

PERSPECTIVE

Institute for Christian Studies

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

TORONTO LIBRARY CANADA

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News from the
graduate Institute
for Christian
Studies

AGREEMENT

ICS signs academic agreement with the Toronto School of Theology

On May 28, 1999 the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Christian Studies approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Toronto School of Theology (TST), opening the door for extensive academic cooperation between the two institutions. Three days later the Board of Trustees of TST also approved this new agreement. TST Board chair John Bryan and Director Jean-Marc Laporte signed the Agreement of behalf of TST, while Board chair Ed Den Haan and president Harry Fernhout acted on behalf of ICS.

Den Haan expressed his delight with the agreement. "This is a very exciting development which holds great promise for ICS," he said. "For ICS, forming academic and other partnerships is a high priority. This agreement is a strong expression of that commitment."

Laporte shared Den Haan's enthusiasm. "I am delighted that TST has been able to conclude an agreement with ICS," he stated. "From the TST perspective, ICS represents another strand of our ecumenical Christian spectrum, with its own Reformed perspective and a lively tradition of scholarship. This agreement is a major step forward in realizing our mandate to promote dialogue and oneness between disciples of Jesus Christ in a complex and challenging world."

ICS president Fernhout echoed Den Haan's emphasis on partnerships. "As a free-standing graduate school ICS runs the risk of isolation," he explained. "This agreement gives us a structural link with a much larger institution, and will certainly enhance our recognition on the academic map. And our courses will now be open to hundreds of graduate students in TST programs."

Interchange of professors and courses

The stated purpose of the Agreement is to make it easy for structured academic interaction to take place between ICS and TST (see "Features of the Agreement"). ICS faculty are eligible to be cross-



(L.to r.) Board chair Ed Den Haan, President Harry Fernhout and TST Director Jean-Marc Laporte.

appointed as adjunct faculty of TST, provided they meet certain academic criteria. Once they are cross-appointed, their ICS courses will be listed in the TST course calendar. TST students will be able to take these ICS courses for TST credit, and ICS students will be able to take TST courses for ICS credit. ICS faculty are also eligible to participate in the supervision of master's and doctoral theses at TST.

"Time will tell how much 'academic traffic' there will be between TST and ICS," said Fernhout. "Considering the fact that TST has over a thousand graduate students, I expect that the majority of traffic will be in our direction. I'm really excited about the new avenues of service this opens up for us. And our link with TST should

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Putting feet on vision

In March ICS completed a year-long process of institutional review and renewal with an intensive one-day retreat (see John Hulst's report in this issue). One goal of the retreat was to draft a Vision Statement (below), a succinct summary of our hopes and aspirations for ICS for the next ten years. This is the working document which emerged from the retreat. It represents a broad consensus of members of the Board, administrative staff, Senate and faculty.

A good vision statement does not start from scratch – it reflects clear continuity with an institution's existing strengths. On the other hand, a vision statement must not just repeat the status quo, but should point the way to new ways of fulfilling an institution's mission.

Our Vision Statement unequivocally affirms the Institute's strengths as a graduate school engaged in *foundational* studies in the *reformational* tradition. But the Statement also clearly signals innovation: an intensified commitment to partnerships, creative ventures into distance education and electronic distribution of learning resources, and a greater emphasis on community service through (non-credit) continuing education, conferences, and research oriented to important cultural issues.

Is this Vision Statement realistic? Recently I gave our Strategic Planning Committee an inventory of current and planned activities related to the various parts of the Vision Statement. Let me share part of that inventory (phrases from the Vision Statement appear in italics):

- *forge enduring partnerships with academic and non-academic organizations*

ICS has an "enduring" doctoral studies partnership with the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

The new agreement with the Toronto School of Theology represents a very significant academic partnership

academic organizations

- globalize the reach of our programming by
 - offering innovative distance learning courses for credit and continuing education
 - producing and distributing scholarly resources by electronic and other means
- provide resources for reflective Christians by bringing biblical insights to bear on issues of cultural significance
- strengthen research

by appointing outstanding new faculty and enhancing our program of faculty development

- attract greater numbers of exceptional students
- upgrade computer resources and renew physical space
- secure needed fiscal resources.

