

Finance Report

The Lord willing, Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary. Over the past 25 years, the college has had 23 graduation ceremonies with 161 successful graduates. Most of these young men and women have found employment as Reformed teachers in many elementary and secondary schools on the North American continent, as well as in South America, Australia, and Europe. In short, the college has been instrumental in aiding the continuation of Reformed education in various localities.

The college has seen many changes over the years and much growth. This growth is manifested, not only in the number of students, but also in areas such as curriculum development, additional programs, and professional development. It is always a challenge to find faculty for the college who are able to offer programs that adequately cover all that is necessary for the training of Reformed teachers.

It is no less a challenge, however, to meet the financial needs of this active and vital college. The membership of the college is made up of school societies that are assessed a nominal fee in accordance with the number of students in those schools. The bulk of the income, however, must come from tuition and donations. Tuition fees have been rising steadily over the past several years, as have the recommended donation rates. This is done to offset the increasing financial needs of the college. All of the relevant budgetary information is included for your perusal. You will note that the recommended donation for the year 2006-2007 has again been set at \$375.00 per donor. Of course, donations of any amount are most welcome! Please send your donation to your local representative or directly to the college using the enclosed self-addressed, postage-paid envelope. It will help our comptroller greatly if you provide the information requested on the form below.

At this time, Covenant College finds itself once again on the edge of a financial shortfall. We are appealing to all our faithful supporters for donations. At present, we need \$100,000.00 by the end of August to meet our budgeted needs. If you have not yet contributed for the year 2005-2006, please do not delay any longer. We need your support today. For those who wish to have their

09/2006 - 08/2007 Final Budget	
Revenue	427,189.41
Expenses	
Remuneration - Teaching	258,678.00
Fringe Benefits	45,602.82
Prof. Dev. / Princ. Conf.	2,250.00
Research Leave	7,500.00
Fundraising Committee Expenses	
Accreditation Committee Expenses	
Practicum Teaching	7,500.00
Graduation/Anniversary Celebration	11,500.00
Library	20,416.00
LCRSS League	100.00
Building Expenses	30,297.59
Administration	22,845.00
Miscellaneous	
Staff Travel	2,000.00
Board Travel	2,500.00
Gym Rental/Programs/Lecturers	2,500.00
Public Relations	8,500.00
Capital - SW / Audio Visual	1,000.00
Capital - Computer / Furniture	4,000.00
Total Expenses	427,189.41

contribution directed to fund the upcoming twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations, please indicate this on the memo line of your cheque.

We thank you most sincerely for your prayerful support. Without our faithful supporters – more importantly, without the Lord’s continued blessing – our work would come to naught. We praise Him for his goodness, and pray that Covenant College may continue to be a blessing to our schools, churches, and homes.

Please tear off and send with your donation.

I enclose my donation of \$ _____

I enclose post-dated cheques for a total amount of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Congregation: _____

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VOLUME 24 • SPRING 2006





Looking Back... and Ahead Christine van Halen-Faber

The Commencement evening on May 26 marked a festive end to the 2005-2006 academic year. Fifteen graduates, our largest graduating class ever, received their diplomas before a large crowd of family, friends, and supporters of Covenant College.

Thoughtful words, spoken by Rev. P. Feenstra and based on 2 Peter 1:1-15, reminded us all of the importance of character development along biblical norms, and of the role of teachers in this process. Sharing their insights of the Diploma of Teaching and the Diploma of Education graduands, two valedictorians addressed us, starting with *Oh the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Suess, and concluding with a seafaring analogy and the words of Ps. 107:30, 31 acknowledging that God guides us to our desired haven, and we are to give thanks to Him for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds. Earlier that evening, the Class of 2006 presented the college with a beautiful gift: a quilt consisting of fifteen blocks. Each student first designed and then stitched a block. The result is a true representation of the distinct and unique members of this class. Christa Agema, Reuel Feenstra, Heidi Kingma, Jennifer Lodder, Walter Smith, Linnet van Dijk, Marla van Dijk, Mary-Ellen van Doornik, Lorien VanPopta, Jessica Vis, Rachel Broekema, Amey Meijaard, Angela Ouwersloot, Amy VanStraten, and Menco Wieske: we are sorry to see you go and we will miss each one of you, for you have added your own individual touches to our college community. But we also recognize that it's time for you to move on. So, quoting Dr. Suess once more, we say "Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to great places! You're off and away!" It is our prayer that the Lord our God will continue to bless you richly as you take on new tasks in his service.



