

CONTACT

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International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education

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by Dr. Michael Goheen, Department of Religion and Theology, Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Ontario, Canada

 IAPCHE Board Meets via Internet

In the March 2001 issue of CONTACT our readers were introduced to the newly elected board of IAPCHE:

Africa: Emmanuel Ayee and Mary Muchiri

Asia/Oceania: Bong Ho Son and Andreas Yewangoe

Europe: Peter Blokhuis and Istvan Szabo

Latin America: Nelly García and Patricio Proano

North America: Harry Fernhout and George Monsma

On June 12, 2001, this international board met via an internet "chat room." Even though not all of the members were able to participate, there was a quorum and all five regions were represented. The Secretariat, which worked hard in making arrangements, was pleased with the meeting and its results. An internet meeting will enable the board to meet more frequently, perhaps more efficiently, and, obviously, at greatly reduced costs.

During the meeting, among other things -

- the final draft of the constitution and by-laws was approved.
- the detailed 5/10 year plan was adopted.
- the 2001-2002 budget was approved with projected income of \$61,250.00 and expenses of \$56,400.00 resulting in a balance of \$4,850.00.
- Dr. John B. Hulst agreed to serve as executive secretary for another year, 2002, assuming that a paid quarter-time person will be added to the Secretariat.

Executive Committee Meets in Florida

On July 13, 2001, the executive committee -- Dr. George Monsma, chair; Mrs. Nelly Garcia, vice-chair; and Dr. John Hulst, executive secretary --met at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Rooy, Penny Farms, Florida. Dr. Rooy, former board and executive committee member, is now serving as an advisor to the executive secretary. Up to this point the executive committee had dealt with a number of issues via e-mail, but it was seen as important for the members to meet personally in order to establish a meaningful working relationship, and this proved to be the case.

Some of the more significant issues considered were the following:

- Given the fact that the entire board was recently elected, board terms were set with the result that one member each from Africa, Asia/Oceania, and Europe is now in the process of being elected or re-elected.
- The financial report for 2000-2001 indicated that at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2001, the general fund balance was \$15,193.05, the amount needed to continue our operation until the end of the year.
- Presently IAPCHE reports membership in five categories: individual 333; institutional 34; affiliate 7; associate 11; consulting 3. To meet the budget requirements for 2001-2002, in addition to small institutional dues increases, it will be necessary to increase the associate membership by twelve members.
- The Secretariat continues to support and assist those involved in the development of a Faith and Learning Network, a Collaborative Teacher Education Project, and a Christian Academic Studies Certificate.
- A review of the 5/10 year plan led to the following decisions: 1) to develop a five-year financial plan; 2) to review the list of institutional members and the extent of their support for and participation in the Association; 3) to schedule a joint international conference for individual and institutional members in 2005, possibly in Latin America; 4) to consider a category for student membership, closely linked to individual faculty membership.

The executive committee meeting ended with a session of prayer, thanking God for His blessings, acknowledging that He has placed many challenges and opportunities before us, and asking that He strengthen us so that we may meet the challenges and seize the opportunities.

EDITORIAL: Teacher Education Project gains support

Those who attended the IAPCHE International Conference 2000 will recall that one of the special projects placed before the meeting was the "CES/IAPCHE Collaboration Proposal"—a proposal that came out of conversations between IAPCHE and the Center for Educational Services (CES) at Dordt College.

For several years CES, under the direction of Dr. John Van Dyk, has been working with Christian schools and teachers—primarily in the United States and Canada, but also in other countries—seeking to assist

them in the ongoing development of a biblical, Christian perspective as it applies to pedagogy and curriculum. The purpose of the proposal presented to Conference 2000 was to make this program international and, wherever possible, to involve the educational departments of the institutional members of IAPCHE.

The proposal described two areas in which Christian higher education can be of assistance to Christian elementary and secondary education: 1) research and development of insight in the various components of education (e.g., history and philosophy of education, curriculum theory, learning and pedagogical theory, the nature of educational leadership, etc.), and 2) teacher preparation (involving the interplay between theoretical insight and practical implementation).

Against this background the conference was asked to respond to recommendations that

1. CES and IAPCHE consider one another partners in an effort to serve Christian elementary and secondary education globally, and explore various ways of implementing such collaboration.
2. CES and IAPCHE agree to collaborate to raise consciousness about the need for a) educational research, and b) teacher education programs in higher educational settings.
3. CES and IAPCHE engage in a survey (or inventory) in order to discover which institutions of Christian higher education a) are currently engaged in educational research. b) offer teacher education programs, and c) provide in-service opportunities for area teachers.
4. CES and IAPCHE jointly sponsor and arrange regional conferences variously focused entirely on a) educational research, b) specific areas in education (e.g., pedagogy, learning theory, special education, multicultural education, administration and educational leadership, curriculum development, etc.), and c) designing ways to offer workshop/seminar services for Christian teachers and administrators.

The response to these recommendations was very positive. The participants in Conference 2000 obviously felt that there is a great need for such collaboration on behalf of Christian schools throughout the five regions of the association. Therefore, IAPCHE made supporting the implementation of this program part of its 5/10 year plan.

During the discussion of this proposal at the conference it was suggested that other institutions and agencies, especially those concerned with Christian schools on an international level, be invited to participate in this effort. In keeping with this suggestion, IAPCHE called together representatives of such agencies (e.g., Christian Schools International [CSI], Worldwide Christian Schools, Commission on Youth and Christian Nurture of the Reformed Ecumenical Council, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee), along with other educators. In a meeting held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the agencies reported on some of the ways in which they assist Christian schooling overseas. It was agreed that, as much as possible, these agencies, along with IAPCHE and CES, should cooperate and coordinate their efforts.

Since that time, John Van Dyk has been involved in two significant international conferences relating to elementary and secondary education. The first was held at Leeds in the U.K. The West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies (WYSOCS) hosted a special educational symposium in early June, 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the relationship between philosophy of education and classroom practice. The conversation dealt with the match (or mismatch) between what teachers believe and what they actually do in the classroom. At the time of this symposium, WYSOCS organized a conference specifically for U.K. Christian teachers.

The second conference was an Educational Leadership Consultation in Pretoria, South Africa. Among the

various topics presented and discussed was the question of ways in which Christian higher education can contribute to the needs of elementary and secondary schooling.

Further, and in harmony with the fourth recommendation adopted by Conference 2000, two of the IAPCHE regional conferences being planned for 2002 -- one in July in Budapest, Hungary, and the other in October in Manila, the Philippines -- will have a track focusing especially on the role of institutions of Christian higher education in providing services to the Christian elementary and secondary schools in those communities. It is hoped that many of the agencies mentioned above will be present to participate in these meetings.

IAPCHE is enthusiastic in its endorsement of this project. It demonstrates our support for Christian education on all levels; it provides an opportunity to provide perspectival leadership for the Christian school movement; and it creates a context in which we can promote cooperative, communal effort on behalf of the Christian schools and their teachers. In other words, this exercise in "collaboration" is one way in which we can realize the purpose for which IAPCHE was organized 26 years ago.

Postscript:

I have just received a report from John De Jager of CSI concerning an August 2001 meeting in Kenya of those concerned to explore how to develop and/or strengthen Christian schooling in East Africa. One of the recommendations coming out of the meeting stated that "Christian Schools International and World Wide Christian Schools should encourage one or more institutions of Christian higher education in the region to provide a Christian pedagogical education program that meets the need to equip Christian teachers to integrate a biblical world view in all subjects and provide a Christian approach to crafting the learning environment." This is good news of action very much in line with the intent of the "CES/IAPCHE Collaboration Proposal."

September 11, 2001

As we went to press with this issue of Contact, we began to receive expressions of concern from IAPCHE members around the world in response to the news of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11. The first came from IAPCHE board member Emmanuel Ayee (Accra, Ghana), who wrote:

"We have been watching CNN and listening to radio news bulletins with shock and dismay, at the apparent terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We are horrified that two commercial airlines were deliberately crashed into the WTC as well as [another into] the Pentagon. The fourth airline crashed [near] Pittsburgh.

