

PERSPECTIVE

Institute for Christian Studies

Volume 37, Issue 2, June 2003

Equipping Christian leaders around the world

Clemenger new President of EFC

On April 22, 2003, the Board of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) announced that ICS graduate and doctoral candidate Bruce Clemenger will be the organization's next president.

In this issue:

Roller coaster 2

Largest ever class 3

A face lift 4

Symposium on pop culture 7

Political visions and illusions 7

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is a national association of evangelical Christians. It exists to bring Christians together for greater impact in mission, ministry and witness. Founded in 1964 as a means of encouraging cooperative action, EFC affiliates include over 115 denominations, ministry organizations and educational institutions, including ICS, and nearly 1,000 local church congregations.

The decision to appoint Clemenger is the result of nine months of prayers, searching and interviewing many people. All participants in the process concluded that Bruce Clemenger best matched the needs, vision and mission of the EFC and that he will lead this vital organization with deep understanding, commitment, humility and persistence.

Clemenger will be the third president of the EFC. His predecessors are Gary Walsh and Brian C. Stiller, both influential Christian leaders.

Bruce Clemenger has served on staff at the EFC since 1992. In 1996 he helped found EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life, based in Ottawa



Bruce Clemenger

and served as the Centre's director.

In 1984 Clemenger graduated from ICS with a Master of Philosophical Foundations degree. His master's thesis in Economics was supervised by Bernard Zylstra and Paul Marshall. Clemenger is currently writing his Ph.D. dissertation on the theme of religious pluralism in liberal political theory. The co-supervisors of this project are professors Jonathan Chaplin of ICS and Sander Griffioen of the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

Art Talks! 2003 Explores the body

By **Chris Cuthill**, Ph.D. Student in Aesthetics

On April 25 & 26, ICS sponsored the 6th annual Art Talks! The Ruth Memorial Series on the Arts and Culture event in cooperation with Imago, a Toronto based umbrella organization for Christians in the arts. The event, cofacilitated by **Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin** (Senior Member in Aesthetics at ICS) and **John Franklin** (Director of Imago) was entitled *Body: Beautiful and Broken*. This year's Art



Symposium panelists (from l-r) Gerard Pas, Bruno Capolongo, June Tenyenhuis, George Langbroek and Erica Grimm-Vance.

Talks! focused on the topic of representing the body in art and featured renowned artist **Erica Grimm-Vance** who delivered a Friday evening keynote lecture at St. George the Martyr Church in Toronto. Grimm-Vance, an established Vancouver-based artist coordinates the Art Department at Trinity Western University in British Columbia and was recently honoured as the first prize recipient of Imago's national juried art competition.

(Continued on page 3)



//
ICS will be able ... [to offer] degrees that fit our experience and institutional maturity ... In the end, it is impossible to put a price on the value of the proposed amendments to our degree-granting charter
//

Roller coaster to the future

In the March 2003 issue of Perspective I wrote about walking to the Ontario Legislature to submit the Institute's application to revise the current ICS Act by expanding our degree-granting authority. That "walk to the future" (as I called it) has turned into a roller coaster ride – a lot of ups and downs and several abrupt turns.

Let me (try to) explain. As previously mentioned, three years ago the Ontario government initiated major changes with regard to degree-granting policy. New legislation created a framework for privately-funded institutions and out-of-province universities to apply for degree-granting authority appropriate to their programs. This policy overhaul was completed last year.

Actually, the new policy framework provides two avenues leading to degree-granting authority. The first avenue is an 'Act of the Assembly': existing institutions with existing programs can apply to the Legislature for a 'Private Bill' which, if passed, enshrines certain degree-granting rights permanently in law. The second avenue is called 'Ministerial Consent': new institutions and out-of-province institutions (and existing institutions wishing to create new programs) can apply for consent from the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, valid for 5 years, to offer their degree programs in Ontario. The Minister grants consent only after the applicants have undergone an extensive review by the newly created Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB).

With the encouragement of Ministry staff, the Institute pursued the first avenue. In February we applied for an amendment to the existing *ICS Act* to change our "Master of Philosophical Foundations" degree to "Master of Philosophy" and to include the Ph.D. degree (currently ICS is authorized to offer doctoral programs, but not the degree itself). The legal work on our 'private bill' was completed in early May. Meanwhile we held our collective breath, wondering if the Premier would call a spring election and derail the process.

Two days prior to a required public hearing we encountered problems from an unexpected source. We were informed that the Minister would withhold her vital support for the ICS bill at the hearing. This decision was based on a very recent policy change. Faced with several applications for degree-granting changes, the Minister felt a need to ensure that all applicants would be subject to the same 'quality control' standards. Consequently she decided to support proposed degree-granting legislation only after applicants have undergone a review by the Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB). In other words, the Minister decided that the review process created for the 'Ministerial Consent' avenue (mentioned above) would now also apply to the 'private bill' avenue.