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The year has been a good year. We thank our God for health and strength so that the instruction at Covenant College could take place unhindered and in a spirit of good cooperation. Our appreciation is extended to all who are involved with the college one way or another. We thank the faculty and staff for its dedication: Rev. D.G.J. Agema, Mrs. E. Boeringa, Mme. T. Boisvert, Mrs. K. Dieleman, Mr. A. Gunnink, Mr. W.F. Horsman, Miss J. Kingma, Dr. F.G. Oosterhoff, Ms. C. VanEerden, and Mrs. D. VanHuisstede, as well as the board and its committees.

A teacher education program is not complete without a practicum component. We thank the boards, principals, and teachers in our schools in Ontario, Manitoba (Carman and Winnipeg), Alberta (Edmonton and Neerlandia), and for the first time ever: Lynden, Washington. We are grateful that each year new schools are willing to host one or more

of our students, for also in this way the connection between Covenant College and its supporting school communities is strengthened. In addition to the opportunity our students receive to connect theory and practice under the guidance of experienced teachers, local school communities may

...continued on page 7

Reflections from the Chair Peter Vandersluis

With the blessing of the Lord, the work at the college, both in front of and behind the scenes, continues. With so many students our staff enjoyed a busy and rewarding year. The college was able to see 15 students graduate this year! Many of our supporting schools enjoyed having so many graduates to choose from to help them fill their staffing needs. Behind the scenes the work of the board and its many committees was also able to continue. This past February the Board of Governors, represented by school societies from across Canada and even from the USA, came together

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for its annual meeting. At this meeting I officially became the new chairman. The annual meeting is enjoyed by all as a way to become reacquainted but it is also a weekend where much work takes place.

In preparation for the annual meeting, the board had put together the framework for a new board structure that would alter its manner of functioning. At the meeting this new structure was adopted. The most significant changes include bimonthly board meetings instead of monthly and the introduction of two new executive positions: vice-treasurer and past-chairman. The new structure will put renewed emphasis on committees doing their work, particularly in the months between board meetings. It has always been the position of the board that its primary function is to provide vision and leadership to the college.

Committees are now given the power to do their work, reporting to the board and seeking its advice when required. The biggest

challenge the board faces with the new emphasis on committees is the fact that we have such wide representation geographically. The board recognizes this and we are making efforts to make committee work easier by having committees made up of individuals who are in the same geographical area. For example, three “locals” are to be established to address fund raising: Ontario, Manitoba, and BC/USA. The board and committee calendars also require adjustments to reflect the new working model. Most importantly, the board recognizes the hours and traveling its many committee members put in and it is hoped that this new way of doing business will streamline the efforts of all involved.

I am often asked what developments have taken place with respect to accreditation. All I can report at the moment is that the work continues but there are significant hurdles to overcome. As board chair, I am now a part of the Accreditation Committee and I have seen first hand the challenges the committee faces. Nevertheless, we remain strongly committed to seeking accreditation.

I would be remiss if I concluded without acknowledging the work of our past chairman, Mrs. Martha de Gelder. Martha has long been a driving force behind the scenes at the college and her vision and commitment have been unwavering. In her new role of past-chairman I, for one, will continue to enjoy her insight and wisdom. Her mentoring and guidance have been welcomed. Martha has been involved with Covenant College for many years and we, as board, wish her every blessing in her retirement. We also welcome her continuing work and leadership as past-chair.

I conclude by thanking our Heavenly Father for all that he has provided: staff, students, a wonderful facility, widespread representation from across Canada and the USA, financial resources, and many hours of labour from dedicated volunteers and support staff.

Graduation and Character Education

A summary of the address to the graduating class of 2006



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Top Row: Mary-Ellen van Doornik, Marla van Dijk, Jessica Vis, Rachel Broekema, Angela Ouwersloot, Linnet van Dijk

Middle Row: Amey Meijaard, Christa Agema, Jennifer Lodder, Lorien VanPopta, Heidi Kingma, Amy VanStraten

Bottom Row: Reuel Feenstra, Walter Smith, Menco Wieske

BY REVEREND PETER FEENSTRA

Teaching children in the setting of our Reformed schools is a tremendous blessing! By teaching the various subjects you give the children wings, allowing them to soar like an eagle – observing the beauty of God’s creation, enabling them to read the Scriptures and find solace and comfort in the gospel of Christ.

You have come to see that the foundation of Reformed education is the doctrine of the covenant. The children you will teach are special. They share with you a mark that distinguishes them from others - they bear the mark of God's redeeming love and faithfulness! Moreover, as brand new teachers you will begin to teach within the context of the age-old struggle of the antithesis. Together with your future students you are on the battlefield fighting three sworn enemies - the devil, the world and your own sinful flesh. In that battle you are to help the students hold high the banner that acknowledges Christ to be King of every area of life!

