

PERSPECTIVE

Institute for Christian Studies

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News from the
graduate Institute
for Christian
Studies

CONVOCATION

Celebrating the 30th birthday of ICS

by Robert VanderVennen

At a book publication party and at the annual academic convocation the ICS celebrated its thirty years of existence as a graduate school. The general feeling was one of awe and thanksgiving.

Those attending the convocation had the feeling that God has upheld the ICS like a small boat on a stormy sea. Senior Member **Hendrik Hart**, one of the speakers reflecting on the Institute's history, said, "Thanks be to God. We've survived against all odds. ICS is a fragile creature

from government, church and big business money. This has always added a unique challenge to the life of ICS, he noted. Schrottenboer went on to become the first paid staff member of ICS.

Marinus Koole, an early supporter and chair of the board in the 1970s, spoke movingly of praying together at 141 Lyndhurst Street, the Institute's first home. He remembered the unique contributions of **Bernard Zylstra**, who died ten years ago, and he was happy that the board and staff included more than academic persons.

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(Above, Right) The first Executive Director, Paul Schrottenboer addresses the audience flanked by President Harry Fernhout and Senior Member Hendrik Hart.

sustained by God's hands." The fact of our many flaws makes God's astounding blessings all the more awesome, he said.

A highlight of the convocation was the presence of the first Executive Director, **Paul Schrottenboer**, who has lost a leg through cancer surgery. He recalled being invited in the mid-1950s to help start the Institute. The aim was to engage in *foundational* Christian studies, he emphasized, to "bring every thought captive to Christ." ICS was to be a "free" school, he said, meaning free from government, business interests, church and other outside forces. But that has also meant being free

Aukje Masselink Wonnacott, board member for many years, recalled joining others in the Fall of 1953 for the study of Dooyeweerd (in the Dutch language), long before the Institute started. Later came Saturday sessions of teachers learning about John Dewey's philosophy from Hendrik Hart, she recalled.

Ed Piers, chemist on the faculty of the University of British Columbia, has served on the Board of Trustees or the ICS Senate for 20 years, he recalled. A turning point in his life was participat-

(Continued on page 3)



(Having occupied this space in Perspective for 8 years, I am pleased to make room for a "guest appearance" by my predecessor, Dr. Clifford Pitt, as he shares reflections prepared for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the opening of ICS. HF)

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And in the background, there has always been a handful of our company who gave ICS massive infusions of financial assistance at critical moments. But just as important as the major donors is the whole host of ICS supporters across the continent who have written cheques or dropped to their knees on our behalf.
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Give thanks!

What shall we thank God for, as we gather for this happy, solemn celebration of the first thirty years of the Institute for Christian Studies? I thank God first for what characterizes ICS: academic strength marinated in the love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance of the Holy Spirit. These two strengths are essential; if either one is missing, ICS might as well fold its tents and fade away. While our academic excellence is a large part of our uniqueness, it is risky, too. May the spiritual strength of individual faculty members, and of the community as a whole, characterize us most of all.

But academic excellence has its important place. The Institute has always said to potential students, "This is one university-level institution where you don't have to leave at the door either your intelligence or your Christian faith. It is possible to keep both at the very heart of your university studies.

Let me emphasize the academic power of ICS in three ways:

- (i) it is tremendous that the faculty has produced such a substantial array of research publications, many of them skilfully nursed through the publishing process by Robert VanderVennen;
- (ii) by engaging in dialogue, as equals, with top-level professors, our faculty have brought an articulate Christian perspective, without apology, to the wider academic world;
- (iii) a massive potential influence of the Institute is found in the scores of graduates who now occupy professorships in universities and colleges – both Christian and secular all over the world, or who hold positions of leadership in various divinely significant organizations.

So first and foremost, I thank God for our faculty. In fact, they are the Institute! We think of: dear Henk Hart and Jim Olthuis, with Henk starting with the Institute 30 years ago and Jim but a year later; of gentle George Vandervelde and Paul Marshall who each give leadership in planet-wide Christian councils. I give thanks for Brian Walsh who so developed the Worldview Studies program that the Ministry of Colleges and Universities agreed that it warranted a Master's degree, the first Master of Worldview Studies on this planet. (I like this "planet" stuff even if it does bring a tolerant smile to Harry Fernhout's lips, and yours. You would have a hard time trying to prove to me that the Institute's ministry is not designed "for this terrestrial ball.")