"I wish to extend our condolences to you and the people of America for this tragedy that has led to the loss of many innocent lives. We pray that God will comfort the families and friends of all who have been injured or have lost their lives. Our prayers are with all of you. May God grant His people peace and wisdom to President Bush and his team as they handle this national tragedy.

Peace be with you."

The Executive Secretary responded: "September 11 was indeed a very difficult day for the American nation. We are still stunned, not fully realizing what has happened to us. However, we entrust ourselves to the God who is our refuge and strength. Thank you for your kind expression of concern and the assurance of your prayers."

INTRODUCTIONS

Introducing Augustine College

IAPCHE welcomes Augustine College, located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, as its newest affiliate member.

Augustine College has a unique mission and program in North America, and we're happy to introduce this institution to the IAPCHE network. The following paragraphs are taken from the Augustine College website, www.augustinecollege.org.

In September of 1997 Augustine College opened to its founding class. This was the realization of the vision of a number of local university professors and laymen who felt led to found a new kind of institution for higher learning. Our intent is to provide qualified students with a time of rich and integrated study, food for both the spirit and the mind.

Augustine College offers an opportunity for dedicated students to study, for one year, the basic foundations of Western intellectual and cultural tradition. We are convinced that such study is most insightfully done in an atmosphere of sincere and articulate Christianity, such as has sustained both faith and humane culture since the days of the early Church.

The faculty and board of Augustine College are committed Christians, many of whom have been reading and praying together for several years. Students, clergymen and laymen have joined this study group, forming what the medievals called a "collegium," that is, a group which reads and reflects together. Out of that fellowship has grown a deepening awareness of the need for more young people to have a similar opportunity. Augustine College is a response in faith to that calling.

Each student may expect to benefit from a year of close contact with senior scholars from various disciplines. This is an advantage that undergraduates rarely receive even at the most distinguished universities. Ideally this year program would provide concrete gains in knowledge, such as a reading knowledge of Latin and familiarity with some key texts in the history of Christian civilization. More generally, it would also provide a coherent picture, not a piecemeal collage, of the story of history as it unfolds in music, art and literature, in theology and philosophy, and in mathematics and science.

The faculty, staff, and board of Augustine College desire above all to live out a faithful, disciplined, Christian obedience in both individual and community life. Although we have come together from a diversity of church backgrounds (already including Presbyterian, Baptist, United Church, Anglican, Methodist, and Roman Catholic), we share a considered desire for thorough-going faithfulness to the Lordship of Christ, submitting to the authority of Scripture and the foundational teaching of the Church.

We are called to unity in love of Christ (John 17) and seek to live by the first things of faith and, in the root sense, exercise an evangelical duty to the world in which we have been placed.

We subscribe without cavil to each of the clauses in the earliest general confession of the Church known as the Apostles' Creed. It is our prayer that our students will come to share our conviction and enthusiasm for the great heritage of our common faith.

The aim of Augustine College is to explore at an advanced level with gifted young men and women the foundational writers, works, concepts and theories on which Christian civilization depends.

The college classes, office, library, and lounge, are located in the Sandy Hill area of Ottawa, convenient to the downtown core and the University of Ottawa. The house also provides space for residence accommodation for some of the students. Students have full access to the library at Saint Paul University, which is only a few minutes from our own location. It is the largest, single theological library in Canada. The library fee is \$100 per annum. Arrangements are also made for library privileges at the University of

Ottawa. A private donation has enabled us to start a collection of compact discs to support our music program and the college has received a generous grant from the Donner Canadian Foundation to establish a core resource library.

Augustine College has credit transfer agreements with several colleges and universities, including some institutional members of IAPCHE. For more information, please visit our website or contact us at Augustine College, 18 Blackburn Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 8A3, Canada; ph (613) 237-9870 fax (613) 237-3934.

Introducing Károli Gáspár University of the Hungarian Reformed Church

Károli Gáspár Reformed University will be hosting the next regional IAPCHE conference for the European Region. The University, located in Budapest, Hungary, has been a member of IAPCHE since the year 2000. Susan Gimesi, assistant to the dean of the Faculty of Theology, and a member of the IAPCHE conference hosting committee, kindly sent us a brochure, which included the following paragraphs written by Prof. Dr. Sándor Tenke, Dean.

"The legal predecessor of our University was the Reformed Theological Academy of Budapest, founded in 1855 and granted University status by the Hungarian parliament in 1900. In 1993 the General Assembly of the Hungarian Reformed Church took the decision to establish a multi-faculty University, and this decision was approved later that year by the Parliament of the Republic of Hungary. Through the creation of Károli Gáspár University, the Hungarian Reformed Church has fulfilled the aims of its forefathers. Our University, in the spirit of the *universitas scientiarum*, aims to raise the status of not solely the Church, but also the nation, through its educational, teaching, and academic work.

"The commitment of the Károli Gáspár Reformed University is to carry on the distinguished traditions of the Reformed Colleges of Sárospatak (founded in 1531), Pápa (founded in 1531), Debrecen (founded in 1538), Kolozsvár (founded in 1622) and Nagyenyed (founded in 1632). In addition to the education of ministers of religion, . . . academic research, training for the position of lecturer and for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and the awarding of degrees, its aims and objectives are to provide university- and college-level basic education in several fields and branches of scholarship, and to be capable of carrying out academic research, in accordance with the aforementioned traditions and in the spirit of the Reformation." The Hungarian Accreditation Committee, [on] June 6, 2000, . . . granted our University accredited status."

Károli Gáspár Reformed University includes the Faculty of Divinity, previously the Reformed Theological Academy of Budapest, referred to above; the Faculty of Teacher Training, which was started by the Nagykoros Presbytery of the Reformed Church of Hungary as the Reformed Teacher Training College and still located in Nagykoros; the Faculty of Humanities, located in Budapest; and the Faculty of Law and State Science, located both at the Reformed Academy of Law in Kecskemét (re-opened in 1994 after 44 years of enforced suspension of work) and in Budapest. A fairly recent addition to the curriculum is the Institute for Cultural Studies. The objective of the establishment of the Institute for Cultural Studies is to provide education in interdisciplinary areas in order to strengthen relationships between different faculties and foreign universities.

For more information, contact Károli Gáspár Reformed University, H-1091 Budapest, Kálvin tér 9, Hungary; Tel: 36 1 215 8820; FAX: 36 1 455 9062. Faculty of Theology: H-1092 Budapest, Ráday u. 28. Hungary; Tel/FAX: 36 1 217 2403

CONFERENCES

Regional conferences planned for 2002

- ▶ **Regional IAPCHE Conference for Central Europe**
Place: Károli Gáspár Reformed University, Budapest, Hungary
Date: July 3-6, 2002
Theme: "God's Word for the Academy in Contemporary Culture(s)"
- ▶ **Regional IAPCHE Conference in Asia/Oceania**
Place: Manila, the Philippines
Date: October 2002
Theme: to be announced
- ▶ **Regional IAPCHE Conference in Latin America** (see article below)

Corporacion Universitaria Reformada to Host Third Regional IAPCHE Conference in Latin America

By Sidney Rooy, IAPCHE advisor

Plans are going forward for the IAPCHE (*AIPESEC* in Spanish, *Asociación Internacional para la Promoción de Educación Superior Cristiana*) conference of university professors and interested institutions of Christian higher education to be held at the recently government-accredited Reformed University (*Corporación Universitaria Reformada*) in Barranquilla, Colombia. The continental meeting will be held during August, 2002, with the theme: "The challenges of knowing for Christian educators in a globalized world." Program plans are in progress.

The host, the Reformed University of Barranquilla, Colombia, has grown out of the educational work of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia which began 138 years ago. Missionaries and national educators established Christian primary and secondary schools in different parts of the nation. From these educational projects has resulted the present university program which was recently approved by the governmental ministry of education for university status. Its program continues courses already established, but will officially begin its accredited programs of social psychology and theology at the beginning of the 2002-3 school year.

Dr. Gonzalo Dernéy Ramos, the rector of the university, serves as the coordinator of AIPESEC for Latin America. Together with the supporting university staff, he has edited two issues of a bulletin which has already been sent this year on the internet to national representatives in twenty countries for distribution.

