

# PERSPECTIVE

Institute for Christian Studies

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News from the  
graduate Institute  
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Studies

## SUMMER FAMILY CONFERENCES

# Ontario: Boosted by change

by Helen Vreugdenhil

It was a new location and on a different weekend, but attendance climbed at this year's Ontario summer conference. Maple Grove Christian Retreat Centre near Ingersoll was the new place, and August 7-10 was the time, a week after the holiday weekend. But 80 more people attended than last year, making the total 360.

Dr. Bob Goudzwaard from the Netherlands delighted us with his warm manner, profound knowledge of the world of economics and high finance, along with his dedicated advocacy of the needs of the poorest in this world. The effect of his three major addresses was enhanced with a variety of workshops on issues of economic fairness, both at home and abroad, on interpreting what the Bible has to say about economics, and on how we can bring about social change.

Attendees seemed to prefer workshops which both knowledgeably addressed an issue and offered solid suggestions for action. Tom Freeman's talk about his work with unemployed youth at risk in urban centres, Linda Tripp's discussion of the price women pay in developing countries, and Tricia Wind and Peter Vander Meulen's spontaneously combined session on transforming interest into social action were only the highlights of a weekend which generated much discussion over fair-trade coffee (all coffee served on the weekend was purchased from Bridgehead, a company committed to a just income for Latin American coffee farmers) under the towering, mature trees which sheltered both the meeting hall and the space around it.

Although the chosen theme "Proclaim Jubilee: A New Beginning" had its serious side, the weekend was not all about economics and injustice. There was also much celebration in the form of worship, singing and theatre, as well as a much-appreciated children's program. The worship service, held at a new time, included a meaningful celebration of communion. The play, performed on Saturday night by a new theatre

group, Dry Bones Theatre, composed of Redeemer College alumni, generated much discussion. The children's program, organized very capably by Heather Kuipers, included opportunities for swimming and horseback riding, as well as worship, singing and some crafts. The candle-making was a hit, judging by the proud display of the finished products by the young artists.

The campground was set up in the 1940s by the Free Methodist Church, and some of the



cabins seem to date back to that time. But the modern swimming pool, efficient dining room staff, and audio equipment in the main hall met the needs of this '90s conference well. I'd say that this conference was a wonderful experience.

(Continued on page 3)

Helen Vreugdenhil is a doctoral student at the University of Toronto who has been attending the Ontario ICS Summer Conferences since childhood.

### In this Issue:

Moving ahead 2

Blomberg fills  
education position 3

Dordt Conference 4

Reformed  
institutions discuss  
new strategies 5

The beauty of a  
global gift 6

# Moving Ahead



“  
**ICS has been given a unique opportunity to develop biblically-directed scholars, a new generation of intellectual leaders and college and university teachers.**  
”

September has once again brought much excitement and anticipation to ICS. A number of faculty members and students have returned from participating in the very successful “Ways of Knowing” conference at Dordt College and in the World Congress of Philosophy in Boston. Doug Blomberg has arrived from Australia to begin his half-time appointment in Philosophy of Education. Students are returning and new students are arriving from different parts of the world. One of our doctoral candidates successfully defended his dissertation in Amsterdam last month, and another is set to do so this month.

Amid all this normal graduate school activity we are continuing the process of mapping our institutional course in light of the Institute’s decision in May not to pursue a merger with The King’s University College in Edmonton. The summer months provided a good opportunity to reflect on this decision.

We have discovered that the process leading up to the decision was extremely important and beneficial for ICS. Our thorough exploration of affiliation and merger meant that for two years the question of our institutional future was at the centre of discussions and debates. Because the outcome was not predetermined, board members, faculty, staff and students were constantly encouraged to think strategically about the road ahead. This resulted in a renewed sense of commitment to and excitement about the Institute’s mission: to honour Christ as Lord of learning by engaging in scholarship that reveals the religious roots of all knowledge, and by equipping men and women for scholarly and other vocations through programs of graduate study.