As I think of the faculty, I am also especially thankful for Harry Fernhout who rides two horses: forward-looking President and leader in Christian education. And then, of course, there is Cal Seerveld, in a class all by himself – which is what he prefers in his disciplined "don't interrupt me" working mode.

And then, behind the scenes, thank God for a

competent, dedicated administrative staff: for Bob VanderVennen, for Margaret Schoemaker, for Kathy Vanderkloet and then Dorothe Rogers, for Aileen Van Ginkel, and Carol-Ann Veenkamp, for Harry Kits and Adrianna Pierik, who have each graduated to greater responsibilities elsewhere, for gracious Ross Mortimer, for the leaders like Runner, Zylstra and Fernhout. ICS has been singularly blessed in its academic and administrative staff.

I have remembered here only those I knew personally. Surely you will join me in thanking God for the counterparts, past and current, of those I have named.

And in the background, there has always been a handful of our company who gave ICS massive infusions of financial assistance at critical moments. I once told a major donor, "ICS needs a few angels to carry it financially, and you are one of them!" But just as important as the major donors is the whole host of ICS supporters across the continent who have written cheques or dropped to their knees on our behalf. Put most simply: ICS could not live without you. Look out for the blessings!! God is determined to be no man's debtor.

I think I shall never forget the warmth with which ICS members received me as President. And I want to take this opportunity to thank you one and all for the wonderfully memorable evening you gave me on my retirement from ICS.

I thank God very much, too, for those who have given sanctified leadership on the Board of Trustees and Senate. I think of Peter Schouls, who led the Senate with a graciousness and yet a studied efficiency greater than any I have seen in any other academic context. I think of marvellous people like solid-gold Wietse Posthumus who straightened out the tangled tenant leases at 229 College Street, of ubiquitous Aukje Masselink-Wonnacott organizing the Ontario Family conference and benign Herman Praamsma chairing it, and of driving Fred Reinders who determinedly stuck with us through thick and thin until the building was fully refurbished.

Above all, if this is to be a thanksgiving with any real intelligence or depth, I thank God for His blessing over all these thirty years. Whatever of good there has been has been His work alone. Jeremiah 29:11 declares: "For I know the plans I have for you, saith the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." The small group that inspired the AACCS had a vision of a Christian university. What happened to those plans? They became the Institute for Christian Studies. But you ain't seen nothing yet! God has plans for you!

Sincerely, and with no little affection,

Clifford C. Pitt

30th Birthday

(Continued from page 1)

ing in a summer course 1970 with Hart working toward a Christian philosophy of science. He celebrated ICS's excellent and highly committed faculty.

Janet Wesselius, who is finishing her doctoral studies at ICS, pointed out that Junior Members like herself receive unique privileges at ICS. For instance, they have mentors, not supervisors, who help them grow in the community of scholars.

Carroll Guen Hart, who now directs ICS's Worldview Studies Program, was earlier drawn to study at ICS because she saw it was addressing the question, "What difference does your Christian faith make in your academic and professional life?" She said she is amazed that through the ICS and its sister reformational organizations people receive the self-confidence to address a question like this which is both exciting and frightening because it lies so close to the meaning of life itself.

Clifford Pitt, former president of ICS, was deeply sorry he could not participate in the convocation, but sent a written message which was read by ICS president Harry Fernhout. Pitt said he thanks God for the academic power of ICS, seen through its research publications and dialogue with scholars from other universities throughout the world. He reminded us that academic excellence is dangerous without the spiritual strength that comes from the Holy Spirit. His written remarks are printed in this issue under "From the President".

The litany of praise and thanksgiving, prayers and communal songs filled hearts with awe at God's goodness. The reception that followed was a rich time of acknowledging the contributions of many who were present, people who made major contributions of service to ICS over 30 years.

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May the spiritual strength of individual faculty members, and of the community as a whole, characterize us most of all.
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Janet Wesselius



Janet Wesselius

Students receive master's degrees

At the annual fall academic convocation three especially gifted junior members at ICS received the degree of Master of Philosophical Foundations.