The Institute does not object to external program assessment, using standards that apply across the board. In fact, in our February submission we proposed that from now on ICS programs be included in the cyclical review of Ontario university graduate programs. However, having invested much time, energy and money in pursuing the 'private bill' avenue, this late policy decision left us frustrated, particularly since we chose this course of action on the advice of Ministry staff. This is not the end of the line, however. At present the

amendments to the ICS Act are on hold. We are expecting a letter from the Minister indicating that she will support the bill once we successfully complete the review process. We know that the Minister and her staff are committed to ensuring that the process works well. We are confident that the review will yield a positive result. ICS will use the summer months to prepare; the actual review will likely take place in the fall. If all goes well, the entire process should be completed in eight to twelve months.

The PEQAB review process represents a big investment in terms of both time and money. But I am convinced that this will be time and money well spent. For one thing, securing the right to grant standard master's degrees (in place of our current unusual degree names) will level the playing field for our students; when they apply for jobs or further graduate study, they will not need to explain the unusual names of their degrees. Further, including the Ph.D. degree in our charter will contribute significantly to our institutional status and recognition; ICS will be able to relate to other institutions as a full partner, offering degrees that fit our experience and institutional maturity. Finally, as we have recently experienced, government policy is subject to change; securing our degree-granting authority in legislation is essential to help protect our programs and students from unanticipated policy shifts. In the end, it is impossible to put a price on the value of the proposed amendments to our degree-granting charter.

My February walk became a roller coaster ride in April and May. The ride is not over yet; there may be more twists and turns along the way. But our hope and prayer is that this particular roller coaster is headed down a long, smooth slope to the finish line. Join us in praying that God will bless our work with PEQAB and the Ministry, so that by next year the amended *ICS Act* will be in place!

ART TALKS!

(Continued from page 1)

For the past 20 years, the representation of the body has remained central to Erica Grimm-Vance's work.

Using a contemporary visual vernacular she explores the body as site of meaning for exploring spiritual questions. Juxtaposing hard-edged planes with organic/wax and ash with the figure to explore the metaphoric potential of various media as she brings together opposites – a contrast which is indicative of larger themes in her work.

The title of this year's main Art Talk's lecture "Beauty and Affliction: Reflections on Art and Embodiment," outlines a central juxtaposition in Grimm-Vance's work. The title is borrowed from the French philosopher Simone Weil and is a term which Grimm-Vance uses to describe her work. Her lecture on "beauty and affliction" explored her use of body-images which, using Weil's terminology, "anticipate grace" even as they "struggle with gravity".

In all her work the body has been a constant. As she noted in her lecture, all we know is mediated through the body. This makes it the central site of meaning for her. When she speaks of embodiment as a theme for her work, she means, drawing on a tradition of thinkers from Merleau-Ponty to Julia Kristeva, that she sees the body as inseparable from an exploration of spiritual questions.

Not surprisingly then, Grimm-Vance began her talk by critiquing the flesh denying/ spirit-affirming tendency within the long history of the church. To be a Christian, she argued, is to accept a "profoundly Incarnational" call. That is, if one believes that Christ indwelt flesh and walked amongst us, then this changes our relationship with the entire material realm. Citing the first chapter of Genesis as a text that affirms the goodness of the material realm, she argued that we can't approach the infinite without some sort of translation through the material realm.

As an artist, she noted, such dualisms between spirit and flesh are impossible to accept. Quoting novelist Annie Dillard, she argued that the artist lives "jammed in a pool of materials." To be an artist requires attentiveness to materials and the material realm, which includes the body. Using the incarnation as her starting point, Grimm-Vance argued that for Christians, an identification with Christ's suffering means that our understanding of body is linked to the affliction of the cross. This is a problematic notion for pop-culture treatments of the body which evade brokenness and celebrate idealizations.

Although, as she pointed out, the source of suffering is never visible in her work, for the past 20 years her work has dealt with suffering – exploring the pain and woundedness of the fall while reaching toward healing. The real difficulty, Grimm-Vance pointed out, is balancing brokenness with a beauty which does not collapse into kitsch or the extreme banality of superficial beauty.

Throughout the evening, Grimm-Vance showed an extensive body of slides indicative of her oeuvre. While vast, a number of elements unified all her works. Each utilized an embodiment that portrays the human body (using her language) as both "beautiful" and "broken." She does not deny suffering – nor does she deny what she terms beauty. According to Grimm-Vance, both point towards the Incarnation and help the artist represent an image, seen through a mirror dimly, of God. The evening concluded with a question period and a wine-and-cheese reception.