As a result of these dynamics, the decision made on May 22 revolved around the participants’ assessment of how the mission and task of the Institute could best be advanced. Clearly, people made differing judgements about how well the merger proposal served this purpose. But people on both sides wrestled with the issue in terms of a concept of mission.

Another valuable result of the process of institutional review and renewal emerged soon after the decision was made. The positive energy which characterized the process carried over into efforts to map out a creative and strategic future course of action for the Institute. Everyone agreed that change is necessary. And thanks to a shared concern for the Institute’s mission, those who had supported the merger proposal were able to find common cause with those who had opposed it.

The Institute’s mission in higher education is wonderful and complex. My article on “The Way Forward for ICS” in the June issue of *Perspective* suggested some orientation points for strategic

change which builds on strengths developed over three decades. Further reflection over the summer has enabled us to identify various elements of continuity and change:

- ICS is in the “business” of evaluating and generating ideas. We want to ensure that ICS remains (and develops as) an international centre for biblically-motivated ideas. We want to continue drawing in and sending out students and ideas around the world. In past years God has given us unusual opportunities for service, and in future years we want increasingly to make ourselves available for God’s leading in this regard.

- ICS has been given a unique opportunity to develop biblically-directed scholars, a new generation of intellectual leaders and college and university teachers. We have only scratched the surface of this challenging part of our calling, and we are determined to do what it takes to serve greater numbers of aspiring academic leaders.

- ICS has developed an effective witness to Christ in the broad academic community. But we need to find flexible and creative ways to enhance this witness. In particular, ICS needs to find new ways to relate to its university environment, specifically the University of Toronto, to offer a Christian voice in the middle of the academic conversation.

- Scholars such as Mark Noll and George Marsden have called for the development of a richer scholarly tradition among Christians in North America. ICS must constructively participate in this discussion and contribute what it can to this felt need.

- ICS needs to develop listening and service-oriented partnerships with non-academic organizations which serve God in different areas of his realm.

- ICS needs to become a leader in the creative use of distance education technology, to bring the benefits of our programs to students nearby and around the world who do not have the time or the resources for full-time study in Toronto.

For the foreseeable future ICS will pursue the mission reflected in these challenges and opportunities as an independent institution. At the same time, ICS will proceed in a spirit of partnership. At our August annual meeting, for example, ICS members formally asked the Board to reopen conversations with The King’s University College to determine how the projected benefits of cooperation might still be achieved. The Board will respond to this constructive initiative very soon.

The Board and staff believe in the Institute’s mission and are determined to pursue it to the best of their wisdom and ability. Pray that the positive spirit of unity which has prevailed throughout the past months may continue to characterize this pursuit in the future.

## Discussion, music and great volunteers in Alberta

by Alyce Oosterhuis

About 120 adults and children gathered to camp, listen, socialize and learn from each other at Alix, Alberta, during the August 1 long weekend at the annual ICS-Alberta family conference.

Dr. Elwil Beukes, recently from South Africa and now economics professor at The King's University College delivered a series of lectures on the topic of "Economic Stewardship: Work, Family and Society". After each presentation there were focused small group discussions on questions raised in response to Beukes's presentation, questions such as: "What are the ambiguities of our economic lives? How can we deal with them? What alternatives are there to a market economy? How can shalom be restored? Can a year of jubilee be realized? What are Christian views on economic responsibility?"

After each discussion, the group responses provided input for Beukes's subsequent presentation. This lecture/discussion/feedback structure encouraged constant dialogue and reflection on a single theme. And when the teenagers led the concluding weekend devotions with a dramatic presentation of the wise and foolish men building their houses on foundations of love, justice, compassion, charity OR on avarice, power, control and selfishness, we realized that the conference theme had been woven into the lives of all who were present. Thanks go to the "Then Again" music group who inspired and directed these teenagers in their dramatic devotional.

