

PERSPECTIVE

Institute for Christian Studies

Volume 33, Issue 1, March 1999

News from the
graduate Institute
for Christian
Studies

JONATHAN CHAPLIN AND ADRIENNE DINGERINK CHAPLIN

Two new professors at once

by Bob VanderVennen

Excitement filled the air in early January as two new professors arrived from England to take up their work at ICS. **Dr. Jonathan Chaplin** is Senior Member in Political Theory and **Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin** is Senior Member in Aesthetics. They are filling positions on the faculty formerly occupied by Paul Marshall and Calvin Seerveld.

Both have plunged into programs that are both theoretical and also have a practical worldview outreach. Jonathan is teaching a course in the Master of Philosophical Foundations (M. Phil. F.) program called "Reformational Contributions to Pluralist Political Thought." His aim is to analyze reformational political thought, especially that of Herman Dooyeweerd, in order to explore a Christian idea of the state which promotes a just society. Vital to that is dialogue between the reformational tradition and contemporary political theory.

Jonathan is also preparing a less specialized, more practical Worldview Studies course, "Christian Political Theory in Service of a Just Society." The aim of this course is to make Christian political theory serviceable to people engaged with public policy issues.

Adrienne is focused on the problem of meaning in art. Art does convey meaning, she insists, but in a much different way from words. Even non-representational art conveys meaning (which may be a surprise to many people) but in a language that requires a different mode of understanding. She will deal with these issues in her M. Phil. F. research course, working especially with the insights of aesthetician Susanne K. Langer.

Next summer Adrienne will teach a more applied course for the ICS summer school, held jointly with Wycliffe College of the University of Toronto. She plans to teach "Unity and Diversity in Christian Aesthetics." Adrienne sees aesthetics in a broad interdisciplinary way, with special contributions from a reformational Christian perspective, not the least being the very notion of an aesthetic dimension to reality. She says that Christian aesthetic study allows a richer understanding of God's creation and of human experience.

Adrienne has a book coming out this Spring, published by Paternoster Press. Called *Art and Soul: Signposts for Christians in the Arts*, it is co-written with Hilary Brand, who chairs the Arts Centre Group in

England. She expects to finish her doctoral dissertation at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam this Spring, and take her final examination in September. Lambert Zuidervaart, chair of the ICS Senate and professor at Calvin College, is her chief supervisor, and Sander Griffioen at the VU and Paul Crowther in Oxford, England, are also participating.

She and Calvin Seerveld are scheduled to be the keynote speakers at the summer ICS conferences in Alberta and Ontario this year. She is also scheduled to give the annual "Art Talks!" lecture in June. She hopes to make contact with many Canadian artists and draw them into her teaching.



Jonathan is revising his doctoral dissertation, written for the London School of Economics and Political Science, for publishing in book form. The book has been accepted by ICS in its co-publishing program with University Press of America. Its title is *Pluralism, Society and the State: Herman Dooyeweerd's Political Thought*. It will be the first book in English examining Dooyeweerd's ideas on the state.

For eight years Jonathan taught politics at Plater College, an independent Roman Catholic College for mature students in Oxford, England. He has been Visiting Tutor at the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education and he has also designed a distance education course for Sarum College in Salisbury, an ecumenical theological college. Jonathan is strongly committed to ecumenical Christian academic work, and also to the idea of pluralism, a model of society in which many different institutions

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Community service



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The Institute for Christian Studies has a very important calling as a graduate school. ICS strives to fulfil this calling in a spirit of service, not only to graduate students and the academic community, but also to the broader Christian community.
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A college or university professor's task, like a three-legged stool, consists of teaching, research (and publications) and "community service." Opinions differ widely in the academic community as to the relative importance of these three key components. Some professors prefer research, some love teaching. Some regard "community service" as an annoyance, necessary to justify public funding, while others regard such activities as an essential part of their academic vocation. University administrators, meanwhile, are at pains to highlight the relevance of their institutions to the business and scientific communities, for example.

This three-pronged academic task also receives regular consideration at ICS. Each spring the Senate and Board of Trustees receive an activity report from each faculty member. Teaching, research and community service are all featured. Over the years the ICS Senate has strongly encouraged faculty members to devote prime energy to academic research, publishing and teaching.