The first issue included an introduction about the objectives of IAPCHE and its history, and informed the Latin American members and interested persons of the activities of IAPCHE in the rest of the world. The second issue carried a significant article by Dr. Dernéy Ramos on "Christian education, culture and curriculum," as well as the names and addresses of all of our national "referents" to stimulate better communication between members and interested persons.

Preparatory conferences on the national level are being promoted in some Latin American countries. Such a conference is being organized in Brazil as part of the national congress of the Intersarsity movement to be held in Belo Horizonte November 15-18, 2001. The theme of the congress will be "Christian professionals: agents of transformation." One of the three sub-groups will be for university professors. Invited speakers include: Paul Stevens, Berit Kloster and Sidney Rooy. A one-day conference is also planned for the city of Londrina.

A national committee has been formed to promote the interests of *AIPESEC* in Brazil. Its members, from

five different Brazilian states, are: Alexandre Brasil Fonseca, Alberto Diniz, Gilson Ciarallo, Elizabeth Lima and Lyndon Araujo do Santos. They have formed a discussion group on the internet and published two books on Christian education. The first of the books includes study papers from the previous Latin American regional conferences, while the second offers Christian perspectives for the diverse disciplines by Brazilian educators.

IAPCHE has thirty individual members in Latin America and two institutional members: the Universidad Cristiana Evangélica Latinoamericana in Quito, Ecuador; and the Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua, located in Managua. Dr. Patricio Proaño, who is rector of the first mentioned above, and Profesora Nelly García, of the University of Costa Rica, serve as the Latin American representatives on the international board of IAPCHE

♦ Dordt College to host Biblical Holism and Agriculture Conference

These are exciting times for Christians working in agriculture and related disciplines. There is a growing movement among evangelicals to follow God's biblical mandate in caring for His creation. That said, much thinking and work remains to be done in the wider area of Biblical holism and its relationship to agriculture. In order to meet this critical need, Food for the Hungry International and Dordt College are planning an international conference on Biblical Holism and Agriculture to be held May 14-17, 2002. The conference will take place on Dordt's campus in Iowa and will bring together a mix of key thinkers, writers, and interested agricultural practitioners from around the world to exchange ideas and created some exciting practical tools.

The conference will be framed around six topic areas. These topics reflect the relationships included in an understanding of Biblical holism in agriculture.

- ▶ The Agriculturalist and God
- ▶ The Agriculturalist and Humanity
- ▶ The Agriculturalist and Creation
- ▶ The Agriculturalist and Knowledge
- ▶ The Agriculturalist and Purpose (including Vocation and Work)
- ▶ The Agriculturalist and Ethics

For more information, contact Keith Wright, Food for the Hungry International, P.O. Box 75166, Washington, D.C. 20013-5166; e-mail kwright@fhi.net; or Ron Vos, Agriculture Department, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250; e-mail Ronvos@dordt.edu.

♦ IAPCHE represented at APCU symposium

Rev. Richard Russell, IAPCHE member from Bath, Great Britain, attended the Association for Reformed & Presbyterian Colleges & Universities (APCU) Symposium held in Edinburgh, Scotland, June 20-24, 2001. "Our Educational Tradition: Burden, Challenge or Opportunity?" was the theme of the conference.

Russell reported that the delegates were mostly presidents and deans of United Presbyterian Church (now PCUSA) church-related colleges. These ranged from a college in Texas with a foundation of \$600 million to a struggling one in Alaska having to support itself with a salmon hatchery. In addition were presidents from church-related colleges in Palestine, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Japan and Korea. Russell was there to represent IAPCHE and was also the sole representative of Great Britain & Western Europe. One of the people he spoke to there was the president of Lady Doak College in India, Dr. Nirmala Jeyaraj, who has

since become an individual member of IAPCHE.

Russell was formerly a lecturer in philosophy at Manchester College, Oxford; Trinity Christian College, Chicago; and Trinity College, Bristol. He recently retired as Vicar of Widcombe, Bath, and continues as Director of the Christian Studies Unit.

REGIONAL REPORT

Regional Centre in Africa Officially Established

The Interim Council of the Centre for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Africa (CPCHEA) met in Potchefstroom, South Africa, Sunday and Monday, 26 March 25-26, 2001.

Background

The idea and impetus for this Centre emerged from discussions at a conference organised by the Heidelberg Institute for Christian Higher Education held on the campus of the University of Venda (South Africa) in January 2000. The details were subsequently developed in discussions between Bennie van der Walt, on the one hand, and Samson Makhado, Stuart Fowler and Joy Fowler, representing the Heidelberg Institute, on the other hand. As a result of these discussions, the Heidelberg Institute took the initiative to develop a constitution and approach a number of persons to serve on an Interim Council of the Centre. Information about this initiative was sent to IAPCHE for information and feedback from Conference 2000. At this conference, Bennie van der Walt also presented a paper in which he shared the vision of such a Centre. The delegates to this conference from Africa met during the conference to consider the vision and initiative, which was endorsed in principle, and ideas for the way forward were advanced.

The following are the decisions taken by the Interim Council in the light of the developments to date.

Official Name of the Centre

It was decided to declare the Centre officially established on Sunday, March 25, in Potchefstroom under the name Centre for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Africa.

Interim Chairman

The role of Prof. Bennie van der Walt, who had been acting as Interim Chairman since the meeting of African delegates at the IAPCHE conference, was confirmed and his actions in this role to date were endorsed. However, because of his present health he requested to be relieved of this responsibility though remaining a member of the Interim Council. Dr. Stuart Fowler was appointed to replace him as Interim Chairman.

Interim Secretary

The role of Dr. Emmanuel Ayee, who had been acting as Interim Secretary, was confirmed and his actions in this role to date endorsed.

Conference

The Interim Council discussed at some length the proposal of the IAPCHE African delegates meeting for a conference to be held in Kenya in 2002 as a forum for the official launch of the Centre. While it was recognised that the proposal has merit, it was decided that such a venture would be premature at this stage owing to both the lack of funds and the lack of an adequate database that would ensure that such a conference would be representative of the kinds of persons needed to achieve the vision of the Centre. For these reasons, further consideration of this proposal was deferred.

A possibility that was regarded as worth consideration in future discussions of the conference proposal is for two regional conferences, rather than one all-African conference, with one in Kenya and one in South Africa.

The Way Forward

The Interim Council decided to concentrate on the following strategies at the moment:

- ▶ Print an introductory information sheet about the Centre.
- ▶ Continue to expand its database to include a wide range of disciplines and institutions, including theological institutions.
- ▶ Encourage individuals in the same discipline to network as well as developing interdisciplinary networks.
- ▶ Encourage people to link up on joint research projects.
- ▶ Encourage partnership between organisations and institutions.
- ▶ Publicise the Centre at every available opportunity.
- ▶ Register the Centre's web site to make it widely accessible.
- ▶ Include the names of both small and big institutions and organisations, as well as individuals, on the web site to facilitate networking.
- ▶ Embark on membership recruitment drive.
- ▶ Publish a newsletter both in print, including as an insert in the IAPCHE newsletter "Contact," and on the web.

Membership

CPCHEA will be a servant of all who work for an effective Christian presence in higher education in Africa. Institutions, organisations and individuals will have equal rights. No one will dominate the other. The Centre will maintain a reciprocal relationship with IAPCHE by sharing information on its activities as well as a list of addresses collected.

Interim Council

Current members of the Council of CPCHEA include:

Prof. Bennie van der Walt
Dr. Emmanuel S. A. Ayee
Mr. Samson Makhado
Prof. Johannes J. Venter
Dr. Stuart Fowler
Pastor Isaac Mutua

For further information contact:

Dr. Emmanuel S. A. Ayee

Interim Secretary

Centre for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Africa (CPCHEA)

PO Box GP4866

Accra, Ghana, West Africa

E-mail: ayee-esa@cheerful.com

BOOKS

(Note: most book summaries come from the publishers' promotional material and should not be considered reviews.)

A Biographical Dictionary on Reformed Theology and Faith (in Korean)

By Dr. Sung Kuh Chung; Institute for Calvinistic Studies in Korea; Sunnam, Korea; 2001.