ICS-Alberta has organized its own conference annually since the late 1960s. The volunteer effort in organizing and delivering this conference is tremendous, but everyone has the experience of being a dynamic communal entity that sings, plays, dances, crafts, and praises God in unison.

*Dr. Alyce Oosterhuis is an ICS Senator and is a professor at The King's University College.*



## Blomberg fills ICS Education position

Doug Blomberg has arrived in Toronto to start his three year half-time appointment as Senior Member in Philosophy of Education. He will work six months of the year in Toronto and six months in Australia, where he will become Academic Dean of the National Institute for Christian Education.

Blomberg's long association with ICS started in 1975-76 when he spent a year here on study leave during his Ph.D. research. His dissertation at the University of Sydney explored the implications of the reformational philosophical



tradition for education, focusing on the notion (which was quite uncommon at that time) that there are a number of distinct ways of knowing besides theoretical thought and everyday experience.

An innovative feature of Blomberg's appointment at ICS is that he will oversee the delivery to ICS of the

National Institute's Master of Educational Studies program. This master's program received government accreditation in August last year after many years of development, and was highly commended by the panel of professors that examined it. This educational program is delivered on a distance-education basis.

"There are many similarities between Canada and Australia in terms of geographical dispersion of a relatively small population," Blomberg says. "I am excited by the possibility of using the resources we have developed in Australia to serve the Christian community here, and also in the United States. We have already started a program in South Africa, and the use of information technology for student support presents the opportunity for a globally connected community of Christian higher education."

Blomberg will also be teaching one course in the Master of Philosophical Foundations program on "Epistemology and Education," and another in the Worldview Studies Program on curriculum. The curriculum course will be taught at Toronto District Christian High School to make it more convenient for teachers to take it. Blomberg is also continuing work on a book to be called "Wisdom and Schooling".

## Volunteer Opportunity

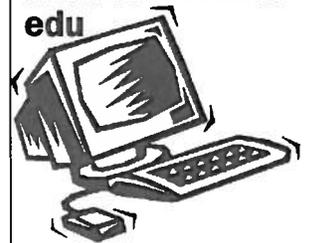
The development office is looking for a friendly, detail-oriented person to come to the ICS office two days a month. This person will help conduct surveys. Some computer data entry may also be involved.

You should have excellent interpersonal and phone skills, good interview and computer skills. If you've had previous experience interviewing, in customer service, public relations or non-profit work, this job will come naturally.

You will receive free coffee on the job, work with fun and interesting people, and have the opportunity to develop skills in interviewing, research, analysis and communication.

Interested people can apply to Mike den Haan, Development Officer, at 416-979-2331 ext. 229 or by email at [mdenhaan@icscanada.edu](mailto:mdenhaan@icscanada.edu)

[www.icscanada.edu](http://www.icscanada.edu)



Come see the new internet face of ICS!

The ICS website is being redesigned and updated and should be ready by early October. If you have any comments about the site, or ideas for organizations with which our site should be linked, contact Connie Kuipers at [ckuipers@icscanada.edu](mailto:ckuipers@icscanada.edu).

## faculty activities



**Robert Sweetman** spoke in July at the Fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies held in Leeds, England, on the subject "Memory, Storytelling and Pastoral Care in Early Dominican Thought".



**Hendrik Hart** gave a paper titled "The Prejudice of Philosophy against Religion" at the 20th World Congress of Philosophy held in

Boston in August.

**Doug Blomberg's** paper "The Practice of Wisdom: Knowing When" was published in the *Journal of Education and Christian Belief*. It was accompanied by an article by ICS graduate David Smith comparing Blomberg's view of wisdom with that of 17th century educator Comenius, who is called "the father of modern education". In July Blomberg presented a paper at the Religion and Politics conference sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Australian Christianity entitled "The Politics of Schooling: From Colonies to Commonwealth".

On July 24 **Sylvia Keesmaat** gave birth to her second daughter, Lydia Jean, in good health. Keesmaat is taking maternity leave during the Fall Semester.

