



# Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

*"...tell the next generation..."* PSALM 78:4



CCRTC NEWS

FALL 2011

[www.covenantteacherscollege.com](http://www.covenantteacherscollege.com)





## from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.” ROMANS 12:2

With these words resonating in our hearts, we began our new academic year on September 6, 2011. Having enjoyed a refreshing summer, students and faculty

Reformed elementary school within a very small church federation. We thank God for His faithfulness!



The 2011-2012 year marks a year in which sixteen fulltime students and one part-time day student, along with nine sessional instructors (Rev. Douwe Agema, Dr. Wes Bredenhof, Dr. Ben Faber, Mr. Paul Leistra, Mr. Tim Schouten, Mrs. Annette Smid, Dr. Deanna Smid, Ms. Cobie Van Eerden, and Mrs. Dominique Wildeboer), three full-time lecturers (Mr. Allard Gunnink, Miss Judy Kingma, and Dr. Christine van Halen), an administrator (Mrs. Donna Van Huisstede), a librarian (Mrs. Eleanor Boeringa), and a host of committee and board members (simply too many to mention!) will work diligently and cooperatively to further the cause of Reformed teaching and learning as it is offered at Covenant Teachers College. We are grateful for the freedom we have to operate our College, and look forward to making good use of it during this year.

were ready and eager to begin yet another year under the LORD’s loving care. During our devotions that morning, we remembered in our prayer the eleven individuals who made up the “Class of 2011”: Ten of them are marking the beginning of their work with their “own” students, while one of them has returned to her own home and native land, Korea, to explore the possibilities of starting a

The day-to-day instruction aimed to prepare young men and women for their

future teaching task continues to form the heart of the College. However, in addition to the regular day classes, we are pleased to offer an evening course with an open enrolment during the first semester. Eleven members of the community have taken the plunge, and are immersing themselves in the History of Ideas, along with their instructor, Dr. Ben Faber. For

faculty are invited to become part of such efforts. Further, the three full-time lecturers attend the quarterly meetings of the Ontario Principals Association, and this too helps us to stay closely connected to the elementary and secondary schools in Ontario. On a broader scale, geographically speaking, the principal participated in the National Principals

Confession Art. 12)

This semester we offer a number of 'special events' either for the community at-large or for the student body. In relation to the former, we were able to enjoy an informative evening during which three educators spoke about Reformed education on three continents. Mr. Antoon Breen



three hours every Thursday evening, the building is abuzz with a lecture, student presentations, and discussions as participants wade their way through the main textbook: Ideas have a history by Dr. F.G.Oosterhoff, our lecturer-emerita. We are excited to be able to open our doors to interested participants, and in this way to share a little of what Covenant College has to offer with the broader community.

Other ways of sharing may be found in various professional development opportunities. Recognizing the significance of cooperative, sustained, research-based, and classroom-focused ongoing learning, several schools have initiated a "Research and Development" program, structured in such a way that optimizes teacher participation. It is good to see that members of the College

Conference earlier this Fall. You are reminded that College faculty is willing and ready to present various topics for discussion in your school community also. Regular contact with colleagues across the province, the country, the continent, and beyond not only allows

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us to keep a finger on the pulse of faithful teaching and learning, but also allows us to marvel at all the happenings in schools and classrooms from day to day. May we all work together for the very purpose for which we have been created: To the end that we may serve our God. (Belgic

(School Support Officer – John Calvin Schools, Western Australia), Mr. Huib van Leeuwen (Director of GRIP, the "Reformed Education Identity Platform", the Netherlands) and Mr. J.G. (Hans) VanDooren (Principal – Guido de Brès Christian High School, Hamilton ON, Canada) shared with us "Present

and future joys and challenges in Reformed education – A tri-continental perspective". With respect to the latter, we look forward to course-related presentations by ARPA Ontario Director

*continued on page 6...*



## from the chair GERRIT BOS

As I write this column, we have just finished the (Canadian) Thanksgiving holiday. We gave thanks and celebrated our relationships. We are grateful for our relation with our Heavenly Father, for our covenant relationships both with Him and within the communion of saints. We are thankful for our relationships with family and friends. At Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College we also celebrate our many relationships, and in this column I want to reflect on these.