Erica Grimm-Vance: *How Fragile We Are*
Encaustic, steel, 23k gold, 1996.

The following day, Erica Grimm-Vance joined a panel of practicing artists of faith to discuss the problems of representing the body in their art. The symposium, held at ICS, was accompanied by an exhibition of works by the symposium panelists. Joining her on the panel were artists **Bruno Capolongo**, **Gerard Pas**, **June Tenyenhuis**, and **George Langbroek**.

Moderator Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin began the discussion by inviting artists to talk about their own experience of using the body in their art. As the artists began interacting, a lively discussion explored several topics ranging from an avoidance of sentimentalization and idealization in portrayals of the body; to issues of censorship, sexuality and nudity; to the presence of the body in liturgical art. The enthusiasm for further discussion was evident in the question period and in the small reception that followed.

Largest ever incoming class expected

By **Natasja VanderBerg**, *M.Phil.F. student in Philosophical Theology*

ICS is busy preparing to welcome what is expected to be the largest incoming class in its history this September. The admissions committee has sent out more than thirty acceptance letters to date, with more projected as the applications keep rolling in.

Applications have been received from across the globe—from Peru to Myanmar—and from across North America. Eight of the accepted students hail from outside North America, while the North American students are spread across the continent, in both the United States and Canada. Students have been accepted into each of ICS's programs, as well as each of the eight areas of study offered by ICS.

The unprecedented number of applications and increasing number of visitors ICS is experiencing this year indicates that overall awareness of ICS is growing around the globe. "The presence of ICS alumni in faculty positions is one immeasurable factor in the increasing interest in ICS programs," said Director of Student Services, **Pam Trondson**. "In the past few years, we have experienced what could be called a 'second generation' of students, meaning students who have taken courses from and been mentored by ICS alumni while pursuing undergraduate degrees. For instance, this year we have students applying from Calvin, Cornerstone, Dordt, The King's, Messiah and

//
... [she critiqued] the flesh denying/ spirit-affirming tendency within the long history of the church. To be a Christian ... is to accept a 'profoundly Incarnational' call. ... if one believes that Christ indwelt flesh ... then this changes our relationship with the entire material realm.

//

Redeemer among others, all of which have ICS alumni in faculty positions."

Trondson named three additional factors that have contributed to the increase in the number of applications to ICS, including "what I call pro-ICSers, or persons who are committed to the mission of ICS around the globe, as well as the recruiting efforts of ICS students and a more developed system of inquiry follow up," said Trondson. "Whether by word-of-mouth, by seeing an ad, or by having a class with a former student, ICS seems to have grabbed the attention of an increased number of students this year."

Wine and cheese fetes Kuipers and Hart



On the evening of May 16, ICS held a wine-and-cheese open house to celebrate two recent publications indicative of the ongoing publishing efforts by both ICS faculty as well as students and alumni. The event honoured alumnus and sessional lecturer **Ron Kuipers** for the recent publication of his doctoral dissertation with Rodopi Press. Kuipers graduated last year from the ICS doctoral program in conjunction with the Free University in Amsterdam. His thesis, *Critical Faith, Toward a Renewed Understanding of Religious Life and its Public Accountability*, asks whether religious faith can be critical and remain recognizable as faith.

The other book feted was a festschrift dedicated to **Henk Hart**'s contribution to his discipline entitled, *Philosophy as Responsibility*. The book, co-edited by Ron Kuipers and alumna **Janet Wesselius** is a collection of essays by students and colleagues in Hart's honour. As Kuipers noted, this work of love was kept secret from Hart for five years before it was presented in a hand-crafted form to Hart at the occasion of his retirement dinner and exaugural address on November 30, 2001. The book's editors gathered together a group of talented scholars to contribute original essays for this collection. Their contributions admirably reflect a heartfelt desire to pay tribute to Hart for the gifts they have received from him over the years. The essays are by Hart's current and former students, and some of his current colleagues. It includes a substantive introduction by **Jim Olthuis**, and also a bibliography of Hart's speeches and writings prepared by ICS alumnus **Perry Recker** (which is an invaluable research tool for those who wish to research Hart's contribution to the tradition of reformational Christian philosophy).