But what about the community service component? How are we doing on this front? I recently took stock of some of the *non-academic* activities of ICS faculty members, and found that the following items had crossed my desk in a two-week period:

- In a January issue of *Christian Courier* I found extensive coverage of the Jubilee 2000 initiative, focused on debt relief for the world's poorest nations. The issue contained extensive articles by faculty members Sylvia Keesmaat and George Vandervelde, and doctoral student Peter Noteboom.

- In the daily mail folder I found *The Banner*, the magazine of the Christian Reformed Church. It included an article by George Vandervelde on his experience as a delegate for the World Evangelical Fellowship (and an observer for the Christian Reformed Church) at the assembly of the World Council of Churches in Harare, Zimbabwe. A few days later I saw a new issue of *Christian Courier* with three full pages of articles by George on this event, including striking colour pictures.

- The Anglican Diocese of Ontario co-sponsored a mini-retreat in Kingston in February led by ICS doctoral candidate Richard Middleton on what the Bible can teach us about honesty and hope in a suffering world. He will be followed in March by Sylvia Keesmaat, who will address the topic "Jesus, the Gospels and Radical Discipleship."

- Jonathan Chaplin, newly arrived professor of Political Theory, wrote a piece on the Jubilee 2000 campaign (dealing with debt relief for the poorest countries), for circulation in the Christian Reformed Church in Canada. Jonathan has also been invited to a March consultation sponsored by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, exploring the theme of "Christian Engagement in a Pluralized Canada."

- At a recent meeting of Classis Toronto of the Christian Reformed Church I watched and listened with interest as the assembly supported motions to

extend the preaching licenses of George Vandervelde, Calvin Seerveld and me.

- Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin and I attended a planning meeting for a conference/festival on "Through a Glass Brightly: The Arts and the Gospel," featuring Jeremy Begbie from England. This June conference for pastors, worship leaders, artists, musicians and other interested Christians will be co-sponsored by ICS, Wycliffe College and Imago (A Christian arts organization).

- A look at my monthly calendar reminded me to prepare for a professional development day with the staff of Woodlands Christian High School, exploring the connection between worldviews and education, and the role of Christians in a secular society.

- Eva Sham, of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, happily informed me about plans for another mini-conference for Christian teachers in public education, co-sponsored by ICS. ICS alumnus Brian Walsh, now a campus chaplain for the Christian Reformed Church, will be the featured speaker. ICS faculty member Doug Blomberg led the previous event.

- Robert Sweetman put the final touches on an autobiographical talk on the theme "Christian Scholarship: Fencing (with) Reformational Goods." Bob will tell this story of his journey as a scholar to the ICS support community in the Edmonton area later this month.

The items in this brief inventory are very appropriate service activities for graduate school professors. While the list clearly indicates that ICS faculty are not shirking their "community service" responsibilities, I am not suggesting that there is no room for growth and improvement. In fact, after receiving a report from a consultant who surveyed a segment of our support community, our Board of Trustees is working with the administrative staff and faculty to create more and new opportunities for ICS personnel to be of service to, and be visible in, our community.

The Institute for Christian Studies has a very important calling as a graduate school. ICS strives to fulfil this calling in a spirit of service, not only to graduate students and the academic community, but also to the broader Christian community. The Board, staff and faculty of ICS are committed to this task. Over the coming months we will explore various options such as a renewed program for presentations in various communities, creative forms of "continuing education" for people in non-academic vocations, "general interest" mini-courses on the internet, etc. Look for ICS to be more visible in its community service. And engage us with your feedback and suggestions as we seek to grow in our capacity to be of service to God's Kingdom in this respect.

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**Over the years
 the ICS Senate
 has strongly
 encouraged
 faculty
 members to
 devote prime
 energy to
 academic
 research,
 publishing and
 teaching.**
 ”

Library seeks volunteers

If you live near Toronto, can you volunteer some time to help the ICS library with its “Catalogue Project”? We are entering our present holdings from card file into a computer catalog database.

Volunteers should be good at giving attention to detail, have a good grasp of the alphabet and good spelling skills. They work rather independently. They need basic computer skills, a good knowledge of English, and it would be helpful to have some knowledge of Dutch, Afrikaans, German or French. And tolerance of a certain amount of library dust.