The Institute expected to welcome **Adrienne Chaplin** to her faculty post in Philosophical Aesthetics this summer. Although the required authorization was obtained from

Human Resources Canada in May, Canadian Immigration in London, England, has imposed additional requirements and have put Adrienne's application for a visa on hold. ICS and the Chaplins reluctantly agreed to postpone the start of Adrienne's appointment until January 1, 1999. ICS is currently working to clear the roadblocks so that Adrienne and her family may obtain their visas and arrive in Canada in time for the new starting date. Join us in praying for a quick resolution to this impasse.

During August **Calvin Seerveld**, while visiting family with his wife Inès in Switzerland, spent five days in Innsbruck, Austria, speaking for professors at Seventh-Day Adventist colleges and universities all over the world. His slide lectures dealt with how the biblical Christian faith impacts making and interpreting artworks. He also led a vesper worship service on the evening before the Sabbath.

## Dordt conference explores "Ways of Knowing"

by Janet Wesselius

The central issue of the inter-connected ways of knowing was the focus of a recent conference held at Dordt College, Iowa, which had the official title "Ways of Knowing in Concert: Christian Initiatives and Responses". The conference is part of an ongoing series held every three years organized by Dordt, the ICS, Calvin College and the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

There was a keynote speech by a person from each of the four sponsoring institutions. **Doug Blomberg** of ICS spoke on "Ways of Wisdom: Multiple Modes of Meaning in Pedagogy and Andragogy," **John Kok** of Dordt addressed "Coming to Know Ways of Knowing," **Claudia De Vries-Beversluis** presented a paper on "Neurons and Knowledge: Can Brain Science Really Make Us Better Teachers?" and **André Droogers** of the VU spoke on "Knowledge of Religion and Religious Knowledge: The Cultural Anthropology of Religion and a Religious Anthropology".

**Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin**, who expects to join the ICS faculty in philosophical aesthetics in January, gave a paper, as did Senior Members **Carroll Guen Hart**, **James Olthuis** and **Robert Sweetman** (**Hendrik Hart's** paper was read in his absence by Harry Fernhout), and doctoral student **Janet Wesselius**. Doctoral student **Peter Noteboom** also attended.

This series of conferences gives the opportunity for Christian scholars, poets, artists and writers to reflect communally on the connections between their faith and vocation. This year's theme was especially important for ICS because a concern for the complex and diverse but inter-connected ways of knowing has always been a special emphasis at ICS.

The conference was a great occasion to meet and talk about professional interests with other people of similar religious and academic vision. Dordt College did a marvellous job of organizing and hosting the conference.

*Janet Wesselius is a doctoral student at ICS.*

## Summer school

The summer school that ICS ran again with Wycliffe College of the University of Toronto offered four two-week courses taken by 65 students and two weekend workshops that attracted 20. The program was administered by John Franklin. Some courses were taught at ICS and some at Wycliffe.

Plans are already underway for the 1999 summer school, and we hope that a large number of people will accept this challenge to get away from the routine and engage in the challenges of academic study with great personal fulfilment.

## Olthuis takes sabbatical leave

James Olthuis will be on sabbatical leave this year for research and the writing of a book. Olthuis plans to begin writing right away on "the development of a biblically attuned view of an intersubjective self, gifted for and called to love, as an alternative not only to the 'imperial'

Cartesian self, but also to the postmodern deconstructionist 'decentered self.'" He will do this in discussion and critique of the writings of Emmanuel Levinas, Jacques Derrida, Luce Irigaray and Julia Kristeva. He plans a chapter on each of his four dialogue partners.

He says that his idea of developing biblically-sensitive alternatives to existing positions is central to the Institute's calling to research.

Olthuis says this book is part of a long-range plan for his work on biblical anthropology

# Reformed institutions discuss new strategies

by *Carroll Guen Hart*



Carroll Guen Hart was instrumental in initiating the conference which was sponsored by ICS, Citizens for Public Justice and the Christian Labour Association of Canada, with significant funding from the Christian Reformed Church Fellowship Fund.