Excerpts from news release by Christian Choi, ICSK Coordinator

On July 23, there was a reception held at the Palace Hotel in Seoul, Korea, to celebrate the publishing of *Biographical Dictionary on Reformed Theology and Faith*, in Korean, by Dr. S. K. Chung, president of the Institute for Calvinistic Studies in Korea (ICSK). Around 250 people attended Dr. Chung's book publication reception. Everyone who gave a special speech at the reception uniformly commended the book as a monumental work in this century, enabling the ICSK to greatly contribute to theology as well as Calvinist belief in the sectors of politics, economy, society, and culture.

The book reviewer, Dr. Jang Jin Kim, who is a professor of Koshin University, commented that this book is the first fruit for the Korean church in opening its vision to the world. This indexed, 800-page, biographical dictionary lists distinguished Reformed theologians and Calvinists from the United States, England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France, Canada, Australia, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, South Africa, and Japan. In addition to historically-known figures, it also lists curriculum vitae of as many as 300 Reformed theologians and Calvinists who were directly contacted for this project. Their scholarly works are also introduced in the native languages. Many pictures are included.

This book is also one of the greatest works coming out of the Institute of Calvinistic Studies in Korea. The work would not have been possible without the resources of the ICSK. A large number of sources were extracted from the Calvin Museum, an affiliate of ICSK, which holds 10,000 materials, 3000 tape-recordings of Calvinists' speeches, and 2000 microfiche films.

Kuyper Reconsidered: Aspects of his Life and Work

Edited by Cornelis van der Kooi and Jan de Bruijn; V.U. Uitgeverij: Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 1999, 320 pages, ISBN: 90-5383-640-3.

Excerpts from the Forward: “. . . This volume contains a selection of the papers from the conference “Christianity and Culture: the Heritage of Abraham Kuyper on different Continents,” held at the Vrije Universiteit at Amsterdam. The conference took place on June 9-11, 1998, under the auspices of the Theology Department, the Philosophy Department, and the Historical Documentation Center for Dutch Protestantism.

The lectures by the keynote speakers (Johannes Adonis, Jim Bratt, Jan de Bruijn, Aad van Egmond, Peter Heslam, Bong Ho Son and Nicholas Wolterstorff), along with other contributions, are divided into five sections. In the first section the focus is on Kuyper's ideas and ideals, viewed from a cultural/historical perspective. Part two contains contributions on Kuyper's theology and its reception, while part three enters into several aspects of Kuyper's philosophy and anthropology. Kuyper's social and political efforts were to a great degree defined by the ideal of a Christian society, coupled with the acknowledgement that multiple worldviews were a fact of life. That his thought on a pluralistic society deserves attention not only from an historical perspective, but also affords contemporary perspectives in various cultural and national constellations, is illuminated in the fourth section. Finally, the fifth part brings together contributions which focus on historiographic perspectives.

From this collection, it is clear that in many respects Kuyper was a child of his times, and that his ideas and ideals were closely linked with the culture of the 19th century. At the same time it becomes clear that his work remains a source of inspiration for many, but has also sometimes been the source of interpretations that were at odds with Kuyper's original intentions. . . . The degree to which Kuyper's intellectual heritage continues to intrigue and challenge is perhaps most clearly to be seen in the international character of this book and, in particular, the contributions of authors whose vital interest in Kuyper is rooted in situations which are wholly different than that of the Netherlands.”

This book appears as the third installment in the series “VU Studies on Protestant History.”

◆ *Marginal Resistance: Essays Dedicated to John Vander Stelt*

Edited by John Kok; Dordt College Press: Sioux Center, Iowa; September 2001, 358 pages, ISBN: 0-932914-48-9.

Eighteen friends, colleagues, and former students contributed to this volume honoring Dr. John C. Vander Stelt, Professor of Philosophy and Theology at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, from 1968 to 1999. Their topics range from engineering and sociology to aesthetics, hermeneutics, and public justice. Vander Stelt's Christian, Kuyperian roots are placed in the limelight and many address the vocation and challenges of reformed teaching, learning, and scholarship.

Editor John Kok writes in his preface, "For all the differences in topic, discipline, and field of expertise, the unorchestrated coherence of vision that pervades all of these essays is truly amazing. The extent to which this book is indeed one piece is rooted, I think, in the persuasion, shared also by my esteemed colleague John Vander Stelt, that the whole of a person's life is to be lived *coram deo*—as in the divine presence—what Abraham Kuyper described as the fundamental thought of Calvinism."

Contributors: Henk Aay, Charles Adams, Brad Breems, Roy Clouser, Harry Fernhout, Stuart Fowler, Syd Hielema, John Hiemstra, David Rylaarsdam, Frank Sawyer, Calvin Seerveld, Don Sinnema, Harro Van Brummelen, Bennie van der Walt, Harry Van Dyk, John Van Dyk, David Van Heemst, and Carol Veldman Rudie.

Dordt College Press, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697. www.dordt.edu/dordtpress, dordtpress@dordt.edu

◆ *How Christian Faith Can Sustain the Life of the Mind*

by Richard T. Hughes and Samuel S. Hill; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, Michigan; August 2001, 172 pages, ISBN: 0802849350.

Can Christian faith sustain the life of the mind? To many academics this question seems absurd. In their judgment, religion is fundamentally dogmatic while the life of the mind requires openness, creativity, and imagination. This stereotypical assumption about the nature of religion in general, and Christianity in particular, has contributed significantly over the past century to the divorce between faith and learning at countless colleges and universities in the United States. But is this assessment of the intellectual nature of faith, or the academic rift it has opened, justified?

In this powerful—yet very personal—reflection on faith and scholarship, Richard T. Hughes counters the widespread perception of Christians as steeped in narrowness and dogmatism, and provides a compelling argument that faith, properly pursued, in fact nourishes the openness and curiosity that make a life of the mind possible. Neither an assessment of church-related higher education today, nor a lamentation over the process of secularization, this book is instead a much needed aid for academics in both private and public institutions who want to connect Christian faith with scholarship and teaching in meaningful and effective ways.

Defining the "life of the mind" in terms of a disciplined search for truth, conversation with diverse viewpoints, critical analysis, and intellectual creativity, Hughes shows that such life, far from being impeded by Christian faith, can actually be enhanced by it—but only if Christians learn to think theologically and break through the particularities of their traditions.

Hughes first examines the way that the Deism of the Founding Fathers defines the values of the modern academy in the United States, and he asks how the Christian tradition might interact with these values in meaningful ways. He then looks at four different Christian traditions—Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, and

Mennonite—and the different ways they sustain the life of the mind. When he turns to teaching, Hughes uses his own classroom work as an illustration of how a commitment to some of the great themes of Christian theology can undergird both the form and the content of the teaching task. Finally, in an especially poignant chapter, Hughes explores how good teaching and scholarship can be rooted in human suffering and tragedy.

After a spate of books and articles that mourn the decline of Christian intellectual life, here is a volume that offers a constructive assessment of how Christian faith might, indeed, sustain the life of the mind.

 ***Mathematics in a Postmodern Age: A Christian Perspective***

edited by Russell W. Howell and W. James Bradley; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 2001, 407 pages, ISBN: 0802849105.

The discipline of mathematics has not been spared the sweeping critique of postmodernism. Is mathematical theory true for all time, or are mathematical constructs in fact fallible? This fascinating book examines the tensions that have arisen between modern and postmodern views of mathematics, explores alternative theories of mathematical truth, explains why the issues are important, and shows how a Christian perspective makes a difference.

Contributors: W. James Bradley, William Dembski, Russell W. Howell, Calvin Jongsma, David Klanderman, Christopher Menzel, Glen VanBrummelen, Scott VanderStoep, Michael Veatch, Paul Zwier

 ***Building the Christian Academy***

by Arthur F. Holmes; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, Michigan; March 2001, 122 pages, ISBN: 0802847447.

For centuries the Christian academic tradition played a major role in both Western intellectual history and the history of the church. In this volume Arthur Holmes explores the tradition of learning, focusing on seven formative episodes in history that can have a contribution to make to the building and maintenance of a strong Christian academy today.