In all its activities, ICS will demonstrate biblical faithfulness, sound cultural engagement and respect for diversity.

ICS continues to provide leadership in the Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education

In 1998 ICS became an affiliate of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities based in Washington, D.C.

- *globalize the reach of our programming by offering innovative distance learning courses for credit and continuing education*

In 1998 ICS signed an agreement with the National Institute for Christian Education (NICE) in Australia to offer, in North America, distance education courses for teachers developed by NICE

The ICS Board approved a proposal to have Vaden House work with faculty members to prepare one ICS course per semester for distance education on the internet.

- *globalize the reach of our programming by producing and distributing scholarly resources by electronic and other means*

In partnership with the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE), ICS is developing a service which will provide bibliographic information and actual documents (books and articles) to Christian scholars around the world who currently experience great difficulty getting their hands on basic resources.

- *provide resources for reflective Christians*
- My column in the March 1999 issue of *Perspective* provided a catalogue of the faculty's recent community service activities. The report on faculty activities in the current issue adds to this substantial list of activities designed to serve "reflective Christians."

The ICS Board and faculty are strongly committed to a renewed emphasis on addressing our support community, through a program of community lectures and other means, on topics of significant contemporary interest.

This partial list of current and planned activities clearly demonstrates the Institute's commitment to implement the Vision Statement.

God has very richly blessed us with a spirit of unity and creativity in the past year as we sought to refocus our organizational vision. God has also given us a very full agenda, one that fills us with joy and anticipation. Under the grace of God ICS will indeed "celebrate God's gift of learning" along the avenues suggested in the Vision Statement. Pray with us that we may always be open to the leading of God's Spirit in these efforts.

“
A good vision statement does not start from scratch – it reflects clear continuity with an institution's existing strengths.
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Vision Statement

As a Christian graduate school, the Institute for Christian Studies celebrates God's gift of learning. Through solid research and creative teaching we serve students, the academy, and the Christian community. For the next ten years we will:

- forge enduring partnerships with academic and non-

AGREEMENT WITH TST

(Continued from page 1)

really help our recruitment efforts. Fernhout stressed that the Agreement does not alter the Institute's academic programs. "Our courses will be cross-listed, but we will continue to run our programs and grant degrees according to our own criteria. We can also continue to do things (such as distance education courses for Christian teachers) which are not part of the arrangement with TST."

What is the Toronto School of Theology (TST)?

- TST consists of seven theological colleges representing different Christian traditions (Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, United). McMaster Divinity College (Baptist) in Hamilton, Ontario, is an "Affiliated Member."
- TST was incorporated in 1970 and signed a formal agreement with the University of Toronto in 1979. This agreement makes it possible for the University and TST member schools to grant degrees "conjointly" (i.e., at the same time). The names of both the University and a TST member school appear on the degrees.
- All programs offered by TST and its member schools are at the graduate level. There are basic or professional programs (leading to Master of Divinity, Master of Religious Education and Master of Religion degrees), and advanced or academic programs (leading to Master of Theology, Master of Arts, Doctor of Theology and Ph.D. degrees).
- The seven member colleges have 90 full-time faculty. There are 750 graduate students enrolled in basic degree programs and 320 in advanced degree programs.
- TST students in any member college have access to the courses and facilities of the other member schools and of the University of Toronto.
- TST is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of representatives of the member schools, faculty, students, the University, and the wider community.

"TST represents an unparalleled undertaking in ecumenical theological education. Bringing together a wide variety of Christian traditions in dialogue with each other, with other religions, and with the world of the secular university, this federation offers an exceptional opportunity to study and understand the complexity of the Christian religious experience, and to prepare for various forms of ministry in the contemporary world." (*TST Bulletin*)

ICS policies concerning faculty hiring and reviews will also not be altered. "Our faculty continue to be ICS employees," Fernhout stated. "We have assured TST that ICS is committed to principles of academic freedom and fairness in personnel issues, but it is up to ICS to implement these principles in ways that are consistent with our mission."