“ Many of us were amazed by the enormous variety of skills, insights and wisdom in various parts of our Reformed organizations. ”

Representatives of 25 parachurch institutions started by Dutch Reformed immigrants to Canada in the 1950s and 1960s gathered at Cedar Glen Conference Centre near Toronto for three days in June to discuss which directions and strategies will best carry forward the Christian vision of God's kingdom which motivated their founders, who now are retiring from the scene.

The conference was set up by the ICS, Citizens for Public Justice and the Christian Labour Association of Canada, with significant funding from the Christian Reformed Church Fellowship Fund for New Ministry Initiatives. The institutions spanned a wide range of fields of interest.

In a moving evening session Calvin Seerveld, Gerald Vandezande and Harry Antonides told about their struggles and joys of shaping some of these institutions in their early days.

Rev. Louis Tamminga gave the keynote address, retelling some of the history of these agencies and pointing toward the need for continuing re-evaluation. Justin Cooper (Redeemer College), Harry Kits (CPJ) and Ben Vandezande (CRC Diaconal Ministries) spoke about different ways of handling institutional transitions in changing times. Lee Hollaar (British Columbia Society for Christian Schools), Keith Ward (The King's University College) and Elbert van Donkersgoed (Christian Farmers' Federation of Ontario) outlined a variety of different strategies for realizing their organizational calling.

Bill Van Groningen (CRC Campus Ministries), Hendrik Hart (ICS) and Ed Pypker (CLAC) spoke about the ways in which a Reformed worldview informs the work we do. Tricia Wind and Peter Schuurman spoke movingly about contemporary culture and about the younger generation.

Conversation was vigorous and sharp, as people struggled together with new strategies and new concerns in changing times. How do we carry on the work of our charismatic founders? How do we enable our organizations to respond to new situations and new needs? How do we work ecumenically while retaining our Reformed identity? What in our Reformed worldview remains valuable and what is in need of critique?

Many of us were amazed by the enormous variety of skills, insights and wisdom in various parts of our Reformed organizations. The conference ended with a burst of ideas for shared work and new initiatives.

Plans are now underway for a broadly based community consultation on sphere sovereignty. So it seemed that the challenges and changes, though often painful and confusing, continue to evoke new and creative responses from our Reformed worldview. *Semper reformanda!*

## EVENTS 98/99

### OPEN HOUSE

A Welcome Evening for Dr. Doug Blomberg  
Thursday, October 1, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Join us to welcome Dr. Doug Blomberg, our new Senior Member in Philosophy of Education, learn about the future of Education studies at ICS, and enjoy delicious desserts.

### SYMPOSIA SERIES

Speakers & Dates to be announced  
Various week-days, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., followed by light communal lunch. Contact ICS if you would like to receive a list of speakers and dates for the fall and winter terms when it is finalized.

### THANK YOU DINNER

Friday, November 13, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

(Location to be announced)

A dinner in honour of Bob VanderVennen and Paul Marshall in grateful appreciation of their more than two decades of leadership in the life of the Institute. To join us please call ICS to reserve tickets.

### CONVOCATION & INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Friday, November 13, 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Knox College Chapel, 59 St. George St., Toronto  
A celebration of the graduation of our Master and Doctoral students. Reception to follow.

### CHRISTIANITY & LEARNING LECTURES

February, 1999

Lecturer: to be announced

Previous distinguished lecturers include Dr. Ursula Franklin (1998), Dr. Jean Bethke Elshtain (1996)

### Art Talks!

The Ruth Memorial Series on the Arts & Culture

March, 1999

Artist & Location: to be announced

Previous guests are author Rudy Wiebe (1998) and organist and pianists Joachim Segger and Marnie Giesbrecht (1997).