For each historical period considered, Holmes probes the particular problems educators faced and discusses the major concerns that guided educational practice. By examining the thought of Plato, Origen, Abelard, Aquinas, Erasmus, Francis Bacon, John Henry Newman, and others, Holmes identifies four recurring emphases at the heart of the Christian academy: the care of the soul, the unity of truth, contemplative learning, and the usefulness of liberal arts as preparation for service to both church and society. This insightful work makes a convincing case for reclaiming the theological foundations of learning for our day.

To order the previous three books, contact Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 225 Jefferson Ave. Se, Grand Rapids, MI, 49503, USA.

 ***The Complete Works of H.R. Rookmaaker***

Edited by Marleen Hengelaar-Rookmaaker; Piquant: Carlisle, UK; October 2001 -November 2002, 6 volumes, ISBN: 1-903689-04-X.

“[Hans Rookmaaker’s] books and essays stand as a monument to the importance of rigorous Christian art-historical scholarship Rookmaaker reminds us that Christian commitment must never be used to avoid the kind of precise, intellectual engagement which is so evident in his written words Second, we are reminded of the importance of breadth as well as depth. Rookmaaker’s interests ranged far beyond the visual arts Third, Rookmaaker sets the arts in the midst of a rich and full-blooded Christian worldview

... We need to demonstrate carefully what place the arts have in the grand and sweeping purposes of God for historyFourth, nourished by the Dutch Neo-Calvinist philosophy of Dooyeweerd and his followers, Rookmaaker provides a vision of the arts that does justice both to their irreducible integrity and to their interrelatedness with other aspects of God's world." (from the Foreword by Jeremy Begbie)

Available only as a set (approx. 3000 pp.) to be published two volumes at a time between October 2001 and November 2002.Vol. 1: Art, Artists and Gauguin; Vol. 2: New Orleans Jazz, Mahalia Jackson and the Philosophy of Art; Vol. 3: The Creative Gift, Dürer, Dada and Desolation Row; Vol. 4: Western Art and the Meanderings of a Culture; Vol. 5: Modern Art and the Death of a Culture; Vol. 6: Our Calling and God's Hand in History.

For information on ordering this set, contact info@piquant.net. Or order directly from IVP, Norton Street, Nottingham, NG7 3HR, UK. Special pre-publication price is being offered.

The University and its Basis

by Hendrick van Riessen; The ACHEA Press: Melbourne, Australia, 1997; 86 pages; ISBN: 0646315579. Professor van Riessen was born in the Netherlands in 1911. He first came to serious attention in the English-speaking world in the 1960s, through the translation of his writings on philosophy, technology and culture. His outstanding papers titled "The University and its Basis" also date from this era. Even though highly regarded, these now classic discussions on the meaning, task and status of the university have long been unobtainable. The ACHEA Press have made them available once again, in a new and fully revised edition. Prof. van Riessen's analysis is even more pertinent today than when originally made, being highly relevant to the contemporary debate on the future of higher education.

This book may be ordered from ACHEA, 358 Mountain Hwy, 3152 Melbourne, Australia, (centre@achea.edu.au) for \$10.00 US, plus postage and handling. ACHEA accepts Visa and MasterCard.

FROM THE IAPCHE OFFICE

Board members move

For the next academic year, board member Dr. Mary Muchiri (Africa) will serve on the faculty of Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. Board member Dr. Andreas A. Yewangoe (Asia/Oceania) will spend the next four years in a new academic staff position at the theological seminary, Sekolah Tinggi Teologi, in Jakarta and serve as one of the chairpersons of the Council of Churches in Indonesia. New contact information:

Dr. Mary Muchiri
English Department
Taylor University – Upland Campus
236 West Reade Ave.
Upland, IN46989, USA
Phone: 765-998-5141; Fax: 219-744-8660
E-mail: nyamb2001us@yahoo.com

Dr. A.A.Yewangoe
Kompleks Dep. Perdagangan
Jalan Niaga I/B.4, No.28A
Ciledug, Tangerang, Indonesia.
Phone: 021-5854230; Fax: 021-3150451
E-mail: yewangoe@cbn.net.id

New e-mail address for Emmanuel Ayee, Africa Region: ayee_esa@yahoo.co.uk

Office management changes hands

Mrs. Lynn Otto will shortly be leaving the position of IAPCHE office manager in order to pursue other interests. We express our sincere appreciation for Lynn's excellent work for the association.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Anne Maatman as the new office manager. Anne has served on the hosting committees of two IAPCHE conferences in Sioux Center, in 1981 and 2000, and has coordinated travel arrangements for IAPCHE for a number of years in her former position as a travel consultant. Given her long-time interest in the work of IAPCHE and her excellent qualifications, Anne will most certainly be an asset to the association.

New Dues Payment Options Now Available

For those living outside the U.S., paying IAPCHE membership dues usually involves some extra effort and cost. We've been working on finding ways to make paying dues easier and less costly and we're happy to announce that dues may now be paid by credit card. The upcoming dues notices will include a credit card payment section.

We've also been looking at options available through the Universal Postal Union. The fees for sending a Postal Money Order seem to be much cheaper than bank transfer fees, so we recommend this as another option for dues payments. Postal Money Orders may be purchased at post offices in countries which are members of the Universal Postal Union.

These options have been added in response to the many letters we've received asking "How do I pay my dues?" or describing the difficulties involved in doing so. Members who live in the U.S.A., who can simply write a check and mail it to us, may not realize how difficult it is for some members to pay their dues. In many places, the cost of making an electronic bank transfer of funds is more than the cost of the \$25 yearly dues. The cost to get a check in U.S. funds is also prohibitive for many.

For some, the \$25 dues payment is more than they can afford, even without transfer or exchange fees. For this reason, our office welcomes donations. If paying dues is not a difficult thing for you to do, please consider paying extra to cover the memberships of those for whom paying dues is difficult indeed.

Of course, dues may still be paid by checks in U.S. funds and by bank transfer. Some of the ways members eliminate or reduce bank fees are

- ▶ By paying the amount to someone with a U.S. bank account who is willing to write a check for them;
- ▶ By sending their dues along with someone traveling to the U.S.;
- ▶ By paying their institution (those which are institutional members of IAPCHE) so that their dues can be sent along with the institutional dues;
- ▶ By pooling dues with several members, sharing the cost of one check or transfer;
- ▶ By paying dues for more than one year at a time.

Dues may be reduced or waived if requested for reasons of financial hardship.

Become an electronic subscriber!

We're happy to send you another issue of our newsletter, *Contact*, and hope you'll enjoy it. Because postage rates have increased dramatically, we want to make sure that those on our mailing list actually want to receive what we send. For those who do, we are now offering *Contact* in three ways:

1. via our website, www.iapche.dordt.edu, with e-mail notices sent when a new issue is posted
2. e-mail version, as Microsoft Word attachments
3. printed version, which arrives 2 weeks to 2 months after the electronic versions are posted.

If you have web access or e-mail, we strongly encourage you to consider option 1 or 2.

If you are not already a member of IAPCHE, we would like to encourage you to become one. The purpose of IAPCHE, an organization of individuals and institutions, is to serve Jesus as Lord by fostering, worldwide, the development of integral Christian higher education through networking and related academic activity. Members are listed in our website directory (printed version available to members on request), receive periodic reports, may share news of their work in our newsletter as space allows, and are invited to participate in our regional and international conferences.

To request an electronic subscription (option 1 or 2) or a membership application, or to request removal from our mailing list, please contact our office at IAPCHE, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, Iowa, USA, or e-mail us at iapche@dordt.edu.

♦ IAPCHE Website to Add Links: Send Your Suggestions!

The Secretariat would like to improve the IAPCHE website www.iapche.dordt.edu by adding links to websites of interest to IAPCHE members. To do this, we need your help. Please e-mail iapche@dordt.edu with URLs to any websites which you think would benefit the members of the association. In this way, you can help to further the purpose of IAPCHE: to serve Jesus as Lord by fostering, worldwide, the development of integral Christian higher education through networking and related academic activity.

Currently our website includes information about IAPCHE, conference announcements, a membership directory, past and current issues of Contact, information on current projects, periodic reports, and links to most of the member institutions. We await your suggestions for additional useful links.

♦ MEMBER NEWS

♦ Individual Member News

♦ Exploring Internet Potential

From a letter from Bruce Wearne, Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

. . . From time to time students and academics seek my assistance, particularly in relation to social theory, but also to discuss problems in Christian scholarship or current events.