The ICS reference library collection of about 25,000 volumes is mainly in philosophy, including the philosophy of certain areas, and theology, plus reference works in other areas. It mostly, but not exclusively, serves ICS staff, faculty and students.

Volunteers get a chance to stretch the mind and body, meet interesting people, participate in the life of ICS and develop certain library skills.

Interested people can apply to librarian Yvonne M. Haaksma by phone at 416-979-2331, extension 237, or by e-mail at yhaaksma@icscanada.edu.

from our students

Peter Noteboom was invited to Dordt College in October to present the Jubilee 2000 program of debt forgiveness in poor countries to the Dordt Faculty Forum. He also spoke on Dordt College Radio, met with several classes, and made a brief presentation in a Sunday morning worship service.

Matt Bonzo visited the Institute recently to confer with James Olthuis about research for his doctoral dissertation. He is now teaching Bible and theology at Cornerstone College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. With his wife Dorothe, who worked for 15 years at ICS, and their son, he now lives in Sand Lake, Michigan.

JONATHAN CHAPLIN AND ADRIENNE DENERINK CHAPLIN

(Continued from page 1)

have freedom to operate without being dominated either by government or the market.

Jonathan received the M. Phil F. degree at ICS in the early '80s, greatly appreciating the teaching of Bernard Zylstra and Paul Marshall. He is co-editor with Marshall of the book *Political Theory and Christian Vision: Essays in Memory of Bernard Zylstra*.

Adrienne studied with Calvin Seerveld at ICS in the early '90s as part of her graduate studies at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

Jonathan and Adrienne have two children, Paul who is ten and Lucia, age 8. They arrived in Toronto during the city's biggest snow storm in a century, but are settling in as smoothly as possible.

by Hendrik Hart



Thanks for VanderVennen for leadership at ICS

Now that at age 70 Bob VanderVennen is almost completely retiring from formal employment, I want to say that ICS is thankful for more than what Bob gave only to us. You, Bob, have served no less than four Christian institutions for higher education in their beginning stages: Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, The King's in Edmonton, Redeemer College in Ancaster, and ICS. This is the first reason I wish to single you out for our gratitude: your single-hearted devotion to the cause of reformational Christian higher education.

We first met in the early sixties when you offered me a position at Trinity, and later in the early seventies when you applied to give leadership to ICS as Executive Director. We hired you for obvious reasons: you had established a solid reputation for unwavering dedication to helping groups such as ours get started.

Soon we discovered the second cause for our gratitude tonight: your style of leadership. For your leadership exemplifies remarkably what your favourite author on leadership, Robert Greenleaf, calls servant leadership. Service so deeply characterizes your way of leading that I almost wondered what to say tonight. In a speech like this one mentions outstanding qualities. But you are a leader who tries not to stand out. In spite of your deep convictions, your ability to speak with passion, and your tenacious devotion, you seem to feel most at home in the background. Outstandingly so.

Hence your third quality for which I wish to give thanks tonight is your ability to make a single act of courage grow into a veritable monument of vision. Surely everyone will agree that your creating and

maintaining the ICS-University Press of America book series “Christian Studies Today” has been one of the most remarkable events in the life of ICS. You have shepherded title upon title of well-selling, high quality, sound testimony to God's redemptive presence in the academy from their manuscript-editing to the out-of-print status so often symbolic of a good book. “Christian Studies Today” may well be, among all the many solid acts of servant leadership in your beloved world of Christian higher education, your most enduring and most widely effective legacy.

These are the three things that I think stand out most as reasons for which we want to thank you, Bob. But I would be amiss if I did not at least mention that if I were to have the opportunity to develop a lecture at this time, there would be more than enough material for me to go on for a while and to mention many other contributions you have made. There is, for example, the creative use you made of many of us when you were book review editor of *Calvinist Contact* as well as the link you established between ICS and our constituency as editor of *Perspective*. But I think I have made my point, namely that your many outstanding contributions from your favourite place in the background not only make us thankful for all you have done for us, but make me want to say: Thank you, Robert E. VanderVennen, for your outstanding servant leadership in Christian higher education.

These words were addressed to VanderVennen by Hart at the ICS celebration dinner on November 13.