### ICS ALBERTA FAMILY CONFERENCE

July 30 - August 2, 1999

Deer Valley Meadows (near Lacombe)

Keynote Speaker & Theme: to be announced

### ICS ONTARIO SUMMER CONFERENCE

August 6-9, 1999

Maple Grove Christian Retreat Centre

Keynote Speaker: to be announced

Theme: The Arts and Culture (Aesthetics)

For ICS events hosted in Toronto, we send out notices to friends and supporters living in south/central Ontario (generally a one hour driving radius of Toronto). If you live outside of that area, but would like to receive all event notices, please contact ICS.

## Student profiles



**Arata Mishawa** arrived at ICS last November, having been delayed coming from his home near Tokyo, Japan, by visa problems. He grew up in a Christian family, the son of the pastor of a small Baptist church. As an intelligent and inquiring person he was concerned by the great difference between his own Christian worldview, nourished in the separatistic Baptist tradition, and the secularity of the Japanese culture all around him.

In his studies at the International Christian University in Japan Arata focused on the problems of developing countries, and even visited urban slums in the Philippines and worked at Mother Teresa's institution in Calcutta. But something was missing. He started studying psychology in graduate school, hoping to gain an understanding of the meaning of being human. After all, psychology developed out of philosophy, physics and biology.

But he found psychology to be merely "scientific," too narrow to help. So he studied philosophy more and more, and came upon a book on Christian philosophy

written by the Japanese professor Dr. Inagaki, who had studied at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam and had visited ICS. He recommended study at ICS to Arata. Until then, he says, "I could hardly imagine that Christian people could study philosophy as a discipline because philosophy was regarded by many people in our Christian fellowship as a kind of apostasy."

So now Arata is in Toronto. He is moving from the Worldview Studies Program to the M. Phil. F. degree program to study philosophy with Hendrik Hart. He is very happy to be at ICS and to have the opportunity to grow as a Christian even as he studies philosophy.



**Tony Lai** has a history of a few years of study at ICS, starting with his Worldview Studies degree program in 1993-94. After returning to his native England for a year, he returned to ICS in 1995 to work on the M. Phil. F. degree in philosophical theology and biblical studies.

Tony is a fascinating person who sees himself caught in the web of immigration and culture change. He describes himself as a first, second and third generation immigrant. His grandfather immigrated

to Canada from south China in the 1890s and Tony's mother was born in Canada, which makes him of the third generation here. His mother went to England to study music and fell in love, marrying an immigrant from Hong Kong, so Tony is a second generation immigrant to England, where he has lived most of his life. But he is now a first generation immigrant to Canada.

Tony has done evangelistic youth work in England for 20 years and has seen crises in many second generation immigrant kids, who are very different from their immigrant parents. He sees the biblical book of Ruth as a guide for these problems. So he is writing a thesis on this subject. You can be sure that Tony's experiences and his studies have given him many ideas that will ring true to Canadians, who live in a nation of immigrants.

Tony is a member of Little Trinity Anglican Church in Toronto, where he has a leadership role, especially in the evening service. He also helps out at the Toronto Chinese Presbyterian Church, where his grandfather was pastor for many years, serving primarily in music, worship and teaching.

He says that ICS offers him a good environment to reflect on inter-generational problems. Tony is a warm, outgoing person who is much liked at ICS, where his soup-making and also his piano playing for ICS worship services are much appreciated.



## IN MEMORIAM: PAUL SCHROTENBOER

### The beauty of a global gift *by Hendrik Hart*

**O**n July 20, after a public memorial service in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Paul G. Schrottenboer, executive director of AACS (the Association which started ICS) until the end of 1966, was buried in a private ceremony in Overijssel, Michigan, the place where he was born.

The last time the ICS community officially met Paul was when he gave ICS's 40th anniversary address at last November's convocation in Toronto. Considerably weakened by the cancer that had been spreading in his body for years and to which he had already lost a leg, but still speaking with a strong voice, he began by noting, "As you can see, I am on my last leg." A brief pause. Then, raising his voice, "But ICS is not!"