The initial agreement runs for five years, starting July 1, 1999. Steps are already underway to include ICS courses among TST offerings in September of this year.

Features of the Agreement

- ICS faculty members can apply for faculty status in TST, including membership in the TST advanced degree faculty.
- Once an ICS faculty member is cross-appointed to TST, that person's ICS courses will be cross-listed in the TST course catalogue. Most ICS courses will be listed in the Theological Department under headings such as Philosophical Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Interdisciplinary Studies, Christian Ethics, etc.
- The development and approval of courses will continue to be the responsibility of ICS; TST will not be directly involved.
- ICS faculty members will be eligible to participate fully in the supervision of the master's and doctoral theses of TST students.
- Any TST student will be able to take a cross-listed ICS course for credit toward his or her TST/University of Toronto degree, provided that course fits the student's program requirements.
- Any ICS student will be able to take a TST advanced degree course for credit toward his or her ICS degree, provided that the course fits the student's program requirements.
- No tuition will be charged by either TST or ICS when students from the one institution take courses at the other. However, at the end of each academic year the partners will calculate the academic services each has provided, and a partial cost equalization formula will be applied.
- ICS and TST will each publicize and promote the relationship in appropriate ways, including through their respective websites (a key means of student recruitment).
- ICS's own programs and degree-granting will continue as before, and will continue to be regulated by the ICS Senate and Board. Our relationship with the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam will not be affected. ICS will continue to be responsible for its own budget.
- ICS policies with regard to faculty appointments, reviews, etc., are not affected by the Agreement.
- As an "Affiliated Member," ICS will pay a modest fee to TST. The ICS president will be a voting member of the TST Board of Trustees.

alumni news

Jeff Dudiak, who received his Ph.D. degree in the ICS program earlier this academic year, has accepted an appointment to teach philosophy at The King's University College in Edmonton.

Stephen Bouma-Prediger (M. Phil. F. 1984) received the "Hope Award" at Hope college (Michigan) where he teaches theology. This prestigious award is given as a result of a vote by the graduating class for the person its members judge to be the best teacher in the college.

Jamie Smith (M.Phil.F. 1995), has just graduated with the Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Villanova University (Philadelphia), and has received a tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Smith's dissertation was titled "How To Avoid Not Speaking: Heidegger and Augustine on the Possibility of Philosophy."



(L.to r.) Robert Bruinsma, Clarence Joldersma, Hendrik Hart, and Ken Badley

Retreat sharpens ICS vision

by John B. Hulst

March 12 brought together ICS trustees, the entire staff, senate, and junior members for an important day of communal reflection on ICS direction in the coming decade. This event completed a process begun in 1998 before the decision was made about affiliation with The King's University College. The March retreat aimed to develop a strong consensus for the Institute's future direction.

The day began with a devotional period in which Hendrik Hart led us in Scripture reading and prayer. We were reminded of the importance of following the leading of the Holy Spirit, and together we prayed that the Spirit would be present with us and direct us in our discussions by the Word.

The retreat agenda included such matters as a review of the 30 year history of the ICS, consideration of what "we want to see going on in the ICS by the year 2008," strategies that can be used to overcome obstacles and capitalize on opportunities. Then there was the need for a team write a Vision Statement and others to make short-term action plans.

By the end of the day we had a good draft of a vision statement, as well as a clear timeline of tasks leading toward measurable accomplishments for each strategic area. Please read the Vision Statement on page 2. The day ended as it began, with the

College and university teaching "With Heart and Mind"

by Hendrik Hart

Forty years ago ICS people began to work on realizing the dream of integral Christian scholarship. There wasn't much support for it then, certainly not outside the Dutch Reformed community. Today the scene is very different. This became clear to me at the third biennial "With Heart and Mind" conference for Canadian scholars dedicated to faith-filled teaching and scholarship, held in May at Trinity Western University (Langley, B.C.). I attended the conference as representative of ICS, one of the sponsoring institutions. I also had the privilege of giving a paper about the long tradition of the dominance of reason in our culture and about possible responses Christians could make to the crisis around reason that characterizes so much of today's world.