Pastor studies social justice



Anthony Ricciuti is a Presbyterian pastor who comes from Rochester, New York, for full-time study for the M. Phil. F. degree at ICS. He grew up in Toronto and stays part of the week near Toronto with his elderly parents.

Anthony and his wife Gail have been co-pastors in a team ministry in downtown Rochester, but Gail is now teaching at Colgate Rochester Divinity School there – where ICS doctoral candidate Richard Middleton is a colleague. For some time Anthony has wanted to do something academic, more theoretical. Nagging questions have come up in his inner-city ministry, with issues like justice for deprived people in the focus. He heard about ICS by reading the Goudzwaard and de Lange book *Beyond Poverty and Affluence*.

Working at ICS especially with Sylvia Keesmaat in biblical hermeneutics, Anthony has also enjoyed courses with Paul Marshall and now with Jonathan Chaplin. He has written a chapter titled “A Resting Place for the Dove: Jubilee and Creation” for the book *Making a New Beginning: Biblical Reflections on Jubilee*, published by the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative. His special interest is in social justice as identified in the biblical text, and what he’d really like is to find employment in the area of social justice.

Anthony holds the MA degree from Victoria University in Toronto, and his seminary degree is from Princeton Theological Seminary. He also spent a year studying in Strassbourg, France.

Inter-Varsity worker studies philosophy of science



Eva Sham is the first part-time student in ICS history working for the M. Phil. F. degree – made possible by a recent change in ICS policy. She is working in the area of philosophy of science.

Eva had never considered philosophy to be an attractive area of study. But various circumstances led her to ICS in the fall of 1996 to begin exploring the integration of faith and learning. Studying at ICS during the 1996-97 academic year was possible because of a nine-month sabbatical leave given by her employer, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. She had served for ten years as a university campus staff worker.

Her studies in the philosophy of science are guided by Vaden House and supplemented by undergraduate courses in the philosophy of science at the University of Toronto. She has also enjoyed studies with Robert Sweetman and Hendrik Hart. Following her first degree in general science at the University of Toronto, Eva worked as a medical technologist and also obtained the Master of Theological Studies degree at Tyndale Seminary (formerly Ontario Theological Seminary) in 1986. She finds her ICS philosophical courses to be especially helpful in dealing with issues of faith, science and learning. Eva works with graduate students and faculty at York University and the University of Toronto at Scarborough. Having lived in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and San Francisco, she has made Toronto her home since 1969.

Vandervelde participates in exciting WCC Assembly

Senior Member George Vandervelde had the marvellous experience of attending the eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in December. He represented the World Evangelical Fellowship and was also an official observer for the Christian Reformed Church.



The Assembly celebrated 50 years since the WCC was founded, and the Jubilee

theme was reflected in exuberant celebration in worship and in various special events. The Jubilee theme included attention to the movement to forgive some of the heavy debt of the poorest nations of the world, following the biblical call to jubilee every fifty years.

A problem for the World Council is the restlessness of the Orthodox Church members, who are threatening to discontinue their membership. Since Roman Catholics have never been members of the WCC, if the Orthodox leave, only the Protestants would be left. The Orthodox are unhappy about Western leadership emphases on women in church leadership, homosexuality, and the greater democracy in making decisions than Orthodox leaders are accustomed to.

Being immersed in the African scene of exuberant joy, heart-wrenching poverty and ruthless leadership was a powerful experience for Vandervelde. He talked, for example, with Christian women from Rwanda and the Congo, whose positive attitude was humbling. President Nelson Mandela made a surprise appearance. He thanked the WCC for its financial support in the 1970s to armed resistance movements dedicated to the overthrow of white regimes in Africa, the most controversial action the WCC ever took. Mandela said that without this help he would not have been able to stand before them today.



(Above) South African President Nelson Mandela in conversation with Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe. (Below) A typical study session at the WCC meetings in Harare.



January course gets inside world religions

by George Vandervelde

A careful analysis and close heart-to-heart encounter with other world religions was the aim of an exciting January Interim course at ICS. Our visiting authority for the course was Dr. Hendrik Vroom of the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, and his book *Religions and Truth* was the textbook. Two Institute professors, Hendrik Hart and I, joined Vroom in leading the course.