It would be interesting to know how many Christian "retired" academics there are working pro bono courtesy of the Internet which certainly encourages free-wheeling inter-change in all kinds of ways. We know "retirement" can be difficult, and being a "sociologist" I should have enhanced awareness of that. This medium allows "retired" academics to contribute in new ways. I have three entries in a Social Science Encyclopedia as a direct result of Internet involvement. As another example, I helped a student in Mexico develop her sociology presentation. Clearly many opportunities are available to assist students, and I wonder how this can be developed as a professional advisory service not only to paying customers but also to students from poorer countries. There are problems. But the harnessing of "free-wheeling" academic input could help encourage Christian student culture in all kinds of places.

I haven't yet come across any one e-correspondent whose academic task is solely to make e-contacts and develop e-resources for Christian scholarship. That absence needs thinking about, and I suspect there are significant educational opportunities, but

we wait for those who have the resources to be given the right wisdom to offer academics, like myself, much needed support. I think I could make my living from providing academic advice in a service available from an appropriately structured electronic faculty. It sounds feasible and credible, and after a decade of working on the Internet I have some sense of its strengths, problems, and limitations. There will be several subtle hurdles to overcome. The impact of market-driven scholarship worldwide should not be underestimated and any such web-related Christian effort will need to gain momentum by its fruit of ongoing and practical encouragement for Christian students in their coursework and intellectual development.

So I continue this kind of work. I wonder how a Christian e-study centre could grow from the nurture of such e-contacts. As an example, two hours ago, I logged on to my twice weekly discussion with a chemistry colleague in Liverpool UK. We gradually find our way within the constraints of the technology and we are learning to focus our discussions to methodological and empirical issues of our respective sciences. This weekly 'e-seminar' is work, but we know that quick results are not in view. My experience in assembly-line bricks-and-mortar universities was that they rarely produced our kind of 'results' . . . For as long as I have been involved in post-secondary education (since 1969), I have been dismayed by Christian students, under-graduates and post-graduates, teachers and researchers, whose discipleship is withering from lack of encouragement and support . . . Maybe some who receive this will have some ideas about how I can develop my own "student services." I am aware that "unfettered" e-access can easily be overdone. Yet I am confident you will appreciate my concerns. Please feel free to contact me with any advice you might have. I would welcome that very much. (bcvearne@ozemail.com.au)

◆ Sid and Mae Rooy begin stint at Overseas Ministries Study Center

Excerpts from a letter from Sid and Mae Rooy, September 2001, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Greetings from the Overseas Ministries Center in New Haven, Connecticut. New Haven is a beautiful green city, with university buildings occupying nearly a third of the city, so it seems to us, and different departments are scattered all over. The divinity school (seminary) is just across the street, and Nick Wolterstorff, a Yale philosophy professor and colleague from Calvin College days, lives in a living complex right next to the Center where we live. He will be here all semester, although he officially retired last May, but continues to work, so we look forward to renewing our friendship with him and his wife Claire. He wrote that poignant little book, Lament for a Son, after their [25-year-old] son died in an accident while mountain-climbing (published by Eerdmans).

The Ministries Center is a large old mansion, with two resident halls built behind. The first is called Doane Hall, which is where we live, and the one farther back is named the Great Commission Hall. In both are many foreign residents from Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, but few from Latin America.

This Wednesday there will be a morning of orientation to living, sharing and studying here, and in the afternoon there will be a reception with many invited guests besides residents and professors. On Thursday evening the residents have their meeting which includes us, at which organizational matters will be decided, such as committees for the chapel services, cleaning, and turns for other community services. Next week the seminars begin. We don't know how many of them we are expected to attend in order to serve as consultants, but I have been informed that I should be available for consultation, especially about Latin America, one half-day per week. I have several writing projects so I hope that I can choose one or two weeks a month to attend seminars, and have the rest of the time for study and writing. Patience, time will tell.

With our love,

Mae and Sid

◆ Hellemans return to Russia

Excerpts from a newsletter from Adrian and Wendy Helleman, Moscow, Russia

"The Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forever more" (Psalm 121:8).

Sometimes 'no news' is 'good news'. But when you are waiting for the formal invitation to resume teaching at Moscow State University, lack of news is not reassuring. In previous years we received an invitation for the next fall on leaving Moscow already in June. Through friends we did hear of a new rector being appointed for the university, and this, in addition to new staff at the dean's office, may explain the delay. But we were happy to get the formal letter of invitation early in August, and have just managed to translate that into a visa for the new academic year. We had also approached the Russian consulate with

some anxiety because of a major error in one of our birthdates on the invitation, but were relieved to learn not only that the mistake was ignored (or overlooked) but also that we were offered a double-entry visa, instead of the single-entry visa expected. It takes several weeks to process visas, but we have already received them. In spite of such hurdles, we are thankful that we can once more return to Russia to teach.

Aside from the usual projects and preparation for a new term of teaching, the work of getting the articles on the 'Russian Idea' and revival of Russian religious philosophy ready for publication has kept Wendy rather busy. We are thankful for contacts we established with well-known experts in Russian thought, like James Scanlan, George Kline, and Kathleen Parthe, and for their willingness to give support and advice. A highlight of our summer was the visit in Washington with James Billington, Librarian of Congress and Russia expert; he was particularly pleased to hear of our translation project because he himself has been studying and organizing seminars on the related topic of Russian identity and the 'Russian Idea' for some years now. This meeting was certainly a significant encouragement for us.

Prayer concerns:

We return to a country that has enormous problems, yet is posing increasing difficulties for those who want to provide help. Pray that the Lord will grant us patience and understanding as we readjust to Moscow and the university situation. Pray too that we may exercise wisdom in speaking to students and colleagues whose situation often appears to them to be hopeless; pray that we may have opportunities to point them to the true source of hope in Jesus Christ.

Please pray that we will soon find a publisher who will accept our manuscript on the 'Russian Idea.' Work on the articles is virtually complete, and we would like to see this turned into a book so others can benefit from the materials.

Blessings, in Christ,

Adrian and Wendy Helleman

Institutional Member News

East Africa Studies Program taking shape

King's University College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The East Africa Studies Program, an initiative discussed last year at the IAPCHE International Conference at Dordt College, is beginning to take shape. At a meeting held in Kenya in August, representatives of the African and North American partners (Daystar University, the African Institute for Scientific Research and Development [AISRED], The King's University College, Dordt College, and the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee) sponsoring this program met to discuss the possibility of beginning the program with a summer course, to be held at the AISRED facility near Nairobi, Kenya. It was agreed to work towards a three-week course from May 16 – June 5, 2002, focusing on transformational development in an East-African context.

The course directly precedes a course in environmental studies offered by the Au Sable Institute at the same location. It is hoped that up to 20 students will enroll in the course, which will include an on-site field observation and mentoring component in a community development setting in East Africa. The course will be open to Christian students enrolled in colleges and universities anywhere in the world, with a number of spaces reserved for East-African students.

Further information about the program is available from the Coordinator for the project, Roy Berkenbosch at The King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta (rberkenbosch@kingsu.ab.ca).

Eloff new Rector at Potchefstroom University

POTCHEFSTROOM, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA--The Council of the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PUK) appointed forty-six-year-old Dr. Theuns Eloff as seventh rector and vice-chancellor of the University.

Dr. Eloff's connection with the PUK goes back a long time. He completed his PhD studies at Potchefstroom and served for five years on the PUK Student Council, three of these years as chairperson. He is currently Chief Executive Director of the National Business Initiative.

Dr. Eloff started his career as a minister of the Reformed Church in South Africa. In his capacity as executive director of Consultive Business Movement he was involved with the National Peace Accord which handled the secretariat for the Kempton Park negotiations.

Dr. Eloff not only has exceptional knowledge of the PUK, but also has wide experience of the business world in South Africa and abroad. As a result of his involvement with Conference for Democratic South Africa, he is well known in government circles on all levels. In 1995 he was honored in Scotland as one of the world's ten most outstanding young people.

His wife Suzette, a former television announcer and past member of the PUK's Alabama revue group, is well known in music circles. They have two daughters, Tana and Cecile.