Hamish Robertson is a photographic artist who came to ICS with his family from Scotland in 1992. They had previously lived in Russia where Hamish had just finished a research project for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on the subject of film in Russia. To work at ICS on his dilemma whether photography is more art than science, he delved deeply into philosophy with the help of Calvin Seerveld. He received his degree "with distinction" for a thesis which is an imaginative contribution to the study of aesthetics, said Seerveld.

Julie Robinson, a native of Ottawa, studied philosophical theology with James Olthuis after her high school education at Redeemer Christian High School in Ottawa and her bachelor's degree from Gordon College. In her thesis on Mark Taylor she "ponders deeply about life and human existence," said Olthuis. She asks the right and hard questions in her impressive thesis, and Olthuis used words like "deftly, adroitly, compactly and with finesse" to describe her work.

David Smith is a teacher of foreign languages from England who came to Toronto with his wife Julia and their children in 1995. He is a graduate of Merton College, Oxford, and studied for one year at the University of Nottingham. He studied philosophical theology and the philosophy of education

A family portrait (from left, top row), James Olthuis, George Vandeveld, Calvin Seerveld, Paul Marshall, (bottom row), Sylvia Keesmaat, Marcille Frederick, Bob Sweetman, Harry Fernhout, Hendrik Hart, Vaden House, and Carroll Guen Hart.

(Left) M. Phil. graduates (from left) David Smith, Julie Robinson, Hamish Robertson

at ICS, focusing on power and mutuality in the teaching of modern foreign language. His thesis contains an articulate plea for Christian teaching, says Olthuis, his mentor. He now has a position doing research and teaching in England at Stapleford House, and he has been accepted into the doctoral program at the University of London, where he reports that his ICS degree was accepted at full value.

faculty activities



A hymn that **Marcille Frederick** has written, "Praising God the Quilter," has been selected for distribution by The Hymnal Subscription Service.



James Olthuis attended with some junior members the Religion and Postmodernism Conference at Villanova University, Pennsylvania, in September. He gave a paper titled "Good Returns and Intentional Gifts?" at the annual conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy at the University of Kentucky in October.

In November, again with a number of junior members, Olthuis attended a conference on the philosophy of Julia Kristeva at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. He also participated in a panel discussion at the Third Annual "Rendez-

vous with Madness" conference in Toronto.



In October Emeritus Senior Member **Calvin Seerveld** participated in the annual conference of the Greek Union of Christian Artists in Thessaloniki, Greece. While there he was presented with a book prepared by the Union which consists of two of his essays translated into the modern Greek language. The title of one of the essays, which is also the title of the book, is "The Halo of Human Imagination." The other essay is a translation into Greek of a 1984 interview of Seerveld with Nancy Pearcey (ICS alumna 1983-84) introducing Seerveld's book *Rainbows for the Fallen World*. The Preface to the book is written by ICS alumnus (M.W.S. 1994) Phaidon Kaloterakis. The book contains 21 full-page illustrations, 13 of them in colour. If you can read modern Greek (or wish to have the book to decorate your shelf) you can order a copy from ICS for \$15.

In Greece Seerveld directed a performance of *The Greatest Song* at the conference and also at a theatre in downtown Thessaloniki. It was performed in modern Greek with Kaloterakis singing the role of the Schulammite's lover.

The Christian Teacher's Journal in Australia published in its September issue a newly edited transcript of an earlier interview with Seerveld by Kay McLennan, which had been aired by the national Australian Broadcasting Commission. Seerveld has contributed articles on "Adornment" and "Games" for *The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity*, edited by Robert Banks and Paul Stevens, published by InterVarsity Press.



Carroll Guen Hart attended a conference on "Education for Social Transformation" in Winnipeg.

In October she attended a Consultation for Reformed institutions and presented a proposal for a June, 1998 conference on institutional transformation within the Reformed tradition. As a member of the board of Homes First Society Carroll has been active in restructuring that organization in light of major cuts from the provincial government.