At Covenant we have a relation of course with our new and returning students. We are to them the source of excellent Reformed teacher training, and they respond by engaging with the instructors, each other, and the material. The bonds are strong, but there is an endpoint in sight, when the studies are completed, the last assignments handed in, the final exams written. Then the relationship changes, as it did last May 27th for eleven students when they formally graduated from Covenant. During this joyous occasion, they established a new relationship with Covenant; they formally became alumni. They will always look back at Covenant as their 'Alma Mater,' and Covenant has added them to the cherished list of the more than 200 who have graduated since opening its doors. This life-long relationship is also bi-directional. Covenant has in-service professional development opportunities and offers its library and other resources. At the same time many alumni make a real contribution back to Covenant as Governors, committee members, and newsletter contributors. They share

successes in their life, they ask advice, and they contribute in such individual ways as submitting Covenant courses to their University for credit toward their Bachelor of Education. We cherish all these relationships and celebrate the successes.

**“ We have many reasons to be thankful, not least for the many relationships we have been given... ”**

We have many more relationships, with schools, school boards, principals, teachers who are not Covenant alumni, WATCH, the League, and other organizations, both in Canada and internationally. These help us to stay relevant, vibrant, and contribute to our mutual growth. To keep you informed and help you to be engaged with Covenant, we regularly highlight them in newsletters, seminar series, notes in the church bulletins, or on our website or Facebook page.

You, our friends and supporters, also have many individual relationships with

us. Many of you are directly involved in some way, through volunteer work, or as financial supporters. Many more of you have more indirect relationships with Covenant. An example may be that you have family members who are alumni; maybe your children or grandchildren are being taught by Covenant graduates. It could be that you attended a lecture series or remember a poignant conversation with one of the current or former faculty. I would venture a guess that each of you could come up with something after only a few minutes' stroll down memory lane! When you find something, take a moment to cherish it, share it with a friend or family member, or with anyone connected to Covenant. Your local governors love hearing such stories, as it reinforces their commitment and contribution. Consider placing it on the Covenant Facebook page, so that we can all share in your memory. We have many reasons to be thankful, not least for the many relationships we have been given as part of our communion of saints, in all our Reformed endeavours throughout the world. Let's find ways to cherish and celebrate them!

# DIVE INTO THE SEA OF

BY DEANNA SMID

# Stories

Survey of English Literature I and II are courses with lofty goals. They are designed to foster delight in literature, to encourage love for others through knowledge and empathy, to teach critical discernment in reading and interpretation, and to praise God for his gifts of imagination, reason, and creativity.

The courses reach for these necessary goals by focusing intently on a variety of gorgeous and important medieval to postmodern texts. Students read Chaucer, Shakespeare, Coleridge, Ibsen, Atwood and others to (hopefully) find joy in the wit, insightfulness and musicality of the works of these major, representative authors. God has richly enabled people to create beautiful and powerful works of imagination.

While enjoying good literature, Christian readers also learn about their world and the people in it. Reading about—or through the eyes of—others teaches Christians about those they might otherwise not know. Such knowledge

“ If we see our sins reflected to us in literature, should we even read it? We must!

encourages deeper love for others, for how can anyone love someone they do not know? Reading Brian Turner’s “Here, Bullet,” for example, can enrich our knowledge of – and love for – a soldier killing and being killed in Iraq. Learning about others (and, with reflection, ourselves) can be painful. We discover quickly, if what we read has any truth in it, that this world is filled with pride, selfishness, greed and destruction. If we see our sins reflected to us in literature, should we even read it? We must! If we read honestly, literature can intensify both our acknowledgment of our need for salvation and our thankfulness for Christ’s sacrifice.

## Read along with us

If you would like to read along with the CCRTC students, you could pick up Salman Rushdie’s *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (Penguin, 1992), the novel that will conclude English Lit II this year. Some of the

words and names may be unfamiliar, but that’s wonderful. The novel is thrilling, hilarious, and makes an urgent argument for the necessity of stories.

Although the book’s worldview is not necessarily Christian, the novel’s beautiful craftsmanship and important message should strike a chord with Reformed believers trusting in the supremacy of the Word.





and Legal Counsel, Mr. André Schutten (Ethics class) and Redeemer University College English professor, Dr. Deborah Bowen (Survey of English Literature). We deeply appreciate the willingness of these individuals to enrich the learning experience in and around Covenant College.