In responding to the festschrift, Hart expressed his appreciation for all involved in the publication, noting both the contributions of the authors as well as his children Klaas (who painted an original portrait for the front cover) and Esther (who produced the design). Hart offered a special word of gratitude to Kuipers, noting that he, in the process of completing his doctoral program had not only published the festschrift and his doctoral dissertation, but two other books: his master's thesis, *Solidarity and the Stranger* is published with UPA, and he co-edited *Walking the Tightrope of Faith: Philosophical Conversations about Reason and Religion* with Hart and Kai Neilson.

Both Kuipers and Hart expressed their deep appreciation for all those who had helped in bringing these books to print, and the celebratory tone of the evening was one of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Difference and relativism

On April 14, Samir Gassanov successfully defended his M.Phil.F thesis on Alasdair MacIntyre entitled *The Quest for Rational Agreement: A Critical Assessment of Alasdair MacIntyre's Attempt to Overcome Relativism*. Gassanov's thesis dealt with the problem of moral relativism in the thought of



Samir Gassanov

MacIntyre, a Scottish-American thinker who has become one of the most important philosophical voices of the late twentieth century. With a sweeping knowledge of history and an eloquent style of writing, MacIntyre convinces his readers that morality is inseparable from cultural heritage, and that different ways of reasoning – different ways of thinking – are in constant conflict. MacIntyre, who rejects the utilitarian yardstick adopted by moral relativists, upholds rational argumentation as the arbiter for settling the fundamental moral, philosophical, religious differences that characterize our liberal democratic society. Gassanov examined MacIntyre's

assumptions and concluded that his concerns about relativism are largely unwarranted. Citing a reformational Christian conviction that human rationality is powerless to adjudicate between rival commitments on that level, Gassanov contested MacIntyre's argument to establish the rational superiority of one tradition by suggesting an alternative approach for dealing with the problem of fundamental differences.

A facelift for ICS

By **Craig Prosser**, *Director of Operations*

The sights, sounds and smells of summer in Toronto. Hotdog vendors on the street corner... people eating in the park. Honking cars, rumbling streetcars. Hurried business people running for subways. Fresh asphalt being applied to roadways... frustrated commuters.

At ICS, the sights, sounds and smells will include fresh paint, new carpets, new walls, demolition of existing walls – all in an attempt to update the look of ICS and create a warm, welcoming environment for students and visitors to our facilities.

For many years, ICS has occupied the second floor at our 229 College Street location in Toronto. Due to the growth in student numbers, faculty, and staff in recent years, we have begun to initiate a plan of expansion.

Phase I of this expansion

took place last summer, when our library was moved to the first floor, on the east side of the building. The offices of the President, Vice President for Advancement and support staff had already been moved to the first floor the previous fall.

Phase II of the expansion is scheduled to begin the first of July. Our reception area will be 'recreated' on the first floor, allowing more visibility for ICS to visitors to our building. The offices currently occupied by the President and Vice-President on the first floor will be reconfigured to create a new reception area and new offices for some administrative staff, including the Bookkeeper, Property Management and the Director of Operations.

The second floor will become the new 'home' to our Advancement Department. We will also be

expanding our lounge space, creating a new kitchen, new board room, and new classroom and office space.

Phase III of the project will include an expansion of our library on the first floor, and will include student work and study space. Also in the plans for Phase III is an expansion of office space on the first floor to accommodate projected growth in faculty, staff and students.

Once completed, the renovations will give a new look and feel to ICS, and create a warm and friendly environment in which to study, work and interact.

SUMMER SESSION 2003: Truth in science and religion

By **Sam Gassanov**, *M.Phil.F. student in Political Theory*

This May, ICS held a seminar entitled "Realism and Objective Truth in Science and Religion: Entering a Modernist-Postmodernist Discussion" co-led by **Hendrik Hart** (Senior Member emeritus, ICS) and ICS alumnus **Clarence Joldersma** (Philosophy of Education, Calvin College).

As the subtitle suggests, the seminar participants engaged in intense discussions on the postmodern challenges to the modernist conceptions of truth and objectivity. Some of the challenges revealed the extent to which the prevalent modernist conceptions of truth and objectivity are influenced by the uneasy relation between ancient Greek and Hebrew roots of the Western civilization.

The seminar discussions explored a range of topics from historical contexts (e.g. Pauline letters to the early church) to contemporary paradigms of religious and scientific discourses that reveal that uneasy relation. In addition to raising awareness of the historical dynamics of that relation and its institutional manifestations (e.g. the Medieval church and shifts in its attitude toward such marginal groups as lepers and witches), the seminar helped critically engage the vast literature on the subject and orient the participants in the modernist-postmodernist conversation.

