everybody,” to show how Christianity, as a religion amongst other religions, can aid Japanese culture by establishing persons who are free from the bonds of political control, but still function within the society as religious individuals.

explained to his students that whatever we do, either inside or outside of the church, can demonstrate the redeeming power of God – and as Christians, we should be active in all areas of society. Inspired to teach other Japanese students this reformational perspective, Meiko left Japan to attend Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, where she received a Master of Theology degree, and has now come to ICS to study



Student Profile:

Students come from Japan to study Christian Worldview

This autumn, ICS welcomed two new students from Japan: **Shin Toyokawa** and **Meiko Higashinaka** – former students of Dr. Hisakazu Inagaki, a recent Symposia speaker and strong advocate for the work of ICS in Japan.

Shin was introduced at the undergraduate level to reformed Christian thought by Dr. Sumito Haruna, a leading Christian scholar responsible for translating much of Herman Dooyeweerd’s work into Japanese. Shin began serious studies in reformational philosophy under the tutelage of professor Inagaki at the Tokyo Christian University while pursuing a Masters degree in Missions, and was encouraged to consider ICS by alumnus Dr. Julius Taniguchi (Ph.D, Political Theory, 98).

Shin came to ICS to better understand the relationship between faith and politics, and he is currently enrolled in the Worldview program under the guidance of Jonathan Chaplin. Shin’s goal is to return to Japan and someday develop a grassroots, faith-based political organization similar to the Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) in Canada.

Like Shin, Meiko was heavily influenced by Dr. Inagaki in Japan. She describes her first exposure to reformational thought, in his class on Foundations to Christian Philosophy, as a “powerful experience.” Prior to taking this class she believed that Christian service was limited to the church. Through texts such as Al Wolters “Creation Regained,” Dr. Inagaki

ICS Students Meiko Higashinaka (l.) and Shin Toyokawa (r.) with their former professor, Dr. Hisakazu Inagaki, who encouraged them to study at ICS.

with Jonathan Chaplin in the Worldview program. Through discussions on such topics as intercultural justice, she is interested in exploring the relationship between Christianity and culture – and in particular, how a Christian worldview can be applied to a Japanese context.

reGeneration!

The Campaign for ICS

Update

by **John Meiboom**, Vice President of Advancement and Campaign Director

What's in a name?

At the Institute for Christian Studies, we believe in rebirth and transformation. That's how our campaign got its name – *reGeneration!* – because the love of God transforms all of life and because the transformation results in new life.

This theme is powerful at ICS. We believe God's love transforms scholarship as thoroughly as every other area of life. Our faculty and students are committed to transforming lives, equipping people to share the very good news that in Jesus Christ, every area of life is redeemed and reborn – that is, regenerated! ICS itself is being transformed with new people, new ideas and new support. The vision of its founders is being worked out in new ways as we continue to provide “globally accessible Christian graduate education.”

What's especially exciting right now is the response to the ICS vision and campaign. Approximately 80 volunteers are approaching individuals, businesses, foundations and churches across North America, inviting them to support the ICS vision through our *reGeneration!* Campaign. By the end of October, people had already responded with \$1.3 million in gifts and pledges.

For the coming year, established supporters and those who are new to ICS will be invited to play a part in equipping ICS itself for its work today and well into the future. A gift now to ICS for *reGeneration!* will be valuable for decades to come. Think and pray about your response. Contact the Campaign office any time if you want information about the Campaign or other aspects of our work.

Campaign Co-chairs:
Dr. John B. Hulst
Fred J. Reinders

Eastern Canada
Division Chair:
John Jeronimus

Western Canada
Division Chair:
John Leder

Congregations Division
Chair:
Rev. Arie Van Eek

Alumni Division Chair:
Bruce Clemenger

U.S. Division Chair:
Dr. John B. Hulst

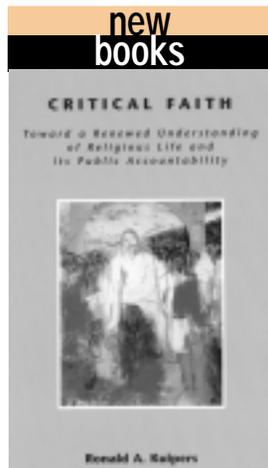
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Western Canada Advancement Officer

The Institute for Christian Studies is seeking to fill the half-time position of Western Canada Advancement Officer, effective immediately. Reporting directly to the Vice President for Advancement, this person will endeavor to create a higher profile for ICS in Western Canada by networking with volunteers, current donors and prospective donors to develop support for the mission of ICS.