But we also had the unusual privilege of having flesh-and-blood representatives of the Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim faiths come to the class for one day each. The Jewish guest was not able to come because of Toronto's record-breaking snowstorm. Our close interaction with these religious scholars brought the words of the textbook right up from the pages.

The discussions were fascinating and multifaceted. By focusing on the concept of truth, Vroom demonstrated that every religion, even supposedly non-doctrinal religions, hold some teachings as basic. Despite its variegated forms, for example, Buddhists are united in the belief that there is only one reality, one world. There is no other reality, no transcendent being, whom we call God. The example of Buddhism also demonstrates another thesis of Vroom's book: a person cannot hold that the major world religions are merely different paths to the same ultimate reality. To believe that all religions are on the same path violates the uniqueness of each religion. The nature and degree of difference among the religions varies, of course, depending on their histories. For example, the three "religions of the book," Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, inevitably display family resemblances.

The students especially liked the way the course brought together author, text, and people who practice these religions. This combination made the academic study come alive for them. As one student put it, the conceptual analysis enabled him to keep enough distance to criticize, while the presence of people who live another religion called for respect and trust of that person.

We also dealt with the question of the relation between dialogue, a respectful, mutual listening, and also mutual witness between Christianity and other religions.

The Institute wouldn't be the Institute if questions didn't arise regarding the approach of our textbook: Is it appropriate to approach other religions by way of the concept of truth? Do we do justice to the religions, including our own, if we try to describe them in as neutral a way as we can, recognizing that a religion is a reality that is lived out?

These kinds of issues gave rise to lively discussions among all the participants, not least of whom, of course, was Hendrik Vroom.

The snowstorm couldn't help being part of the course. Often the class didn't start on time, and on one troublesome day some professors and students – and our Jewish guest – couldn't even come. But the snow doesn't have the last word – we've rescheduled the Jewish visitor for a lecture at ICS on a snow-less day.



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By focusing on the concept of truth, Vroom demonstrated that every religion, even supposedly non-doctrinal religions, hold some teachings as basic.
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EVENTS 99

Symposia Series at ICS

Thursday, March 11, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Louis Groarke, Professor of Political and Social Philosophy, Humber College
The Good Rebel and the Meaning of Freedom: What's wrong with liberal notions of personal autonomy

Friday, March 19, 10:00 - 12:00 PM

William Sweet, Associate Professor of Philosophy, St. Francis Xavier University
Religious Belief and Community

Thursday, April 15, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Clarence Joldersma, Associate Professor of Education, Calvin College
Pedagogy of the Other: A Levinasian reading of Paulo Freire's pedagogy, a pedagogical reading of the Levinasian other

Jesus, the Gospels, and radical discipleship

Workshop with Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat

Co-sponsored by the School of Lay Ministry, Anglican Diocese of Ontario

Saturday March 20, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

At Christ Church, Gananoque

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

Contact: Lisa Chisholm Smith

Email: chismith@ontario.anglican.ca

Phone: 613-544-4774 Ext.34 (leave a message)

Faith and Learning in Canadian Higher Education

With Heart & Mind Conference

May 13 - 15, 1999

Theme: *Faithful Teaching, Faithful Scholarship*

at Trinity Western University

Direct conference inquiries to:

Dr. H. Van Brummelen, Trinity Western University,
7600 Glover Road, Langley, BC V2Y 1Y1

Email: vanbrumm@twu.ca or

kbadley@connect.ab.ca

ICS/Wycliffe Summer Session

June 7-28

(Please see course listings on page 7)

For more information contact:

Summer Session Coordinator

John Franklin at 416-946-3528

or email franklin@ultratech.net

Art Talks!

The Ruth Memorial Series on the Arts & Culture

The Ruth Memorial Series on the Arts and Culture

“Art Talks - Do we listen?”

an illustrated talk led by Adrienne

Dengerink Chaplin, ICS Senior Member in Aesthetics
June 17, 8:00 - 9:30 P.M.

Sheraton Hall, Wycliffe College, 5 Hoskins Ave.,
Toronto

Admission is free; voluntary donations accepted in support of the ICS Aesthetics Program

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EVENTS 99

(Continued from page 5)

Through a Glass Brightly: Arts and the Gospel Summer Festival

June 14 - 25, 1999

Co-sponsored by Imago, Wycliffe and ICS

Featuring talks by **Dr. Jeremy Begbie**

Workshop/Seminars on Drama, Visual Arts, Film, Dance.