The conference was well attended. People came from many Christian traditions and represented a wide spectrum of academic disciplines. The agenda was filled with creative presentations of high calibre, of great interest and excitement to Christians in the academy. Attendees were encouraged that many differences in point of view were discussed as helpful resources rather than as occasions for conflict. Many of the sessions were decidedly practical. Christian ways of teaching as well as Christian ways of thinking were given their due. The more academic dimensions of the conference were given a good context not only by good food and fellowship, but also by a spiritually enriching contribution from the arts and by a faith-nourishing communion service.

The conference gave convincing evidence that Christian scholarship and teaching are coming of age and that a multi-denominational conversation is underway to support further and vigorous developments in this area. A core of common language is developing that allows people from

various traditions to support and enrich one another's contributions as well as to learn from one another. Most went home with challenging and stimulating new ideas and approaches. It was also gratifying to see that more and more Christians in the academy realize that Christian scholarship is a calling for both women and men. The organizers responded to this awareness in various ways, one of which was inviting women to give key papers in plenary sessions.

Plans are to hold the conference in 2001 at The King's University College (Edmonton) and in 2003 at Redeemer College (Ancaster, Ontario).

development notes

Results of a great campaign by Mike DenHaan

Three months ago one of our supporters attended a public lecture we offered. She enjoyed the lecture so much that she sent a generous gift of support in response. But her contribution didn't stop there. She then challenged the ICS community to match her gift and help raise \$15,000 by mid-April.

This challenge was so generously matched that we exceeded the \$15,000 goal. In fact, during the month of April ICS supporters rose to the challenge by contributing over \$17,000 in support of Christian graduate education at the Institute for Christian Studies. What a great response! Thanks to all who rose to this exciting challenge.

reading of Scripture and prayer. Those of us who participated in the retreat were moved to thank God for the positive leadership of the administration, the commitment of the entire staff to the mission of the ICS, and the energetic, unified spirit of the meeting. We also shared the conviction that the future of the ICS is in the hands of the One who promised, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

As someone who is serving a first term as an ICS trustee, this visioning retreat was especially gratifying. Problems were openly acknowledged, differences were clearly stated, and issues were intensely debated. At the same time, I sensed unity in the Spirit and around the Word, humility before the face of God, a sincere desire for healing, a willingness to reach out, and an overall commitment to promote and enhance the Institute's academic program for the sake of students and the larger Christian community.

I returned from the retreat confident that the vision the ICS seeks to articulate is a biblical, kingdom vision, a vision that will enable the ICS to meet the challenges of the 21st century – with the Lord's blessing, of course.

Dr. Hulst is an ICS trustee, executive secretary of the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education, and the retired president of Dordt College (Iowa).

Noted Catholic theologian lectures on John Calvin

by George Vanderveide

The Institute had the great privilege of hosting as its Christianity and Learning Lecturer, Father George Tavard, one of the most influential international theologians of the second half of the twentieth century. Father Tavard has written more than forty books, as well as hundreds of articles. He is primarily known as an ecumenical theologian, writing a seminal work on the



controversial issue of Scripture and tradition in the early fifties, as well as highly sympathetic works on Martin Luther. Father Tavard not only writes about the issues that divide the churches, he has also actively participated in international

ecumenical discussions between the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran, the Methodist, and the Anglican communions.

At the Institute he presented three lectures on the theology of John Calvin, with whom he has long been fascinated. He mentioned that, when he first came across Calvin's *Institutes*, he read it as one would a novel. It was not only the superb French style that Tavard admired, but he was deeply moved by the theology of his fellow-countryman, whom he called one of the greatest theologians of the Christian Church.