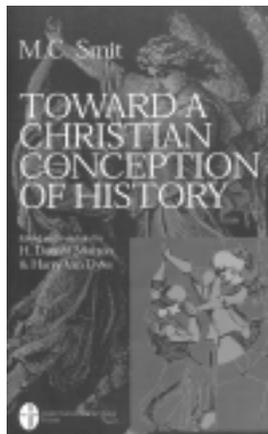
For more information please contact:

John Meiboom, VP Advancement,
 jmeiboom@icscanada.edu



Critical Faith: Toward a Renewed Understanding of Religious Life and its Public Accountability
 By Ronald A. Kuipers

Can religious faith be *critical* and remain recognizable as faith? Or is the idea of a critical faith a contradiction in terms? In this book by the newest graduate of the combined ICS/Free University Ph.D. program, Kuipers argues in favor of critical faith. Playing on a double meaning of the word ‘critical,’ the title of the book suggests that faith is not only a critical (crucial) component of human life, but also a component that can and should develop in a critical (intellectually vigilant) way. Taking John Locke’s reflections on the relationship between faith and reason as his point of departure, Kuipers weaves his discussion around a wide array of intellectual figures and conversations. In addition to addressing important elements in the work of such historical figures as Aquinas and Locke, Kuipers also incorporates themes from recent discussions in the philosophy of science, feminist epistemology, philosophy of language, liberal theology, and critical theory. The book ends with a discussion of elements in Jurgen Habermas’ theory of communicative action, and offers a critical assessment of the merit of Habermas’ notion of critical rationality as a normative yardstick for the achievement of a critical faith.



Toward a Christian Conception of History
 By M.C. Smit
 Edited and Translated by H. Donald Morton and Harry Van Dyke

Meyer Cornelis Smit (1911-1981) taught history and philosophy at the Free University in Amsterdam for a quarter century. This book presents the harvest of his scholarly output. Influenced by the Reformational school of philosophy spearheaded by Herman Dooyeweerd and Dirk Vollenhoven, Smit may be regarded as the foremost thinker about history to come out of this intellectual milieu.

Smit’s work centered on the theme of God and history, and this book reflects the central questions that he engaged: the question of the influence of faith and worldview on the practice and appreciation of history; the question of the meaning of history as an answer to the historical mindedness that distinguishes our culture. By seeking to comprehend historical reality within the framework of temporality and transcendental origin, Smit, for all the restlessness and hesitancy that characterizes his thought, found a basic conviction which he held to the end of his life: scholarship must be open to the active presence of the Origin of all things shimmering just beneath the surface of phenomena. The writings of Meyer Smit contain ideas and motifs that are of fundamental significance to anyone concerned with the problems of philosophy of history in our time.

Preparations for a collection of Meyer Smit’s writings date back to 1979, two years before his death. Over 20 years later, editors and translators H. Donald Morton (International School of Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Harry Van Dyke (Redeemer University College, Ontario) present this selection from professor Smit’s scholarly output for the international public who have shown an interest in it.



Now Available:

Philosophy as Responsibility: A Celebration of Hendrik Hart's Contribution to the Discipline. Edited by Ronald A. Kuipers and Janet Catherina Wesselius. (270 pages, 2002)

student/alumni focus

David Koyzis (M.Phil F., 1982) will have a book published by InterVarsity Press in April of next year, titled *Political Visions and Illusions: A Survey and Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies*.

George Lieuwen, former Worldview Studies student, is busy with post-retirement work as a landscape consultant and has written a paper on landscape architecture from a Christian perspective. George completed a four-year horticulture diploma in the Netherlands and first came into contact with ICS in 1960 when he took an associate degree course in Horticulture in Guelph.

David Julien, performed the premier of a musical composition entitled *Tears/Tears in Time: a homage to Jacques Derrida* on September 26, at Wycliffe College. David composed the piece as part of his assignment in Jim Olthuis' course on Deconstruction and Hermeneutics.

Kathy Hanson, who has done work at both ICS and Fordham University, has been accepted into a doctoral program at University of Massachusetts (Boston). The program leads to an Ed.D. in Leadership in Urban Education. She hopes to explore the role that aesthetic experience (in the arts and in liturgy) plays in the development of reflection, perspective, insight, and imagination in Christian schooling.

staff news

After a year on maternity leave, staff members **Pam Trondson** and **Yana Filipenko** have returned to their positions as Director of Student Services and Academic Assistant/Registrar respectively. Their return marks the departure of **Michelle Jones** and **Kelli Baker** who capably filled these positions for the last year. Michelle Jones is currently working at the University of Toronto, and Kelli Baker, wife of M.Phil.F student Larry Baker, is at home with their first baby Silas, who was born on November 14, 2002.