Dr. Eloff will succeed Professor Carools Reinecke, whose term of office expires on December 31 this year. Dr. Eloff will work with Professor Reinecke for an interim period to ensure that a smooth transition takes place.

CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Arts & Sciences

From Mrs. Susheila Williams, Executive Secretary

COIMBATORE, INDIA--We report several news items that illustrate our primary concern as a Christian college, which is to offer higher education of good quality, relevant to the requirements of society today.

It was the proud privilege of this institution to host an IAPCHE Orientation program on January 17-18, 2001. IAPCHE representative Dr. John Van Dyk was present and there was representation from fifteen other colleges. This provided opportunity for other institutions to come into contact with IAPCHE and its programs. Hence a way was paved for the development of a network for IAPCHE throughout India.

The college has reached yet another milestone in the field of academics. This year saw the launching of postgraduate studies in the department of Social Work. Students who have enrolled for this course will be given special training in personnel management and medical psychiatry. The college already has specialization in community development at the undergraduate level. There is much pride in stating that the students of this department have secured the first three ranks in the Bharathiar University (of which we are a part) in the last academic year.

The college continues its outreach programs effectively. One of these is the service rendered to the women prisoners in the central jail. A literacy program is offered and counseling is also given. Skills for self-employment, such as running a canteen, dress-making, embroidery and handicrafts, based on the aptitude of the inmates, are being taught. The college organized sports events; literary, drawing and painting competitions; and debates for both men and women prisoners. Prizes for these competitions were distributed on August 15, the Indian Independence Day. The gradual transformation taking place in the minds and attitudes of the prisoners is visible.

A "Student Service Desk" has been started on the campus to create an awareness of job opportunities available for the students. It also provides a picture of the broader scope open to them. Placement service and necessary counseling are also offered.

During the summer vacation some members of the faculty were deputed to attend special training programs conducted at the national level. Some of the programs offered were Human Resource Development, Empowerment of Women, Effective College Administration, Preparing Value Education Materials, Survey and Statistics on Christian Education in India, Female Infanticide & Strategy for Eradication, Advanced Christian Leadership, etc. The college is exploring the possibility of extending its services to that section of the community that desires to acquire life-oriented skills, under the theme 'Centre for Skill Development.' Such classes will be conducted after regular class hours with the equipment already available in the college. The aim is to 'reach the unreached' and to 'include the excluded'.

Russian-American Christian University

From Susan Clark, Assistant to the President
MOSCOW, RUSSIA--

RACU Welcomes New Full-Time Faculty: Mr. Eric Van Genderen has joined the Business/Economics faculty. He has a Masters of International Management degree, with a specialization in Corporate Strategy/Finance, from the Thunderbird American Graduate School of International Management (Arizona). Mr. Van Genderen also has a Masters in Business Administration from Dowling College (New York), and the BSc in Economics from the Institute of Modern Business (Moscow). His professional experience includes eight years working in Russia in the 1990s as manager-level "emerging market" consultant.

Mr. Donoso Escobar has accepted RACU's invitation to become Chairman of the Social Work Department. He received his MSW from the University of Arkansas in 1980, specializing in Rural Sociology. Since that time, he completed his Ph.D. course work, and served as a Professor of Social Work at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1983 to 1995. Since 1995, Mr. Escobar has served with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention. As Director of NAMB's Immigration and Refugee program, he worked closely with churches and administered the Domestic Hunger Funds Program. For the past three years, Mr. Escobar has been the Associate Director of Church and Community Ministries for the NAMB, responsible for the Migrant Ministries and Immigration and Refugee Programs. These assignments include development and implementation of national strategies and consultative services on immigrant law matters. Mr. Escobar and his wife, Geanine, will move to Moscow in October.

RACU Welcomes New Support Staff: Nathaniel and Emily Wilson, recent graduates of Dordt College (IA), one of RACU's partner institutions, moved to Moscow in August to join the RACU family. The couple is excited about their new ministry as Student Affairs Staff Assistants. They are providing leadership and support for students outside of the classroom. In addition to organizing cultural and social activities, worship and Bible study opportunities, Nathaniel and Emily will represent the needs and concerns of students to the administration.

Peter Smirnov, a senior student of Social Work at RACU, has also joined the Student Affairs office part-time. He will work closely with Nathaniel and Emily, giving special attention to the spiritual development of his classmates. Peter's Russian heritage and "insider's view" of RACU will help to ensure clear intercultural communication and that real needs of students are served.

Learn more about RACU's ministry and service opportunities at <www.racu.org>.

Calvin College revises core curriculum

GRAND RAPIDS, MI--Four years of labor have brought significant changes to the core at Calvin, the first changes since the old core was built in the late 1960s. "The old core had not kept up with the world," says Hardy, "with the spectacular growth in media and information technology, with the cultural diversification of North American society, or with the process of globalization."

Thus the new core has a required course in information technology to be taken in the first year. It not only is designed to bring all students up to a certain level of computer competency, it also addresses ethical questions that arise in connection with the capabilities of information technology. To address the process of globalization, courses dealing with non-western regions of the world now have core status. To prepare students for the cultural diversity in North American society, the new core has a cross-cultural engagement requirement. The new core has also created a category of courses entitled "Rhetoric in Culture" which include both oral and visual rhetoric, recognizing that much of the communication in our society takes place by way of images.

The committee also perceived the need to more effectively communicate Calvin's mission as a Reformed college to the student body, once almost 90% Christian Reformed, but now much more religiously diverse. A new first-year Interim core gateway course has been created for this purpose.

"All students will read a monograph written by Neal Plantinga, Calvin Dean of the Chapel, that sketches out in broad and compelling strokes the holistic interpretation of the central Christian doctrines of creation, fall, redemption and restoration," says Hardy. "With their instructor, students will explore how this worldview applies to contemporary issues such as bio-technology, the environment, the media or the political arena. These themes are revisited at the other end of the core in upper-level integrative studies courses, which form a kind of capstone to the entire core education."

In addition, between the initial orientation at the beginning of the fall semester and the first-year interim course, all students will participate in a "Prelude" program. This program, a cooperative venture of the Student Life division and the Academic division, provides a progressive orientation to the culture and demands of Calvin as a Reformed Christian academic community. Wellness and self-management, vocation, responsible freedom and cultural discernment are among the issues that will be addressed in the Prelude program.

"The new core at Calvin," says Hardy, "is divided into three components: knowledge, skills and virtues. There are things about God, the world and ourselves that we want all Calvin students to know. There are skills we want to impart and enhance. And there are certain traits of character we want to foster in the classroom and in the community at large. Each of these three components is shaped by the aim of preparing students for lives of Christian service in contemporary society. Such is the purpose of the new core. Such is the purpose of Calvin."

Calvin College to hold faculty seminars in worship and the arts

It took three years of conversations and proposal development, but the end result was worth the effort for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship which has received a \$225,000 grant from the New York-based Henry Luce Foundation (created by Henry R. Luce, the founder and editor-in-chief of TIME magazine).

The grant will make possible three summer faculty seminars in the area of worship and the arts, a

stronghold for the Calvin Institute which each January runs a highly popular Symposium on Worship and the Arts.

Says Institute director John Witvliet: "We can expect to host 30 professors of worship, theology, music, art, preaching and more for a month-long seminar on campus. This program will be designed to promote rigorous and well-grounded liturgical scholarship that will enrich the teaching and practice of Christian worship in seminaries, colleges, universities and congregations."

The seminars in worship and the arts will complement Calvin's already established Summer Seminar Program (which is supported by endowments, Calvin funds and such foundations as The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Templeton Foundation, and Fieldstead and Company).

Calvin staff from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, which is becoming recognized as a national center of interdisciplinary liturgical research and congregational worship renewal, will support the new seminars, while the day-to-day operations of the new program will be carried out by the office of the Calvin College Seminars in Christian Scholarship, which has 5 years of experience in running similar programs. (See www.calvin.edu/fss.)

At the center of this program would be an annual four-week summer seminar to enable faculty, primarily from seminaries and independent Christian and church-related colleges and universities, to participate in high-level academic discussions of critical worship-related topics. They would work toward producing first-order scholarship that would be disseminated in published form.