Father Tavard devoted his first lecture to "The Self as Eternal Soul." It examined Calvin's early work on "soul-sleep," an enquiry into the relation of the notion of an "eternal soul" to the body that is to be resurrected on the last day.

In his second lecture, "Invitation to Contemplation," Tavard dealt with the way in which the Bible functions as the focus of all Calvin's theologizing. The third lecture dealt with "Christian Liberty," in which he explored how Christian liberty determines both ecclesiastical and political authority.

It is always fascinating to listen to a scholar who walks through centuries of history the way we might walk through our own backyard, knowing every flower, vegetable, and weed and their relation to one another. This became evident especially in the course of the discussions, when Father Tavard would appeal to sources and situations in the 16th and 17th century as if he had just read it in the paper or seen it on "The National." Of interest too is how, as a Roman Catholic theologian, Father Tavard, seemed to have far less difficulty than many in the Reformational tradition do, with the way in which Calvin borrows from the Greek philosophical heritage.

EVENTS 98/99

Enjoy a summer feast of the arts

by Connle Kulpers

Conference and Communications Coordinator

ICS offers many opportunities this summer to experience the arts through the eyes of faith at a number of special events.

Through artistic expression, appreciation and critique, ICS responds to God's call to be engaged with culture and creation, and also offers a unique opportunity to introduce new Senior Member in Aesthetics, Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin. Aesthetics (the philosophy of art in culture) has been a focus of study at ICS for more than two decades, and Adrienne continues this strong tradition, contributing insights from, and to a new generation.

Through a Glass Brightly: Arts and the Gospel is an Arts Festival from June 14 to 26 which offers a lecture series, five half-day "windows" (on visual arts, liturgy, creative writing, theatre and film), and a credit course (taught by Chaplin as part of the ICS/Wycliffe Summer Session).

The highlight of the Festival is the lecture series by acclaimed author and theologian **Dr. Jeremy Begbie**. Begbie is vice-principal of Ridley Hall in Cambridge, England, and director of the "Theology Through the Arts" project at Cambridge University. His lecture series will explore basic theological themes through the arts, especially the visual and musical arts.

John Franklin, the Festival's director, describes Begbie as "an accomplished artist (musician) and theologian whose expertise in both areas offers a unique perspective. Begbie is currently leading the way in calling the faith community to engage the arts as a resource for shaping Christian understanding of scripture."

A closing performance event at the Glenn Gould Studio on June 25 will showcase a number of artists performing classical and jazz music, poetry by **John Terpstra**, modern dance by **Motus O** and a performance by Begbie himself. The Glenn Gould Studio is accepting ticket orders at 416-205-5555. This Festival is co-sponsored by ICS with Wycliffe College and Imago, a Christian arts organization.

The Faithful Imagination: Art in Worship, Mission and Society is the two-week course being taught by Chaplin at the ICS/Wycliffe Summer Session in June. Students in this course will have the special advantage of hearing Begbie's lectures during the Arts Festival in the second week of the course.

(Continued on page 6)

SUMMER EVENTS FROM ICS

(Continued from page 5)

Art Talks!

The Ruth Memorial Series on the Arts & Culture

The Ruth Memorial Series on the Arts and Culture features an illustrated lecture by Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin on June 17 at 8 pm in Sheraton Hall at Wycliffe

College.

Chaplin will explore the topic of communication through the arts in her lecture: *Art Talks! Do We Listen?* This free event is the third annual Art Talks!, which previously featured Joachim Segger and Marnie Giesbrecht on piano and organ in 1997, and a lecture by author Rudy Wiebe in 1998.

ICS Summer Conferences

The Ontario and the Alberta Summer Conferences share the provocative title, *Colour Outside the Lines: Art and Imagination in God's World*.

Both conferences will feature keynote talks by Calvin Seerveld (ICS Senior Member Emeritus) and Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin.