June 25

Arts performance evening

at the Glenn Gould Studio, Toronto

For more info contact the Festival Director:

John Franklin at 416-946-3528 or

email franklin@ultratech.net

Leadership in Christian Education

Summer Course* For Teachers in July 1999

Instructor: **Dr. Doug Blomberg**

Call ICS for more details

* (Application in process with OCSTA for credit toward the CSTC.)

Colour Outside The Lines: Imagination And Art In God's World

(a shared conference theme for the Alberta and Ontario summer conferences)

Keynote Speakers:

Calvin Seerveld: *Ordinary Aesthetic Life: humour, taste, style, imagination*

Adrienne Chaplin: *Looking at Art as Learning to Listen: a biblical approach*

ICS Alberta Family Conference

July 30 - August 2, 1999

Deer Valley Meadows (near Lacombe)

Conference Registrar:

Elizabeth Kroon Van Der Vinne,

Phone: 780-454-6030

Email: epak@telusplanet.net

ICS Ontario Summer Conference

August 6 - 9, 1999

Maple Grove Christian Retreat Center (near Ingersoll)

For more information on ICS events please contact:

Connie Kuipers

Conference and Communications Coordinator

at 416-979-2331 x225 or ckuipers@icscanada.edu

faculty activities



Robert Sweetman spoke for the Graduate Christian Fellowship, University of Toronto, on "We Knew It All Along: Women, Power and Some Old Christian Stories." In February he delivered a series of addresses in Edmonton, Alberta. For ICS members he spoke on "Fencing (With) Reformational Goods." For the Christian Reformed chaplaincy at the University of Alberta the topic was "Medieval Mystics in the 'New Age': What Can We Learn From Strangers?"

He led a discussion in a psychology class at The King's University College on "Mind and Body in the History of Christian Thought." During the Sundays of Lent in March Sweetman gave a series of four talks on Julian of Norwich for the Adult Education Series at the First Christian Reformed Church of Toronto. He gave a Lenten talk on "Hildegard of Bingen and the Sorrows of Christian Living" for the (Anglican) Church of the Redeemer in Toronto, and a talk for the Lenten Series at St. Thomas Anglican Church of Toronto titled "Of Mary, Martha and the Mystical Way."

During January, **Doug Blomberg** presented keynote addresses to the Stapleford Centre conference for Christian teachers in Derbyshire, England. His titles were "Paideia: Playing the Presence of God" and "A Problem-posing Pedagogy: Paths of Pleasantness and Peace."

He also presented a paper on wisdom and schooling to the Department of History and Philosophy of Education at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and another entitled "From Duality to Plurality in Australian Schooling" at the Education and Ethos Network Conference for religiously affiliated educational institutions in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Blomberg returned to Australia for five months in February, taking up his new role as Academic Dean of the National Institute for Christian Education.

Calvin Seerveld has contributed a chapter on using and interpreting the "Poetic Paragraphs in Proverbs" to a book published by CRC Publications in appreciation for the service of professor John Stek, now retired from Calvin Seminary.

A gift that gives great income

Maybe you are concerned that low interest rates will limit your retirement income and prevent you from making the donations you'd like. Consider a charitable gift annuity. It will give you good income, tax savings and gives a gift to ICS. Most of the income is tax-free. Consider these examples:

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Male, 75	7.5%
Female, 80	8.5%
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Contact ICS toll-free at 1-888-326-5347 or 416-979-2331 and ask for Mike den Haan (ext. 229) or John Meiboom (ext. 224)

Or contact Henry Eygenraam at



Christian Stewardship Services

1-800-267-8890 or 905-947-9262

Nine years of dedicated service to ICS

by John Meiboom

Tia Spencer arrived at ICS in the summer of 1989 to study at ICS in the Worldview program. As her year was winding up she applied for and was hired at ICS as administrative assistant to the President and the Vice-President of Administration. This was the beginning of nine years of service to the Institute in a wide variety of positions.