This was very much Paul Schrottenboer. Unpretentious, straight to the point, totally devoted to his mission, faithful to the end. I was very moved to hear this servant of God characterized beautifully by Henry DeMoor from Calvin Seminary, who led the memorial service. Our departed brother had wanted no words of praise, no eulogies. But by carefully unfolding a text from the Psalms, DeMoor powerfully portrayed to us the beauty of the global gift that Paul has been to the church and to higher

## Taniguchi receives Ph.D. degree

After study at ICS which started in 1987, Julius Taniguchi has now received the Ph.D. degree in our cooperative program with the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. He was a student of Paul Marshall at ICS, and his supervisor at the VU was professor Hendrik Woldering.

The dissertation of 323 pages is titled "Liberalism and Its Methodological Difference: A Critique of the Ground of F.A. von Hayek's Political Philosophy." In the dissertation Taniguchi notes that "Hayek's political doctrines ... are deeply embedded in liberal economic and political thought," and that Hayek "tends to reduce politics to the economic aspect of human activity." He analyzes Hayek's basic philosophy by means of close study of the ground of Hayek's liberalism, and concludes that Hayek "has eliminated room for the divine transcendent."

At the oral defence of his dissertation in Amsterdam Taniguchi's father and his fiancée Kiyō Nishizawa were present, both dressed in formal ancient Japanese costumes, which added considerable colour to the event. Taniguchi is now looking for a university teaching position in Japan.

*At the oral defence of his dissertation in Amsterdam (Above left) Julius Taniguchi's father and his fiancée Kiyō Nishizawa were present, both dressed in formal ancient Japanese costumes, which added considerable colour to the event.*

*(Left) Paul Marshall introduces candidate Taniguchi.*



education to his last moment on earth.

One afternoon 32 years ago my wife Anita and I entered the home of Paul and Bernice in Hamilton, Ontario, also the ICS headquarters then, to begin working with him. The idea was that in four months he would pass the reins on to me and use those months to prepare me. After I had spent the

rest of the afternoon stuffing envelopes and licking stamps, wondering why a Ph.D. degree was needed for this, I was ready after supper to spend some time with my wife. It was then that I learned the devoted and matter-of-fact style of service that Paul embodied. "We don't have to go back to work right away," he said. "I think it's OK to spend a few minutes working on my homemade wine." So we did, but not for long.

The rest of the evening, as every other evening, we worked. For executive director Schrottenboer, God's vineyard required his attention from morning till night and seven days a week. Saturdays were good days for meetings with people who were busy the rest of the week, and Sundays were days for being on the pulpit or having discussions with students or other young people.

As DeMoor sensitively told Paul's story I suddenly realized that those four months

imprinted a style of work on me that has stayed with me ever since. It brought tears to my eyes. I'm sure he did not intend that. That's not how he was. But his example had a power all its own.

ICS can be proud and grateful that its beginning years were moulded by the leadership of Paul Schrottenboer. It is hard to imagine that in those very trying early years anyone would have been more faithful and devoted than he was. He was God's gift to us. Today we still enjoy the fruits of his work.

## "Outrageously Hopeful" Luncheon for Campus Ministers by John Valk

Campus ministers of the Christian Reformed Church gathered in June for their annual conference, held this year at Wycliffe College (University of Toronto). The theme was "Outrageous Hope: Paralysis and Hope at the End of the Millennium."

One highlight of the conference was a luncheon at ICS. Welcomed by President Harry Fernhout, campus ministers mixed, mingled and discussed with ICS faculty and staff. After lunch Richard Middleton, ICS Ph.D. student, former campus minister and now faculty member at Colgate Divinity School, gave a presentation entitled "Curiosity Killed the Cat: The Outrageous Hope of Reformational Scholarship and Practice".