In October, ICS hired M.Phil.F. student **Natasja VanderBerg** as full-time Receptionist and Student Services Administrative Assistant.



We welcome **Karen Bisschop** in the role of Bibliographic Information Manager for the Faith and Learning Network. Karen received a B.A. in French and English from Redeemer University College and a Masters of Library and Information Science from McGill University.

Her professional experience includes serials control and database development for Transport Canada, and Lexis Nexis. Her vision for the Faith and Learning Network project, makes her a wonderful addition to ICS.

The Faith and Learning Network will assist the development of Christian scholars by creating new Christian academic resources and improving access to a variety of additional resources. The goal is to remove barriers of access to academic resources – especially for scholars from developing nations. The focus will be on Web-based access and distribution.

faculty reports

Jonathan Chaplin attended a meeting of the Governing Council of the Dooyeweerd Centre, Redeemer University College (Oct 3); a meeting of the 'Direction Setting Community' of Citizens for Public Justice/Public Justice Resource Centre, in Toronto (Oct 25-26); and the 50th anniversary celebration of the Christian Labour Association of Canada, in Ancaster (Oct 26). On November 17, he spoke on 'Just War' at Brampton CRC. He organized an event held on November 23 to launch the book *A Royal Priesthood*, on the political theology of Oliver O'Donovan, which he also co-edited, at Wycliffe College. This event was co-sponsored by Wycliffe, Redeemer University College, and the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar (UK). On December 2, he delivered two lectures at Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, NY at the invitation of ICS doctoral candidate Richard Middleton: "Soldiers of Christ? How Christian is 'Just War Theory?'" and "Faith in Democracy? What Kind of Democracy Should Christians Support?"

On November 1, 2002, **Jim Olthuis** presented a paper on Richard Kearney's book, *The God Who May Be*, at the Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association in Cincinnati, Ohio. On November 22 he attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Toronto.

Robert Sweetman offered a keynote plenary entitled "All of Life is Religion: A Case for the Next Generation of Christian Scholars," at the H. Evan Runner Conference co-sponsored by ICS and five reformed

colleges at Redeemer University College, October 5. He completed thesis supervision for two successful MA in Theology theses of St. Michael's College: Colin Kerr's "The Human Author in the Exegesis of St. Augustine's Early Episcopacy" (Oct 10), and Jeremy Bergen's "The Politics of History in John Milbank's Use of Augustine's City of God" (Oct 22). He was the internal reader for Jamie VanderBerg's M.Phil.F. thesis examination (Nov 8) at ICS.

At a "Forum on Ecumenical Dialogue," held on Nov. 4 at St. Michaels College in Toronto, **George Vandervelde** participated in a panel on "Themes in Ecumenical Dialogue – The Church." George spoke on Evangelical involvement and



(Above) *Forum on Ecumenical Dialogue: (from l. to r.) Dr. John Gilbert, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Dr. Margaret O'Gara, Professor of Systematic Theology, St. Michael's College, Toronto and George Vandervelde.*

noninvolvement in ecumenical discussions and on whether the prominence of the theme "church" in these dialogues presents a building block or stumbling block to unity.

At the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches (U.S.A.), meeting at the Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO, October 10-11, he presented a paper on the "The Papacy and the

Challenge of Evangelical Transparency," and another on "The Exercise of Authority in the Church – it's Christiform and Spirit-Directed Character." On Nov 13, Prof. O'Gara and he made presentations about "Issues in Ecumenical Dialogue" to the Board of the Canadian Council of Churches, meeting at the Manresa Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering.

Lambert Zuidervaart attended the annual meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics in Miami October 31-November 2, where he presented a paper titled "Feminist Politics and the Culture Industry: Adorno's Critique Revisited." A longer version will appear in a book of new essays on feminist interpretations of Adorno

to be published by Pennsylvania State University Press. In October Lambert served as the external examiner for a dissertation on "Critical Theory and Theology" by Christopher Craig Brittain. The dissertation was submitted to Trinity College at the University of Toronto and successfully defended at the Toronto School of Theology. Lambert also learned recently that the journal *Philosophy & Social Criticism* plans to publish his essay "Cultural Paths and Aesthetic Signs: A Critical Hermeneutics of Aesthetic Validity."

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