Alberta Family Conference

(July 31-August 2) will focus on Christian perspectives on the arts. Deer Valley Meadows, host site of the conference for many years, offers camping and cabin accommodations, and is a lovely setting for the adults', teens' and children's programs that go on throughout the weekend. Elizabeth Kroon is the Alberta Conference Registrar, and can be reached at 780-454-6030 for more information or a brochure. This popular conference traditionally draws about 150 people (many ICS members) from all over Western Canada and some northern US states.

Ontario Summer Conference

(August 6-9 promises a deep immersion in the arts through keynote lectures, workshops, performances and worship, not to mention good fellowship and fun.

In addition to Seerveld and Chaplin, Calvin College (Michigan) Professor of Communications Bill Romanowski will speak at the Monday program, which focuses on Christian approaches and negotiations of pop culture. The conference returns to Maple Grove Christian Retreat Centre, near Ingersoll.

For information about the Arts Festival or Summer Session please contact John Franklin at 416-946-3528 or by e-mail at franklin@ultratech.net.

For all other events you can contact Connie Kuipers at 416-979-2331 x225 or 1-888-326-5347, or by e-mail at ckuipers@icscanada.edu.

Information for all events is available at the ICS website at www.icscanada.edu.

New volunteer program

by Yvonne Haaksma

A new Volunteer Program at the Institute for Christian Studies has recently been set up by the Board of Trustees. This year ICS has benefitted from 35 volunteers who play an active role in supporting, assisting and guiding our educational ministry. Volunteers aid staff and faculty members in research, folding and stuffing envelopes, translating foreign materials, fundraising, cataloguing and organizing the summer conferences. Without the ongoing support of these volunteers the Institute for Christian Studies could not run as many programs for students and could not work effectively with the community.

In particular, the library is benefiting every week from the contribution of several skilled volunteers. They come in one day a week to input catalogue information into the on-line database, and to date 5000 records of 25,000 have been added to the catalogue. Their commitment has made the *On-line Catalogue* a reality rather than just a goal for the future.

A Volunteer Council has now been formed to develop the Volunteer Program. The council includes three staff members: Mike den Haan, Carol Lammers and Yvonne Haaksma and one active volunteer, Nelly Westerhof.

As well, the Volunteer Program provides volunteer staff with a meaningful and enjoyable work experience by providing training, professional development and the opportunity to be involved in the day to day activities at the Institute for Christian Studies. In appreciation of these services, an evening "Celebration of Volunteers" was held May 28.

faculty activities

Sylvia Keesmaat gave a workshop on "The Biblical Roots of Jubilee" at the Willowdale Christian Reformed Church and at Bloomingdale Men-

Volunteer Program Mission Statement

Through the Volunteer Program, the "Institute for Christian Studies shall involve and integrate volunteers into all possible aspects of the programs and administration. The board, staff and faculty will empower volunteers to support, assist and guide the Institute for Christian Studies' ongoing development"

nonite Church. She spoke at a chapel service at Dordt College (Iowa) and Redeemer College (Ontario), and has been preaching at a variety of churches. She gave a talk entitled "A Jubilee Vision" to the University of Toronto

Graduate Christian Fellowship. She has also had a number of articles published in the popular Christian media.

Sylvia Keesmaat and ICS doctoral student J. Richard Middleton both gave workshops for the School of Lay Ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ontario, with ICS co-sponsorship, in February and March. Under the title "Jesus, the Gospels, and Radical Discipleship" Keesmaat explored the Jesus we meet in the Gospels in his contemporary Jewish context and how our encounter with this Jesus results in a life of radical discipleship.

Middleton spoke on "a Spirituality of the Ragged Edges: What the Bible can Teach Us about Honesty and Hope in a Suffering World." He offered biblical and theological resources, especially from the Psalms of lament, for processing pain in a way that leads to genuine hope for ourselves and the world.

Keesmaat received an Award of Merit from the Canadian Church Press for her article published in *Catalyst* titled "Sabbath: A radically alternative image of God."