Paul Marshall continues to receive enormous media coverage for his recent book on the worldwide persecution of Christians. He has recently appeared on television on the Alan



Keyes Show, for 100 Huntley Street and on

Vision TV. Articles about him or featuring his book have appeared this Fall in more than 20 newspapers and magazines. He has written "What Can We Do About Persecution?" for the Nov/Dec issue of *New Man*. After August he has spoken a total of 16 times for ICS community meetings and at universities and churches.

David Smith offers symposium on "Christian Teaching Method"

While back in Toronto from England to defend his thesis for the M. Phil. F. degree, **David Smith** led a symposium for about 20 people on the topic, "Is the idea of a Christian teaching method inherent nonsense?"

He reviewed two extremes of opinion: that God has directly given us a teaching method we should use, and that there is no connection between religious faith and teaching methods. He examined the theories of various educators active in this area, and explained that his own research is focused on speaking to these theories from within the discipline of applied linguistics. He is not sympathetic with "scientific" research methods which result in a step by step methodology which is the same for all learners. He rejects the idea of value-neutrality in education.

Smith's tentative conclusion is that teaching techniques arise both from the teacher's Christian belief and also from the experience of the classroom. A teaching method can rest on good beliefs but can lack creativity and fail miserably. There is not a simple connection between good beliefs and good teaching. Teaching is an art rooted in one's beliefs about the nature of the person and of the world.

Hart appointed Academic Dean

Hendrik Hart was appointed for three years to the position of Academic Dean at the recent meetings of the ICS Senate and Trustees. He adds this to his duties as Director of the Doctoral Program.

As Dean, Hart will work with President Harry Fernhout to supervise the academic work of ICS, give leadership to the Academic Council of senior and junior members, and be the liaison between the



Council and the Senate. He will teach three half-year courses each year instead of four, and is relieved from all committee assignments.

For this position Hart was interviewed by both the Academic Council and the Senate. He told each body that he would like to try to improve certain areas of

academic administration that need attention and to facilitate the full leadership of the rising generation of faculty members at ICS. He also wishes to help improve pedagogical effectiveness and assist faculty members in preparing their work for publication.

Vandervelde invited to a Vatican Synod



George Vandervelde has been honoured by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops with an invitation to participate as a fraternal delegate in the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops being held in Rome from November 16 to December 12. The delegation from Canada consists of 15

people, including ten bishops.

The preliminary discussion paper for the Synod invited reactions to a series of questions. Vandervelde responded with an article published in the Canadian journal *Ecumenism/Oecuménisme* in which he examines the ecumenical dimensions of issues presented in the paper. This article, as well as his other writings on church unity and his practical ecumenical work, led to his invitation.

The Synod is called to discuss aspects of the church's presence in the American continents under the general theme "Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ: The Way to Conversion, Communion and Solidarity in America." Issues discussed in the preliminary paper for the conference by Jan P. Cardinal Schotte include: principles to be followed in proclaiming the Gospel, the relationship between culture and the Gospel, conversion to Jesus Christ in the Americas, inter-religious dialogues and other religious movements, and the use made by the Church of social doctrine dealing with the great challenges of the Americas (poverty, international debt, the culture of death, etc.).

Vandervelde is attending the Synod for about two of its four weeks.

Book party celebrates 30 years at ICS

by Robert VanderVennen

Book publishing has been a central outreach service of ICS for all its lifetime, so in October an evening was organized to celebrate book publishing since 1960. Especially impressive at the celebration were the large tables covered with many of the books that have been published, in a real sense offered there as praise and service to God. At the event I presented an overview of the history of ICS book publishing, James Olthuis talked about the new book *Knowing Other-Wise*, and Paul Marshall talked about his new book *Their Blood Cries Out*.

Book publishing started already in 1960 by the people who were in the process of starting ICS. Glenn Andreas published the papers given at the 1959 Unionville (Ontario) Conference (a conference activity which, though changed in form, has continued to the present). The papers from a growing number of conferences were published throughout the 1960s, with bold covers by graphic artist Willem Hart, who continues designing covers for ICS books till this day.