A symposium on Adorno's political thought

By **Brad Wertz**, *M.Phil.F. student in Philosophical Theology*

On March 20, 2003, **Deborah Cook**, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Windsor gave a symposium entitled "Reactionary or Visionary? Adorno in the Noughties" on the political philosophy of Theodor Adorno. Focusing on the role of political activism in late capitalism, Cook addressed the role of the individual within the larger political, economic and social community. According to Cook, despite the fact that Adorno died in 1969, his critical philosophy is still as relevant as it ever has been. Cook claimed that for Adorno, the loss of the family as "the primary mode of socialization" has led to a weakened state of individual egos, which has in turn led to the exploitation of individuals within the political economy of late capitalism. As a result, personal worth has been identified with the exchange value of consumer goods and personal relationships have been reduced to status symbols.

As Cook pointed out in her paper, the need for financial support, a support grounded in the political economy, has only led to further social isolation, resulting in a lack of political resistance. The outcome of this has resulted in either absence or irrelevance in the political activism found in late capitalistic systems. In response to these problems, Adorno implemented a 'critical theory' that allows for a change in individual thought that exists prior to political praxis. According to Cook, Adorno's 'critical theory' is not intended to solve the problems of political involvement, but is intended to offer a relevant critical voice.

ICS offers symposium on pop culture

By **Larry Baker**, *M.Phil.F. student in Phil.Theology*

On April 10, **Dr. Kuk-Won Shin** visited the ICS for the final symposium of the academic year.

Dr. Shin is an alumnus of ICS who now resides in Seoul, Korea where he is Associate Professor at the Chongshin University. Dr. Shin presented an outline of a research paper that has come out of his sabbatical project at Calvin College in the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences. "Popular Culture Re-gained: Toward a Christian View," was the title of the paper that offered a unique overview of some current positions of popular culture by discussing such issues as marxist and feminist critiques, the limits and nature of Mass Arts, and redemptive strategies for popular culture.

As a practice, Shin argued, popular culture is not neutral but has "a mythological function in its activity of defining reality." This powerful place of culture demands a critical eye to evaluate how mass arts and popular culture are functioning within society.

Dr. Shin's desire to research popular culture came out of his pastoral concern for the direction of Korean culture over the last twenty years, noting that with pop-culture "the lowest common denominator, sex and violence, appeals to a large audience." Arguing that the effect on culture has been the denigration of aesthetics, socio-political, and moral, Dr. Shin proposed that the root cause of the problem is spiritually grounded in a strong dualist opposition between work and leisure. We have lost a healthy understanding of leisure, he contended, where we "shall neither live, work nor fun alone." After some discussion over the concerns of the audience Dr Shin explained that, "The basic idea [of this research] is to have Christians involved in popular culture."

Dr. Shin will be presenting papers based on his research at Dordt College, Iowa and Calvin College, Michigan in the near future.

Student/Alumni focus

Jamie Smith (M.Phil.F., 1995), now Associate Professor of Philosophy at Calvin College, has been invited to give two important series of lectures this year. In the summer of 2003, he will be giving a week of lectures at L'abri Fellowship in Switzerland, the community founded by Francis and Edith Schaeffer. The theme of his lectures will be "Demythologizing Post-modernism: Critical Direction for the Emerging Church." In the fall, Jamie has been invited to be the Distinguished Scholar Lecturer at Trinity Western University, where he will also be a Lamblight Lecturer

for the Geneva Society.

Scott Macklin (M.Phil.F., 1995) recently made a movie which premiered at the Newport Beach Film Festival on April 6, 2003. "Tribal Journey: Celebrating our Ancestors" is a film documenting the voyage taken by more than twenty ocean-going dugout canoes representing twenty-five native nations from the United States and Canada. These tribal journeys, which happen every four years, are part of a series of inter-tribal cultural exchanges catalyzing a reaffirmation and reawakening of the canoe cultures of the Northwest coast. This film portrays the celebration of

ancestors through the journey of the canoes; through the art, dance and songs of the participating tribes; through the preparation and sharing of meals; and through the celebration of the potlatch (gift-giving ceremony). Scott is also the director of PETTT (The Program for Educational Transformation through Technology) at the University of Washington. Their mission is to make it easier for educators to use technology to transform the ways in which teachers teach and learners learn, and to disseminate this knowledge locally and nationally.