Jonathan Chaplin participated in the consultation of the Social Action Commission and the Education Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada on the theme "Christian Engagement in a Pluralistic Canada." He participated in the conference on "Political Thought after

Liberalism” at Calvin College, part of their series of Seminars on Christian Scholarship.

Chaplin spoke on “Jubilee 2000: Biblical Foundations and Political Implications” at the Waterloo Christian Reformed Church. He has also become a member of the Theology Committee of the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative.

Chaplin also contributed a paper on “Christians in Political Science” to Oliver O’Donovan’s roundtable *The Desire of the Nations* held at Calvin College.

Robert Sweetman organized two sessions on Dominican studies for the 34th International Congress on Medieval Studies held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in June. At the Congress he gave the paper “The Making of ‘Dominican’ Sisters: The Cases of Margaret of Ypres (1216-1312) and Christine of Stommeln (1242-1312).”

Sweetman also organized the session

entitled “When the Exception is the Rule” for the annual meeting of The Canadian Association of Medievalists held in June in Lennoxville, Quebec. At the meeting he presented the paper “Exemplum as Argumentatio from Particular to Particular in the Thought of Johannes Balbi (1272-1286).”

George Vandervelde reports that three of his articles have been published recently. “Believers Church Ecclesiology as Ecumenical Challenge” is a chapter in the book *Believers Church: A Voluntary Church*, edited by William H. Brackney. “Ecclesiology in the Breach: Evangelical Soundings” was published in the British journal *One In Christ* and also in *Evangelical Review of Theology*. “Evangelicals At and Beyond Harare” was published in the Dutch journal *Exchange*.

Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin’s new book *Art*

and Soul: Signposts for Christians in the Arts, co-written by Hilary Brand, has just been published in England by Paternoster Press. In our next issue we expect to have information on how you can order it.

Dengerink Chaplin served as one of three jurors for a national arts competition held at Tyndale College and Seminary at which prizes for paintings totalling \$6,000 were awarded. The theme of the competition and exhibition is “Expressing Christian Faith Through Art.” The competition was open to all residents of Canada.

Emeritus professor **Calvin Seerveld** co-led a lecture series for Seventh Day Adventist professors in Seattle, Washington, with Adventist sculptor Adam Collins. He also gave the graduation address at Redeemer College (Ancaster, Ontario), using the title “A Snake and Dove Policy for Redeemer Graduates.”

Vandervelde and Hart shine in faculty reviews

by Harry Fernhout

A thorough review of the work of each ICS faculty member is required by the Senate at regular intervals. At the start of their career, faculty members are reviewed every two years. Once they receive a “continuing appointment” (the closest thing ICS has to tenure), performance reviews occur every five years. The *ICS Faculty Handbook* states that performance reviews are designed to provide a faculty member with constructive feedback which will enable him or her to grow as a scholar and teacher.”

Criteria for a positive review include a productive program of research and publication, effective teaching and supervision, participation in the life of ICS, and active involvement in community service. This spring senior members George Vandervelde (Systematic Theology) and Hendrik Hart (Systematic Philosophy) were both due for performance reviews. Both professors submitted extensive activity reports which showed how they had put into practice their academic plans and projections. Their students participated in the review, and students evaluation of courses taught by Vandervelde and Hart were closely examined. The ICS Academic Council then interviewed each of the two professors.

It is not unusual for a performance review to result in quite specific, critical comments on the work of a faculty member. However, the reviews of both Vandervelde and Hart were notable for their very positive tone. There was a strong sense that both men are in a very productive period of their respective careers. The summary of Vandervelde’s review stated that he has “clearly entered a period of marked flourishing in many areas of his involvement in ICS, notably in his scholarship, leadership and productivity.” Vandervelde’s international reputation as a gifted and respected ecumenical scholar was especially noted, and he was encouraged to utilize this gift in ecumenical leadership in his own church context.

Hart was applauded for the fact that while he has carried out his administrative task as Academic Dean with flair, he has also maintained a high level of academic productivity. Hart’s long and fruitful dialogue with Canada’s ranking atheist philosopher, Kai Nielsen, was highlighted as an indication of his success in bringing issues of Christian scholarship into the philosophical mainstream.