In 1970 the ICS set up a separate academic publisher, Wedge Publishing Foundation. Robert Carvill came to the staff to direct book publishing as well as the production of *Vanguard* magazine. During the troubled decade of its active existence, Wedge published 36 books. Some of them were very significant, like Bob Goudzwaard's *Aid for the Overdeveloped West*, Kalsbeek's *Contours of a Christian Philosophy*, *Labour of Love*, which was published in collaboration with the Christian Labour Association of Canada, Dooyeweerd's *Roots of Western Culture*, M.D. Stafleu's *Time and Again*, and the books on technology by Egbert Schuurman.

In 1983 the ICS was able to set up a co-publishing arrangement with University Press of America. In that arrangement 23 books have been published to date, most of them based on ICS research or academic conferences held at ICS.

Many books have been published from ICS work apart from these publishers. We think of James Olthuis's books on troth, Calvin Seervelds's books *Rainbows for the Fallen World* and *On Being Human*, papers edited by George Vandervelde from the ICS conference on the Holy Spirit, the worldview books written by Al Wolters and by Brian Walsh and Richard Middleton, Paul Marshall's books, especially his recent book on worldwide persecution of Christians, and Hendrik Hart's *Setting our Sights by the Morning Star*.

Most of our books have not recorded large sales, but they have established a worldwide reputation for ICS. They continue to be a good outlet for creative ideas from ICS, and they are one way in which it is fulfilling its mandate for the "advancement of Christian scholarship."

Carvill award

At the ICS academic convocation president Harry Fernhout announced that the book *Knowing Other-wise: Philosophy at the Threshold of Spirituality*, edited by James Olthuis, has been designated the Robert Lee Carvill Memorial Book for 1997.

The book arose from interdisciplinary research at ICS, and is a response to the crisis of reason in modernity. Its central thrust is that reason is not the only way of knowing, that knowing the "other," the God of us all, is a key part of knowing.

Another important feature of the book is that, through the efforts of Olthuis, it is published by a reputable university press, Fordham University Press. This is evidence that the academic community is interested in the kind of philosophical study done at ICS, and that it considers ICS scholarship worth wide attention.

A special feature of the book is that some of its chapters are written by ICS graduate students and others by faculty members. In this way it expresses the communal nature of scholarship at ICS, where Junior Members and Senior Members work together.

The Carvill Award is made annually to the book published from ICS research work which best shows the ideals of work at the Institute, said Fernhout.

Fernhout noted especially Olthuis's dedication in the book: "Gratefully dedicated to the faithful who have made the ICS possible. Without their support, this book would have been impossible."

Doctoral student has wide international experience



Peter Noteboom, a second year doctoral student at ICS, moved to Canada with his family last year. He has lived for three years in China, four and a half years in Belgium and four and a half years in West Africa, divided between Liberia and Niger. He was born and raised in the United

States, in northwest Iowa. He is studying political theory at ICS.

Peter has a bachelor's degree from Dordt College and a master's degree from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, where he has also been manager of the Management Centre of its China-Europe Institute. His most recent activities have been in development and disaster relief for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC).

The research program he is planning for his doctoral dissertation is a study of the Christian Democratic movement in Europe in the 1930s. He's hoping that Vrije Universiteit professor Henk Woldring will be his research supervisor next year.

Right now Peter is preparing to teach a one-week course in December for CRWRC in Senegal, West Africa, on development education and leadership training. Next semester he will be teaching a course in international relations at Redeemer College. In May Peter went with Paul Marshall on a fact-finding tour in China, where Peter was the Chinese-language interpreter.

Peter is married to Jeanette Romkema, who is working on a doctorate in education at OISE-University of Toronto. They have two children, Reuben who is four, and Jude who is two.

A Ukrainian Christian with a social conscience



Yana Filippenko came to ICS this year from Zaporozhye, Ukraine, a city of 1 million people. She learned of Paul Marshall's important work on human rights, and decided she would like to study with him. She began learning English in school already at age 7. Five years ago she was an exchange

student for a year at St. Stephens University, an evangelical Christian university in New Brunswick. She graduated from the local university in Ukraine with emphases in linguistics, literature and methods of teaching.

Yana became a Christian at age 16, at a troubled time in her life. At that difficult time she came to feel the love and gentleness of Jesus. The religious viewpoint at ICS fits her exactly, she says, a viewpoint she has felt strongly already in the Ukraine.