Staff news



Chris Cuthill, who has served as Communications Coordinator for the past two years at ICS, has left the Institute to take up a faculty position at Redeemer University College, Ancaster in the Art Department. After an initial period of "feet wetting," Chris will take up the administrative responsibilities of Art Department Chair in addition to teaching courses in the areas of Art Theory, Art History and Aesthetics. Chris is a graduate of the ICS Aesthetics program (M.Phil.F., 1999) and is a doctoral student at the ICS in conjunction with the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

ICS is pleased to announce the appointment of **Graeme Burk** to the Manager of Communi-

(Continued on page 6)

What a difference a day makes

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

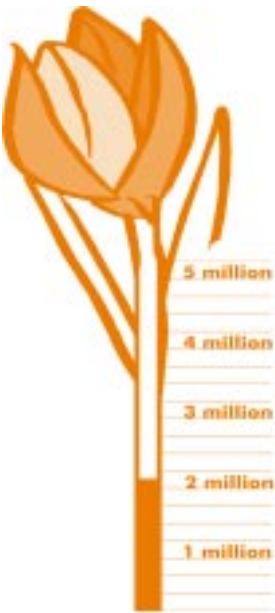
At the end of the day a few weeks ago, I said, "What a difference a day makes!" Two pledges as a result of two visits on one day put the ICS campaign total over the two-million dollar mark. What a difference a day makes! It seemed for a little while that we were slowing down and now suddenly there is new momentum. We are grateful to so many for their enthusiastic support of *reGeneration! The Campaign for ICS*.

Since that big day, the total pledges for the campaign now sit at \$2,145,000 constituting about 170 gifts. A campaign is not a success on the basis of one day; it is a success only through diligent work and prayer over a period of time. Patience and perseverance are important virtues.

But I could also say, "What a difference a week makes!" A few weeks ago, we heard that **Chris Cuthill**, ICS M.Phil.F graduate and Ph.D. student, as well as ICS Communications Coordinator, had accepted an offer to teach in the art department at Redeemer University College. In that same week, we heard that **Bruce Clemenger**, ICS M.Phil.F graduate and Ph.D. candidate, was appointed to the presidency of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Both of these ICS graduates are servant leaders who will contribute much in their respective fields. We are very proud of their accomplishments so far.

Is the success of our fundraising connected to the success of our alumni? I believe it is. As the impact of the work of ICS becomes more visible, it is easier for people to see why it's important to support ICS.

What will the future hold? We continue to be confident in the Lord that our plans are blessed. We continue to work and talk with a number of potential donors who are interested in what we are planning. Our hope is that we will have \$5,000,000 in pledges by December 2003. That hope has good foundation and so staff and volunteers continue to work with enthusiasm.



Staff News

(Continued from page 5)

cations and Alumni Affairs position. Graeme brings over ten years of administrative, editorial, design, writing and web application experience to

this position. He has served in numerous capacities in the communications field both here in Toronto, as well as in the UK. Graeme began his appointment on June 16.

new books

Political Visions & Illusions

A Survey & Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies

By **David T. Koyzis** (ICS alumnus, M.Phil.F, 1982)

Just a few years ago, the world seemed to be locked in a standoff between two superpowers and their respective ideologies. But the end of the Cold War has brought about more than the triumph of some political ideologies and the disappearance of others.

Rather, the collapse of communism has created a vacuum being filled by various alternative visions, ranging from ethnic nationalism to individualistic liberalism. Furthermore, political leaders continue to debate the range and scope of government and conflicting views of liberty, responsibility and national identity, challenging and rethinking the underlying assumptions of the dominant ideologies of the West. But political ideologies are not merely a matter of governmental efficacy and pragmatism. Rather, political ideologies are intrinsically and inescapably religious—each carries certain assumptions about the nature of reality, individuals and society, as well as a particular vision for the common good. These fundamental beliefs transcend the political sphere, and the astute Christian observer should thus discern the subtle ways in which ideologies are rooted in idolatrous worldviews.

In this comprehensive study, political scientist and ICS alumni **David Koyzis** surveys the key political ideologies of our era, including liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, democracy and socialism. Each philosophy is given careful analysis and fair critique, unpacking the worldview issues inherent to each and pointing out essential strengths and weaknesses.

Koyzis concludes by proposing alternative models that flow out of Christianity's historic engagement with the public square, retrieving approaches that hold promise for the complex political realities of the twenty-first century.

Writing with broad, international perspective and keen analytical insight, Koyzis offers a sound guide for all students of modern political thought.

ICS summer conferences

ONTARIO

The beautiful risk: Finding our passion, opening our hearts

To love or not to love: that is the question. Open hearts, or hearts that are closed, disengaged, troubled and joyless. Connecting and reconnecting with our authentic selves, others, creation and God – the healing of our hearts – is a journey that is an

awesome dance in which we are caught up in the flow of God's love.

This year's Ontario Summer Conference will be held on August 16th at Redeemer University College in Ancaster with a new one-day format. Our keynote speaker this year will be **Jim Olthuis**, therapist and professor of Philosophical Theology at ICS.