One seminar would be offered in each of the years 2002, 2003, and 2004 on the campuses of Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. The seminar leaders will be senior scholars who are widely recognized as leading authorities in their fields. Ten scholars will be selected to participate in each seminar. This group could also include clergy with an interest in academic discussions of these topics, as well as especially qualified graduate students.

▲ Covenant College launches cooperative program with Daystar University

Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA

(from a Daystar University newsletter)

Many people in the world live on less than a dollar a day. Yet, in order to get access to credit they pay loan sharks rates of interest in excess of 300 percent in order to borrow the funds they need to operate their micro-enterprises—small businesses—which are often their only source of income.

Christians around the world are discovering that micro-enterprise development, micro-finance, and small-scale business loans can break this oppression, enabling the poor to save and lend their own resources.

This summer, Covenant College's Chalmers Center for Economic Development and Daystar University in Kenya will launch a new 17-credit program. The program includes a 10-week course in micro-enterprise development, holistic ministry, sociology and participatory community development, and a three-month intensive internship facilitated by leading academics and practitioners. Daystar University and Covenant College students will study together and then work with churches, missionaries and Christian relief and development agencies empowering the poor to help themselves.

While in Kenya, students will reside at Daystar University and will take classes from Daystar community development faculty, Covenant College faculty Brian Fikkert and Russ Mask, and veteran missionary, Karl

Dortzbach of Mission to the World. Participants in this life-changing experience will learn and demonstrate how economic development can be an integral part of a church's ministry and mission outreach strategy.

◆ Affiliate Member News

◆ ACHEA encourages students with *Lookout*

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA--*Lookout* is a weekly one-page e-mail broadsheet for Christian university students and others. It is produced by the Association for Christian Higher Education in Australia (ACHEA), an affiliate member of IAPCHE. It currently reaches about 900 subscribers. Its purpose is to generally encourage Christian university students in their student task. It is available free of charge and is published each Monday morning. It aims to reach thinking people who are wary of the materialistic/esoteric idols held up as the icons of our time.

Begun in 1999, the initial aim of those who began *Lookout* was that it would become a Christian students' broadsheet, developed and edited by Christian students. Due to the temporary nature of the student years, it has been difficult to meet this goal consistently.

Seventy-six issues have been released since *Lookout's* inception. Some of the topics that have been visited are the internet, unions and clubs, Jubilee 2000, women as professionals, technology and television, understanding and exams, creation, Mormonism, and management. ACHEA board member Geoff Bongers recommends the issue titled "*Lookout* for falling trees" as a great example of what ACHEA is trying to do.

To read current and past issues, visit the *Lookout* website at

<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~studfac/>. To learn more about ACHEA, visit

<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~centre/>.

◆ WYSOCS develops Gap Year Project

LEEDS, GREAT BRITAIN--West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies (WYSOCS) is currently developing its Gap Year Project, with September 2002 targeted for its launching. It will be aimed at young people who have just completed their secondary education and are taking a year off before continuing their education at university or college.

The Gap Year Project is a one-year multi-faceted Christian foundation program, which will equip young people to both enjoy the cut and thrust of academic debate and thrive in the context of further education. By developing biblical insights and steeping in the richness of the Christian worldview, the Gap year students will begin to develop as mature and imaginative thinkers able to cope with the challenges of secular education.

WYSOCS personnel note that many young Christian people are ill equipped to survive spiritually in an institution of higher education. Studying Computer Science, Chemistry, History or English at university is challenging but also dangerous because most Christian students have no coherent Christian framework to support them and it is easy to become bewildered and confused. Some cope by 'compartmentalizing' their lives, with their faith kept within the personal sphere while they pursue their studies with the current secular mind-set. Others who are unable to live with this tension give up their faith.

To address this problem, the Gap Year Project will offer three foundational courses: Understanding our Past: Druids, Crusaders, Puritans and Missionaries; Understanding Worldviews through Music Film and Story; and Understanding the Biblical Story: Creation, Fall, and Redemption. In addition to these core

courses, there will be special interest modules, current issue discussions, and an opportunity to be involved in a work experience project. Students will be mentored by personal tutors who will continue to be available to the students while they pursue further education.

The Gap Year Project pamphlet refers to the Biblical story of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, who devoted their lives and their sharp minds to the glory of God in the midst of Babylon and were given insight and understanding by God. With the Gap Year Project, WYSOCS aims to fill the modern secular university with the spiritual descendants of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

NEW MEMBERS

Individual Members

Prof. Dr. Med. Jean-Marc. Burgunder
Dept. of Neurology
University of Berne
2010 Berne, Switzerland
jm.burgunder@dplanet.ch

Mr. J. Dinakaralal
Lecturer, English Dept.
Scott Christian College
Jeeva, 5, Holy Cross Nagar
Nagercoil – 629 004
Tamilnadu, India
dinalal@vsnl.com

Dr. Beth M. Doriani
V.P. and Dean of Academics
Montreat College
Box 1267
Montreat, NC28757, USA
828-669-8012 x3621

Mr. Octavio Esqueda
(grad. student, Christian higher ed.)
4010 Swiss Ave. 105A
Dallas, TX75204, USA
octavio_angelica@juno.com

Dr. Blair Hoy
TRACS, Trinity Christian College
6601 West College Dr.
Palos Heights, IL60463, USA
blair.hoy@trnty

Dr. Nirmala Jeyaraj
Principal, Lady Doak College
Tallakulam, Madurai, PIN 625002
S. India
principal_ladydoakcollege@yahoo.com

Dr. Sun-Yo Kim
Assc. Prof., Dept. of Educational Psychology
Seoul Women's University
126 Kangneung-2-Dong, Nowon-Ku
Seoul 139-774, Korea
sunyo@swu.ac.kr

Dr. Atilla Kocsis
Pastor, Hungarian Ref. Church
Guest lecturer in Ethics
Református Egyházközség Mezötúr
Petöfi út 2
5400 Mezötúr, Hungary
kocsis@euroseek.com

Mrs. J. M. Leerling
Lesturgeonplein 20
8281 BX Vledder
The Netherlands
FAX: 00.31.521.38338

Prof. Hendrik Alwyn Louw
Regional Director, Technikon Southern Africa
Private Bag X6094
Kimberley, 8300
South Africa
alouw@tsa.ac.za

Mr. O. M. Mathew
Professor of Political Science
Bishop Cotton Women's Christian College
Oruvattithara
Nagampadom
Kottayam 686001, India

Prof. Dr. Valentin Pessenko
Professor (Social Philosophy)
University Rostov on Don
P.O. Box 541
RU-344010
Rostov on Don 10, Russia
kir@rmd.runnet.ru

Dr. Patricia L. Powell
Prof. of Education
Trinity Christian College
12300 Nagle Ave
Palos Heights, IL60463, USA

patti_powell@ho (NOT COMPLETE)

Dr. Robert J. Rice
Dept. of History, Trinity Christian College
6601 West College Dr.
Palos Heights, IL60463, USA
bob.rice@trnty.edu

Mr. H. A. Schaaij
Europe Against Drugs
Streek 22
8302 MDEmmeloord
the Netherlands
31-(0)527-610187

Dr. Elizabeth Thomas
Principal
Bishop Cotton Women's Christian College
42, H.A.L., 3rd Stage
Bangalore560075, India
elizabeth_s_thomas@yahoo.com

Institutional Members

Covenant College
Mr. Frank Brock, President
14049 Scenic Highway
Lookout Mountain, GA30750-9900, USA
404-820-1560; 404-820-0672
www.covenant.edu

Universidad Polytechnica de Nicaragua
Sergio Denis Garcia, Rector
Ap. Postal 3595, Managua, Nicaragua
Tel: 289 7740 al 44Fax: 249 9232
upoli@ibw.com.ne

Affiliate Members

Augustine College
18 Blackburn Ave.
Ottawa, ONT K1N 8A3, Canada
Tel: 613-237-9870
FAX: 613-237-3934
www.augustinecollege.org

MacLaurin Institute
Bob Osburn
Executive Director
331 17th Av SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

612-378-1935; Fax: 612-378-0244

www.maclaurin.org