The Senate, Board and staff join in wishing Vandervelde and Hart God’s continued blessings on their work at ICS in the coming years.

from our students

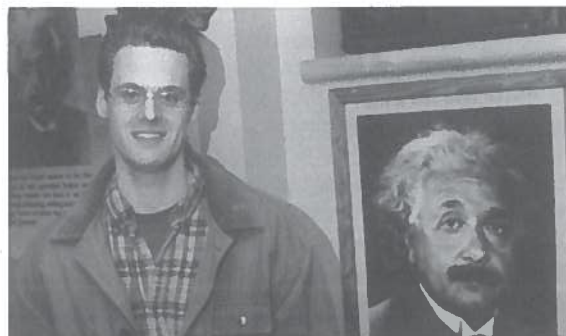
Ronald Kuipers recently took his comprehensive exams for the doctor’s degree. A student of Hendrik Hart, Kuipers passed with flying colours.

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.



Ronald Kuipers & friend.

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Keesmaat and Seerveld lecture at Dordt College

by Syd Hlelema

Sylvia Keesmaat and Calvin Seerveld both contributed lectures in the Dordt College (Iowa) special February community series "Living in Scripture."

Seerveld opened the series by focusing on the Psalms, saying that Psalms 1 and 2 are foundational for the way in which the Psalter is put together.

Keesmaat traced the notion of fruit-bearing throughout Scripture, concluding that when we study Paul's use of fruitfulness in the context of the whole of Scripture we see that Paul was not opposed to the law. Keesmaat also addressed a pastor's luncheon attended by about 20 area pastors. Her talk, "Did Jesus intend to die?" had a pre-lenten focus, thereby helping the pastors who would be starting their lenten sermons the following week.

She worked through the pre-crucifixion passages in Mark, noting especially their relation to their context and to the Old Testament. Her careful work with the biblical text was well-appreciated by all.

She was introduced to the pastors by Dr. John Hulst, ICS trustee and former president of Dordt. He also introduced the pastors to the work and goals of ICS. This meeting was a significant bridge-builder between ICS and northwest Iowa.

Both Keesmaat and Seerveld lectured in classes at the college, spoke in chapel and met informally with students. Representing two generations of Reformed scholarship, they helped reinforce the sense that Reformed scholarship places one in a vibrant and dynamic tradition.

Symposia open windows

by Carroll Guen Hart

The seven academic symposia held at ICS this academic year brought fresh air from outside sources that enlivened our work. Following the four speakers, **Jim Leach**, **Doug Blomberg**, **Lambert Zuidervaart** and **Barbara Carvill**, whose talks were reported in the latest issue of *Perspective*, **Louis Groarke**, **William Sweet** and **Clarence Joldersma** added sparkle in March and April.

Groarke, professor of political and social philosophy at Humber College, Toronto, spoke about "The Good Rebel," the title of his recent book. He focused on the value of rebellion but also on the need to qualify rebellion with responsibility to an objective good. The eight of his students he brought to the Symposium livened up the proceedings greatly.

Sweet, associate professor of philosophy at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, spoke on "Religious Belief and Community." Outlining some of the conditions necessary to build community, such as shared ideals and shared criteria

for evaluating ideals, he stimulated a conversation that was thoughtful and vigorous.

Joldersma, an ICS alumnus and associate professor of education at Calvin College, Michigan, gave a careful analysis of the work of Paula Freire and Emmanuel Levinas. Their work outlines a Christian pedagogy which is ethically open to other persons and to things that are new. Some people from Citizens for Public Justice joined us for a discussion that was vigorous and rewarding.

This Symposium series has given us at ICS a special opportunity to hear other scholars work through some of their ideas in a setting that is different for them. Important to the series were the wonderful lunches or tea times organized by ICS students Maxym Skybin and Yana Filippenko, which made each event gracious and welcoming.



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