Campus ministers recognize that a new worldview dominates the public university of today. Postmodernism has re-oriented thinking and shifted moorings. It has uncovered anxiety, guilt and a growing meaninglessness, all painfully evident and visibly paralyzing. Yet, it has also created new possibilities and opportunities. Postmodernism rejects metanarrative claims. Christianity's "grand story" has been undermined. Most notably, its triumphalistic, quick-fix evangelism has become offensive. That poses challenges to campus ministers.

ICS wanted to know how it can assist campus ministers in their challenges. Middleton suggested that a reforming scholarship can shed new light on the fearful "dragons" (anxieties, sufferings, frustrations) confronting many in the university community today. Scholarship can become playful, creative, imaginative and curious. Even as the biblical narrative is affirmed, we can ask God "childlike" questions, even honestly admit doubt. That kind of intellectual engagement or "curiosity" is not problematic—it will not "kill the cat". Scholarly pride and easy answers, however, will.

ICS seeks to journey with campus ministers, to encourage intellectual curiosity, to find ways to proclaim "outrageous hope" to the academy. That "outrageous hope", says Middleton, is the message of the Gospel for all creation, the "unsurpassable love and compassion of God, who went the way of the cross for our salvation". That spiritual mooring opens us to "renewed faith—to a new curiosity that knows suffering and brokenness and vulnerability".

*Dr. John Valk is an ICS graduate and is campus minister at the University of New Brunswick*

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## ICS participates in World Congress of Philosophy

Three ICS people gave papers at the recent 20th World Congress of Philosophy held recently in Boston, attended by famous philosophers from all over the world. Hendrik Hart and doctoral students Janet Wesselius and Ron Kuipers gave papers.

Also giving papers were ICS friends from many countries, including ICS Chancellor Lambert Zuidervaart of Calvin College, Bram Bos of the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam and Ponty Venter from Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Of special note was the increased attention paid at the Congress to the role of religion in philosophy. ICS representatives felt for the first time that their papers, in which the relation of faith to

learning is usually explicit, did not meet with stares of disbelief, but instead received careful attention.

The Congress was used by the well-known publishing firm Routledge to launch their spanking new multivolume *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. All important philosophical work of 25 centuries, concepts and systems as well as historical figures, will be available instantly in the most up-to-date form.

The cost is high, but we are trying hard to find the extra funds to make the purchase, since we won't have the chance to buy this phenomenal set at such a low price again.

### from our students

**Ruth Kerkham** has been awarded a two month internship at the National Gallery of Art in Ottawa this fall. Ruth has a show of her art works on exhibit at Gallery 401 in Toronto during the last two weeks of September. Titled "Unzipped," the show is an exploration of the body that questions cultural constructions that inform our notions of gender and race. In describing the show Ruth says that "Zippers can suggest a covering up of the body (modesty, shame, vulnerability or imperfection) or an exposing of the body (comfort, freedom, sensuality or eroticism). ... By unzipping the categories of gender and race I hope to open up the body to new possibilities and new ways of living in the world."

**Janet Wesselius** presented a paper "Gender Identity without Gender Prescriptions: Dealing with Essentialism and Constructionism in Feminist Politics" at the meeting of the Society for Hermeneutics and Postmodern Thought held in Ottawa in June. A version of this paper was presented at the World Congress of Philosophy in Boston, and read there by Ron Kuipers. Janet also gave a paper on "Ambivalence toward Objectivity: Feminist Interventions in Theories of Knowledge" at the "Ways of Knowing" conference held at Dordt College.

## PERSPECTIVE

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dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Conjoint Seminars and Conferences

dc.subject: Citizens for Public Justice--Conjoint Seminars and Conferences

dc.subject: Christian Labour Association of Canada--Conjoint Seminars and Conferences

dc.subject: Reformed philosophy--Canada--influence

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies--Students

dc.subject: Mishawa, Arata

dc.subject: Lai, Tony

dc.subject: Taniguchi, Julius

dc.subject: Institute for Christian Studies. Conjoint Ph.D.

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dc.subject: Reformed Church--Canada--Seminars and Conferences

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