Jim will speak on the topic of "Living with Passion: the Beautiful Risk of Love." Using his new book *The Beautiful Risk: A New Psychology of Loving and Being Loved*, Jim will lead conferees to

faculty focus

Lambert Zuidervaart has completed several projects to mark the centennial of Theodor W. Adorno's birth (September 11, 1903). Adorno was one of the most important philosophers and social critics in Germany after World War II. Zuidervaart has published the main entry on Adorno in the online *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Junior member Matt Klaassen assisted him in the research and preparation for this article. It can be viewed and downloaded at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/adorno/>.

Zuidervaart and Professor Marie-Noëlle Ryan (Philosophy, Moncton University) organized a day-long symposium on "Theodor W. Adorno (1903-1969)," co-sponsored by the Canadian Philosophical Association and the Canadian Society for Aesthetics, at the 2003 Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities in Halifax on May 31.

The symposium discussed both social philosophy and aesthetics.

Zuidervaart's paper for the symposium was titled "Metaphysics after Auschwitz: Suffering and Hope in Adorno's

celebrate together the healing of wounds as an emotional-spiritual process we journey on together.

The keynote lecture will be followed by several workshops that will explore the importance of passion in various areas of our lives such as education, family relationships, politics and church life. This family conference will also offer children's and youth programs for all ages. The conference will conclude with a banquet and keynote talk by Dr. John Hulst, president emeritus of Dordt College, entitled

Negative Dialectics.” He has also published a substantial book review of J. M. Bernstein’s Adorno: *Disenchantment and Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 2001). The review appears in *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory* 10.2 (2003).

Jonathan Chaplin had a review essay published in ‘Comment,’ published by the Work Research Foundation, a think-tank linked to CLAC on a three-volume work edited by Max Stackhouse et al, *God and Globalization* (Trinity Press International, 2000-2002). He attended a meeting of the Governing Council of the Dooyeweerd Centre, Redeemer University College, March 29. He is busy completing a book on the social and political thought of Herman Dooyeweerd.

Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin, together with John Franklin, director of *Imago*, oversaw the annual *Art Talks!* event entitled ‘Body: Broken and Beautiful’ with keynote speaker Erica Grimm-Vance on April 25 & 26. As part of the event she chaired the Saturday morning Symposium taking place at ICS where Erica and several other artists



discussed the role of the body in their work. As chair of the program committee of the Canadian Society of Aesthetics, Adrienne was responsible for the smooth running of their Annual Meeting at the Congress for the Social Sciences and Humanities at Dalhousie University in Halifax from May 29-31. At the end of June she was part of a panel at the bi-annual CIVA (Christians in the Visual Arts) conference in Boston on the theme of “Images of the Body: Sacred, Personal and Public.” The theme of the panel session was “Lamp of the Body: Toward a Prophetic Theology of Seeing” with particular attention to the notion of the gaze.

Bob Sweetman spoke at the University of Calgary as speaker for the Medie-

val and Renaissance Cultural Studies Research Group at the university on 28 March 2003. The title of his paper was “Reading, Writing and the Exemplary Care of Thomas of Cantimpré, c. 1260” He also attended the 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies held on the campus of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI, May 8-11.

Sylvia Keesmaat was featured in the May/June issue of *Faith Today* magazine in an article highlighting five important Canadian women who integrate faith and scholarship. ICS Senator **Deborah Bowen** was also profiled in the article.

Cal Seerveld (emeritus) spoke at a Barcelona Arts Gathering, May 1-4, on the topic of “The Challenge to be Imaginative Salt as Artists in God’s World.” The other speakers were **David Estrada** (Spain) and **Nigel Goodwin** (England). Artists from several European countries were in attendance. Seerveld also had an article titled “Christian Artists: called to be fully human,” in the February Christian Educators Journal, 42:3 (February 2003): 22-24.



Jim Olthuis visited Messiah College and gave a series of presentations in philosophy and psychotherapy on April 3 and 4. On April 5 and 6, he attended the Society of Continental Philosophy and Theology at Villanova University on the phenomenology of prayer.

Doug Blomberg submitted an application to the Ontario College of Teachers at the beginning of April to register ICS as a Professional Learning Program provider. He attended the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago, April 21-25. In Grand Rapids on April 26, he participated in the third annual consultation sponsored by the Inter-

national Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education and the Center for Educational Services (Dordt College); this is designed to coordinate assistance to elementary and secondary schools, and to explore the involvement of other agencies, especially those concerned with Christian schools on an international level. In May, he served as referee for an article submitted to an international journal. In June, he completed the manuscript for a book provisionally entitled *Shrewd as Serpents: Christian Schooling after Postmodernity*.