Tia has been a very flexible employee who enjoyed learning new jobs and was very quick at doing so. In 1991 the President charged her with organizing a major 25th anniversary academic conference. This conference, which drew 175 people from around the world, was a major success in many ways. Because Tia did such a wonderful job, she added Conference Coordination to her job title, and over 1994 and 1995 Tia took on the task of planning conferences, especially the Ontario Summer Conference.

In the beginning of 1996, Tia again changed her position at ICS. She had begun taking accounting courses and was appointed bookkeeper at ICS while ICS hired a new Conference Coordinator in an expanded role. She quickly became good at her new job and enjoyed the new challenges she was faced with. She claims that what she especially enjoyed was knowing that perfection was achieved when the books balanced.

Finally Tia also added the job of network administrator to her roles at ICS in the fall of 1997 when ICS had developed a computer network for the nearly twenty computer stations at ICS. Here her ability to solve problems has served ICS very well. Tia learned quickly, and over the past year or more our network has worked with hardly a problem – a remarkable feat.

Recently Tia joined the Executive Committee of the board for supper prior to one of their meetings. There she expressed her gratitude to ICS for the years of employment and thanked the board for working so hard at making ICS the good place that it is. The board also thanked her for her service, which she also rendered for the board directly by being recording secretary for semi-annual board meetings.

We will miss Tia for the important work contribution she made to many dimensions of ICS. But also we will miss her for her wit, her helpfulness of others when a deadline needed to be met and her sticking up for the underdog in various situations. ICS wishes Tia well as she takes up a new challenge in a new country. Tia will be working as store manager in the Christian community of Iona on the island of Iona in Scotland.



(Above, top) Hendrik Hart with Barbara Carvill
(Above) Doug Blomberg.

ICS Symposium Series

by Carroll Guen Hart

So far this year we have enjoyed four speakers in our ICS Symposium Series. In November **Jim Leach**, an ICS doctoral student in aesthetics, spoke about "Artistic obedience as a matter of policy: The case of a Christian community theatre." He addressed a group of aesthetics students from Calvin College.

In December **Doug Blomberg**, Senior Member in Philosophy of Education, explored with us the faith commitments found in different teaching strategies. After examining rationalism

(the imbibing of pre-digested theory) and romanticism (teaching as unconstrained and untraditioned), he pointed us toward a "problem-posing" pedagogy which is the exploration of a normed problem-space. He urged us to acknowledge and value the creative ambiguity of such learning, in which the inside of the learner is mixed with what is outside.

In January **Lambert Zuidervaart**, Professor of Philosophy from Calvin College, utilized two critical theorists, Theodor Adorno and Christoph Menke, to examine the social significance of art, particularly its ability to enact both a critique of existing society and a transformative vision of what society could be like. He pressed us to see that such art must have its own autonomy, and that this in turn depends on the presence of arts institutions within a nonprofit or cooperative counter-economy and their functioning within a genuinely public sphere.

Most recently, **Barbara Carvill**, Professor of German at Calvin College, spoke on "strangers and hospitality" as a Christian rationale for teaching and learning foreign languages. She suggested to us that the goal ought not to be producing native speakers (we have enough of those) but rather "good strangers" who can experience the gift of strangeness and ask good questions.

We look forward to three more symposium speakers this spring.

ICS/Wycliffe Summer Session

Fully accredited courses, open also to the public for audit (3 hours daily)

For more information contact:
Summer Session Coordinator
John Franklin at 416-946-3528
or email franklin@ultratech.net

COURSE TITLE	PROFESSOR	DATES
The Message of the Messiah	Rebecca Idestrom	June 14 - 25
Salvation as Liberation in Paul	Terry Donaldson	June 7 - 28
Priest and professional: Reshaping Clerical Identity in the Wake of the Industrial Revolution	Carroll Guen Hart	June 7 - 18
Theology and Medical Ethics	Eric Beresford	June 7 - 18
An Introduction to Global Christianity	Grant LeMarquand	tentative
Faithful Imagination: Art in Worship, Mission and Society (in conjunction with Summer Festival)	Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin	June 14 - 25

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GREAT NEW BOOKS FROM ICS

Through the Waters: Christian Schooling as a City of Refuge by Calvin Seerveld \$4.00	\$ _____
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