Yana has a strong social conscience, and she is very concerned about the downhill slide of life in the Ukraine. Factories have closed, her father at age 50 has been unemployed for a year and a half and has no prospects of work. People tell her that this is a temporary time of transition. So she wants to prepare herself to make a contribution to the rebuilding of Ukraine, to help people who are most vulnerable.

Already she has met Ukrainians in Toronto who share her passion for helping to make improvements in Ukrainian life. The study of social policy will be of help, she feels. "I am interested in cooperation with people who share my concerns for the Ukrainian nation," she says, "and who are interested in making a contribution to the development of Ukraine as a nation."

Yana was married not long before she left home for Canada, and she hopes that her husband will be able to join her soon.

ICS
events

Art Talks!

The Ruth Memorial Series
on the Arts & Culture

An evening with award-winning Canadian author **Rudy Wiebe** March 13, 1998 7:30 P.M. Location to be announced.

Christianity and Learning Lectures

Presented by **Dr. Ursula Franklin**: February 11 and 12, 1998 7:30 P.M. Professor Emerita of the University of Toronto and first female professor of Metallurgy and Engineering at the University. Author of the Massey Lectures in 1990 entitled *The Real World of Technology*. Location to be announced.

To find out more:

- Check for updates on our website: <http://icscanada.edu>
- Contact: **Connie Kuipers**, Conference and Communications Coordinator. Email: ckuipers@icscanada.edu Phone: 416-979-2331

Marshall leaves ICS for work on human rights

by Harry Fernhout

To our great regret Paul Marshall has informed us that at the end of the current academic year he will be leaving us to take up full-time work "in the theoretical and empirical issues involved in religious freedom and persecution."

He says that as recently as March 1996 he had not even thought of writing the book titled *Their Blood Cries Out*. Now the work on religious persecution has opened up for him with such force that he feels it necessary to spend his full time on it starting next summer.

The Institute is committed to continuing its research and teaching in political theory, and is immediately advertising that the position is open to

applicants. We are confident that there are quality scholars available to take up the challenge of working in this field at ICS, continuing the tradition of Marshall and Bernard Zylstra.

Marshall has given us this early indication of his intentions so we can take steps to recruit a successor. While he does not yet have a firm commitment to a position, he is likely to be engaged in practical research for organizations such as Freedom House, perhaps the oldest U.S. human rights organization.

Marshall's leaving will create a very large gap in the ICS program. His scholarship is widely respected and his broad contacts and involvements have served ICS very well. We will surely miss him.

ICS art show draws appreciation

Farcycle: Recycling Material, Images and Preconceptions" is a current exhibition at ICS of the work of seven younger artists, curated by **Ruth Kerkham**, ICS graduate student in aesthetics.

Many of the materials used in the show are the old, the used and the already seen. Like juice cans, the pile of magazines on your coffee table, the beads around your neck. But by shuffling the cards the artists play a modest trick and present the farcical face of a joker.

The art works are fresh, striking and make you think twice. In addition to Kerkham the show includes art from **Chris Cuthill**, **Alan Broombridge**, **Jeanette Roinkema**, **Shawn M. Stovell**, **Andrea Vander Kooij** and **Jonathan Weverink**.

New graduate students come from far and near

Eleven new full-time junior members are a fascinating mix which show the worldwide influence of ICS.

Kevin O'Brien, a graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, is a doctoral student with James Olthuis. **Kanji Fuki**, of Japanese origin, has returned to ICS after an absence of a few years, and is also working for the Ph.D. with Olthuis in philosophical theology.

The following students are in the Master of Philosophical Foundations degree program. Working on systematic philosophy with Hendrik Hart are **Michael Kelly** of Ottawa and **Jonathan Weverink** of Exeter, Ontario, a graduate of Redeemer College. Studying theology with Olthuis are **Henry Friesen** of Manitoba, **Dong Wook Kim** of Toronto and **Joshua Lam**, a Toronto minister.

Combining philosophy with political science in the M. Phil. F. program are **Juma Ogeke**, a minister from Noordburg, South Africa and **Yana Filippenko** of the Ukraine.