“The Beautiful Risk of Christian Higher Education”

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Living with passion: the beautiful risk of love

a one-day conference on the healing of wounds and the renewing of passion

ICS is pleased announce a new one-day conference in British Columbia. This year, on September 27, ICS will re-introduce a family conference in B.C.

There is a long tradition of ICS family conferences held in both north and south B.C. going back to the early days of the Institute. The last of these conferences was held in 1992.

This regeneration of the B.C. Family Conference will take place at Fleetwood Christian Reformed Church in Surrey, B.C. and will, like the Ontario Summer Conference, feature keynote speaker **Jim Olthuis** as well as a series of workshops structured around the conference theme.

ALBERTA

War & peace: Understanding the contested spirits

This year’s ICS Alberta Family Conference will once again be held at Deer Valley Meadows in Alberta, and will feature keynote speaker **Dr. David Koyzis**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario. A graduate of the M.Phil.F. program at ICS. Dr.

Koyzis will offer three keynote lectures on the topics of: “Liberalism’s impact on the west,” “Islamism, terrorism, and the secular west” and “Canada’s place in the new world order.” This conference will also feature a concert by the **Copper Coins**, worship and programs for all ages.

For more information on any three of these conferences, please see our website:
www.icscanada.edu

Non-profit org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lewiston, N.Y.
Permit No. 49



PERSPECTIVE

Is your address correct? Address change requested / Return Postage guaranteed

ORDER FORM

	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
BOOKS FOR SALE			
<i>Political Visions & Illusions: A Survey & Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies</i> By David T. Koyzis	\$29.99	_____	\$ _____
<i>A Royal Priesthood?: The Use of the Bible Ethically and Politically</i> Edited by Craig Bartholomew and Jonathan Chaplin et al.	\$54.99	_____	\$ _____
<i>Critical Faith: Toward a Renewed Understanding of Religious Life and its Public Accountability</i> By Ronald A. Kuipers	\$55.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Toward a Christian Conception of History</i> By M.C. Smit Edited and Translated by H. Donald Morton and Harry Van Dyke	\$47.95	_____	\$ _____
<i>Philosophy as Responsibility: A Celebration of Hendrik Hart's Contribution to the Discipline</i> Edited by Ronald A. Kuipers and Janet Catherina Wesselius.	\$37.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>The Bible and the Task of Teaching</i> By David Smith and John Shortt	\$24.95	_____	\$ _____
<i>Religion With/out Religion: The Prayers and Tears of John D. Caputo</i> Edited by Jim Olthuis	\$47.95	_____	\$ _____
<i>The Beautiful Risk: A New Psychology of Loving and Being Loved</i> By Jim Olthuis	\$29.95	_____	\$ _____
VIDEOS FOR SALE			
<i>The Breath of God: Calvin Seerveld and the Art of Bible Translation</i>	\$19.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>A performance of the complete Song of Songs.</i> Translation by Calvin Seerveld.	\$19.00	_____	\$ _____
Total Order			\$ _____
*Shipping & Handling Charges			
Canada: Add \$2.75 plus 75¢ per additional item			\$ _____
US: Add \$3.75 + \$1.00 per additional item			\$ _____
Other: Add \$5.75 +\$2.00 per additional item			\$ _____
Final Total			\$ _____

ICS offers a wide variety of books: from scholarly and academic titles to popular and devotional. To have a full list of our available titles sent to you, contact ICS at (416) 979-2331 or visit our online bookshop at www.icscanada.edu/bookshop

Please send me your complete list of books available through ICS
Name _____
Address _____ CityProv/State _____
Postal Code/Zip _____ Phone/E-mail _____

Payment
 Cheque/Money Order
 VISA # _____
Signature _____ Expiry _____

Perspective Newsletter
(USPS 335-530)
is published by
**Institute for
Christian Studies**

Editorial Committee:
Harry Fernhout,
John Meiboom,
Design: Willem Hart
*Communications
Coordinator:*
Chris Cuthill

**Send all address
changes to:**
Circulation Manager,
Perspective
ICS
229 College Street
Suite 200
Toronto Ontario,
Canada M5T 1R4

www.icscanada.edu

**U.S.A. subscribers/
supporters please
contact:**
Friends of ICS
678 Front Street NW
Suite 159
Grand Rapids
MI 48504

Authorized Second Class
postage paid to the USA
and Territories, mailed
from Box 110
Lewiston, NY 14092

Publications mail
agreement no. 105244
Reg. no. 2091

Address correction
requested

ISSN 0847-0324

PRINTED IN CANADA
ON RECYCLED PAPER