Speaking of deepening our learning: Do you know that our library is open to our whole community? Why not visit us at <http://ctc.scoolaid.net/bin/home> and see what is new on the shelves. Our collection also houses the resources of the Assistance to the Special Child committee (see the books on gifted learners and their learning, for example), the Dr. F.G.Oosterhoff collection (books related to worldview, apologetics etc.), and a wide assortment of children's literature. To sign up as a patron, simply contact Eleanor Boeringa, the librarian. In case you have read a wonderful book that would stretch and expand a (future) teacher's mind, check whether we have it in our library. If

“ Together we look forward to making Covenant the definitive source of Reformed teacher education.”

not, please let us know. As always, your suggestions for worthwhile additions to our library are welcome.

Truly the start of the academic year has been most enjoyable, encouraging, and even exhilarating. We thank you for your gifts and your prayers. We know that our LORD is faithful, and we pray that He will bless the Covenant College community. Together we look forward to making Covenant the definitive source of Reformed teacher education. Let us then assist each other in all possible ways, so that we will be able to test and approve

what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will. Let us apply this also in the area of faithful education at all levels, to the praise of God's glory. Indeed, “if the Christian school is to educate for Christian life, it must educate for gratitude.” (N. Wolterstorff in *Educating for life*, p.272)



### BOARD OF GOVERNORS: (NOVEMBER, 2011)

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- Frank Ludwig** ..... Vice Chairman
- Peter Vandersluis** ..... Past Chairman
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- Martha DeGelder** ... Handbook and Governance Committee
  
- Debby Lodder** ..... Cornerstone Christian, Lynden, WA
- Michelle Faber** ..... William of Orange, Surrey, BC
- Heres Snijder** ..... Credo Christian Elementary, Langley, BC
- Yvonne VanLaar** ..... Covenant Can. Ref., Neerlandia, AB
- Amanda Poppe** ..... Coaldale Christian, Coaldale, AB
- Will Gortemaker** ..... Immanuel Christian, Winnipeg, MB
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- Tony VanTol** ..... Emmanuel Christian High, Fergus, ON
- Ed Groen** ..... Dufferin Area Christian, Laurel, ON
- Frank Selles** ..... Credo Christian, Woodbridge, ON
- Jeff Scheper** ..... Owen Sound Can. Ref., Owen Sound, ON

We invite you to visit the **CCRTC website** at [www.covenantteacherscollege.com](http://www.covenantteacherscollege.com)



“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

As we do our work here on this earth we are reminded again that we do it as God’s children. In His grace He has called us to be His own, though we deserve it no more than anyone else. In His grace He also promises that no matter what life brings, He is the one who provides and cares for His covenant children.

We again are humbled that in Covenant CRTC we may see God’s providential work in guiding so many teachers to pass this truth on to numerous covenant children.

This is why as WATCH committee we continue to strive to do what we can to promote this work.

Thank-you once again to the women in our congregations who put their time and effort into this work. Your funds continue to help CCRTC, especially in the IT department. Also, this year, 30 copies of the new Books of Praise were purchased. This calendar year our congregational representatives have brought in more than \$5000 in total. We appreciate all the efforts made. We want to thank especially those reps and congregations who consistently do their part; your yearly efforts do not go unnoticed.

As Watch Committee, not only do we raise funds for non-budgeted items, we also ask our representatives to submit bulletin announcements. This is done a couple of times a year to help us all keep the work of CCRTC fresh in our minds.

We would like to extend a big thank-you to Robin Westrik. Robin has been on our Committee since it began about 14 years ago. Robin has been our trusted secretary, using her pen frequently to inform you, the Board and our reps of our ongoing work. Robin, your dedication was much appreciated!

We now welcome Janet VanVliet as our new secretary. Welcome on board, Janet!

We thank you all for your support and continue to pray for the Lord’s blessing on the work done at CCRTC.

In our update last fall, we mentioned that we were looking for a new treasurer. We are thankful that Alina Noot has been found willing to take on this role and in fact has been capably taking care of our finances for almost a year already. If you have any contributions you know who to send them to!