Edwin Baan of the Netherlands is studying philosophy and theology with Hart and Olthuis. **Anthony Ricciuti**, a Presbyterian minister from Rochester, New York, is in the Worldview Studies program with Carroll Guen Hart.

Altogether the Institute has 31 full-time and six part-time students this year. We thank God for these graduate students and ask for your prayers in support of them.

educational services



by Robert VanderVennen

ICS book on the social philosophy of Rorty

Ronald Kuipers, doctoral student at ICS, has published in our series with University Press of America a lucid study of Richard Rorty's effort to put human thought in the service of the many problems we face at the close of the 20th century. Kuipers uses the biblical figure of the stranger to explore the ethical tension between an individualistic ethos and Rorty's evaluation of the liberal private-public dichotomy. The book deals seriously with the religious dimension of Rorty's thought.

Kuipers explores Rorty's peculiar appropriation of pragmatism and his rejection of philosophy as a foundational discipline or "superjudgment" of human cultural practice and belief. Kuipers is critical of Rorty's affirmation of a liberal political ethos.

The book ends by suggesting that perhaps an ethical openness to the excluded stranger is at the same time an openness to the transcendent grace of the infinite, an openness to God. Since Rorty does not completely lack such openness, his philosophy may be more religiously loaded than he, a self-proclaimed atheist, is prepared to admit.

You can buy this book from ICS for \$36.80.

alumni activities

David Smith has written the opening chapter "Facing the challenge of educational change" in the book *Agenda for Educational Change* published in 1997 by Inter-Varsity Press in England.

Bruce Wearne, an Australian alumnus (1974-75), has published a review of *Pledges of Jubilee: Essays on the Arts and Culture*

in Honor of Calvin G. Seerveld in *ACHE Update*, the newsletter of the Association for Christian Higher Education in Australia.

Nik Ansell (M. Phil. F. 1990) is writing curriculum material on Christian worldview and other topics for the accredited undergraduate-level theology course for lay readers and others for the Bath/Wells Anglican Diocese in England. Nik has taught this course last

year. Since October 1996 he has been the section editor of the Biblical Commentary page of the paper *Third Way*, having contributed three commentaries himself during that time.

A Gift that Returns Great Retirement Income

Have you, your parents, or your grandparents complained about low income due to exceptionally low interest rates? An excellent income for life is still possible with great tax savings and there can be a benefit for ICS as well!

Sample rates

AGE	RATE OF RETURN
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70	7.9%
75	8.7%

Note: On a \$10,000 annuity, a 70-year old woman will receive \$790 a year, of which only \$170 is taxable and \$620 is tax free!



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Henry Eygenraam, Executive Director
Christian Stewardship Services
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Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G8
(416)598-2181 **OR**
Mike den Haan,
Development Officer
ICS, 229 College St., Toronto,
Ont, Canada M5T 1R4
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BOOK SALE CELEBRATES ICS 30th ANNIVERSARY

ICS started as a graduate school in 1967, but the publishing of ICS books started already in 1960. To celebrate God's blessings we are offering at **half price** several books published over the years which we still have in stock. Check the books you want, divide the total in half, and when we get your order and cheque we'll send you the books.

I Pledge You My Troth , by James Olthuis	\$ 7.95	\$ _____
Keeping Our Troth , by James Olthuis. Faithfulness in marriage	\$14.95	\$ _____
On Being Human: Imaging God in the Modern World , by Calvin Seerveld. Biblical meditations, art, songs and prayers	\$ 7.95	\$ _____
The Holy Spirit: Renewing and Empowering Presence , George Vandervelde, ed.	\$13.95	\$ _____
Pledges of Jubilee: Essays on the Arts and Culture in Honor of Calvin G. Seerveld , L. Zuidervaart and H. Lutikhuizen, eds.	\$29.75	\$ _____
Search for Community in a Withering Tradition: Conversations between a Marxian Atheist and a Calvinian Christian , by Kai Nielsen and H. Hart	\$22.95	\$ _____
Notes Toward a Christian Critique of Secular Economic Theory , by A.B. Cramp, Cambridge University economist	\$2.00	\$ _____
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