## WATCH REPRESENTATIVES

Rose Wouderberg	Ancaster
Ingrid Jansema	Attercliffe
Trix Aasman	Burlington Fellowship
Karen Vandeburgt	Burlington Waterdown
Angela Blok	Carmen
Jennifer Vanderveen	Chatham
Michelle Faber	Cloverdale/Surrey
Amanda Poppe	Coaldale
Annette Kelly	Dunnville
Anne-Marie Sikkema	Elora
Betsy Kingma	Fergus Maranatha
Wendy Koster	Fergus North
Wilma Vanderwoude	Glanbrook
Kim VanEerde	Grand Valley
JoAnn Van Iperen	Grassie
Robin Westrik	Guelph
Karen VanderLaan	Hamilton Cornerstone
Jean Blokker	Hamilton Providence
Arlene Leffers	Houston
Rennie Pieterman	Kerwood/London
Yvonne Jacobi	Langley/Willoughby Heights
Adria Stulp	Lincoln
Debbie Johnson	Lynden
Joanneke Kottelenberg	Orangeville
Debbie Torenvliet	Ottawa
Glenda Kapteyn	Owen Sound
Hetty VanderGaag	Smithers
Mary Alkema	Tintern
Amanda DeBoer	Toronto
Charlene VandenAkker	Winnipeg Grace

**Important note to our representatives:** *If we do not yet have your e-mail addresses, could you please send them to us? It will make our correspondence much easier, especially when we want to send some bulletin notices your way. Thank-you.*

Eleanor Boeringa	LIAISON
905-304-3912 or eleanorb@covenantteacherscollege.com	
Julie DeHaan	CHAIR
905 957 9184 or wilcoandjulie@gmail.com	
Alina Noot	TREASURER
905 574 0490 or manoot@quickolic.net	
Janet VanVliet	SECRETARY
livingstreams@shaw.ca	

# from the finance committee

ARCHIE BAX

In the past operating year, September 2010 to August 2011, the Lord has blessed us richly. Financially, while we were about 1.5% short on our revenue budget, this was offset by the fact that our expenses were about 6% less than budgeted. This resulted in a surplus of about \$22,000 at the end of the year. To put this into perspective, this amount is about 58% of one month's average expenses for the college. So while the number looks big, it is actually small in the overall picture. But it is positive and as I said at the outset, it is a reason for thankfulness. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member societies and the donors as well as the students, faculty, and the various volunteer committees for helping us achieve this result.

Last year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Board authorized the addition of a fourth faculty member. This means

that the donor portion of the revenue needs to increase by about 29%. A fourth faculty member has not yet been found, but sessional or part-time instructors have been hired, which increases our costs over those of the past year. We would still like to achieve the budget revenue increase as set by the AGM so that when a suitable candidate is found we can proceed with the hiring without delay.

In order to decide to what extent you can help support us, please consider that teachers in the elementary and high schools need to have the right skills to teach effectively. Regardless of the subject, they need to know the material and to have the skills to convey that knowledge to their students. It is critical, moreover, that we have Bible and Church history taught, so that the students can hear what the Lord has done for us in His Son and how He has guided His people

over the centuries and the generations. It is also critical that the students develop their language and arts skills so that they can express themselves and praise Him, and equally critical that they know their mathematics and science so that they can investigate and discover the marvelous works of God's creation. These subjects are foundational for the students to develop their talents, prepare for a vocation, and serve the Lord in that vocation. In short, while teachers provide only part of the training children receive, their work is indispensable.

Won't you help us to continue with this important task? You can do this by remembering us in prayer, volunteering for Board and committee positions, and providing us with the financial resources to continue to train future effective, competent, Christian teachers.

Thank you in advance.



**At this time, the PR Committee would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank Dr. Oosterhoff for her willingness to edit the newsletters over the many years that it has been published. Her exact attention to detail has been treasured by us as PR Committee and has benefitted the readers over the years. All the best in your retirement, Dr. Oosterhoff!**

Please detach and mail to: CCRTC • South Square RO • P.O. Box 30026 • 1576 Upper James Street • Hamilton, ON • L9B 2Y5

## Yes! I would like to support the CCRTC!

- One-Time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (cheque Enclosed)
- Monthly by pre-authorized Automatic withdrawal

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CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal Form

I hereby authorize Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College to withdraw regular monthly payments from my bank account in the amount of and agree to accept annual increases as set by the board.:

- \$33/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
  - 15th of the month
  - 30th of the month
- \$396/Annually** - Withdrawn on \_\_\_\_\_ each year
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
  - 15th of the month
  - 30th of the month

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked "VOID" to this form.