Integral to covenant education is character education. Character education is concerned with the way you talk, the behaviour you model, the conduct you tolerate, the deeds you encourage, the expectations you transmit. 2 Peter 1 reminds us that good character and virtue is basic to the Christian life - and thus also to Reformed education. What takes place in the school constitutes a microcosm of what we should expect within the church in general. Peter writes, “For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge... For if you possess these qualities in

increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Effective character education is not adding a program or set of programs to a school. Rather it is to be integrated into every aspect of school life, including discipline, playground duty and sports. Everything in the school is organized around the development of relationships between and among students, staff, and community.

The wonderful thing about life in the covenant is that all we are called to do has its basis and foundation in what has been done for us. When Peter calls us to excellence of character he prefaces what he says by, “for this very reason.” He has spoken of God's divine power to give us all things. We labour for excellence of character because God has already laboured for us and is at work in us.

Graduates, may what you have learned at Covenant College lead to an ever greater appreciation for God’s work with His people. May you all look forward to the final commencement ceremonies that will take place when your Teacher, Jesus Christ, will return, and when those character traits which have stood the test of time will enable us live in a perfect community of covenant love.

25th Anniversary Celebrations

Kim Harsevoort

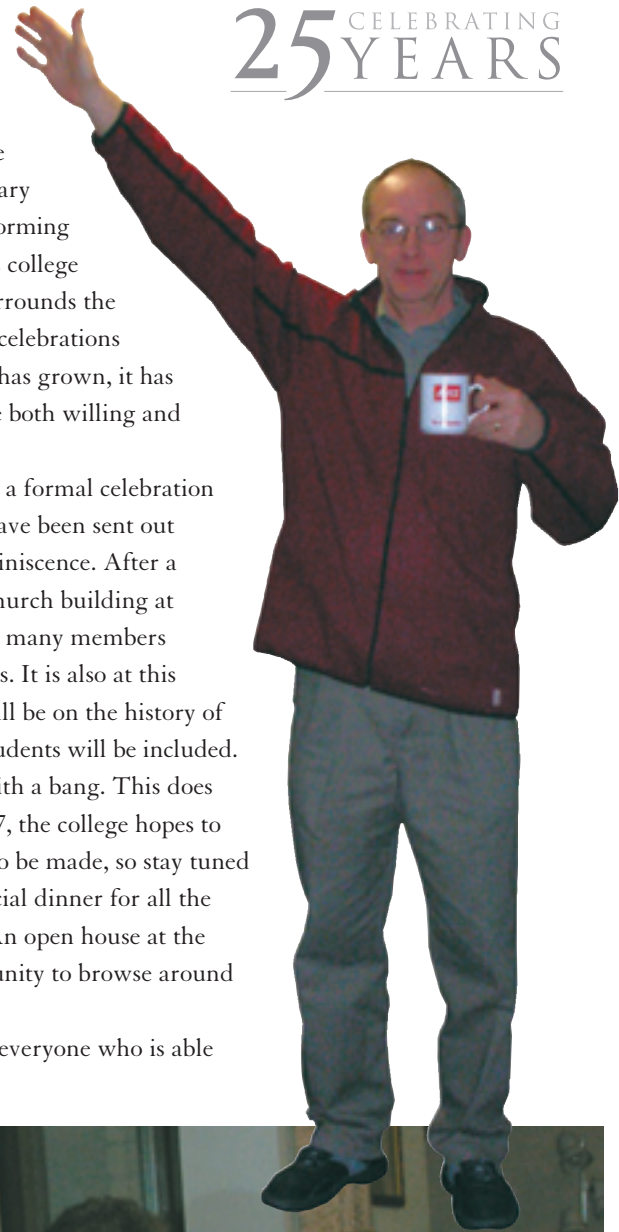
Late last fall the governors of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College appointed a committee to help plan for its upcoming Twenty-fifth Anniversary celebrations. Since our initial meeting, this committee of five has been busy brainstorming and planning events that will help celebrate God's grace in allowing the teachers college to be in existence for the past 25 years. There is always much excitement that surrounds the celebration of such a memorable event and we, as committee, want to focus our celebrations on the recognition of God's blessing on the college over these years. The college has grown, it has moved to new locations, and it has faithfully continued to train teachers who are both willing and able to teach God's covenant children.

The first event we have planned is an Alumni Gala which is to be followed by a formal celebration evening. This has been scheduled for September 23, 2006. Personal invitations have been sent out to all alumni, asking them to come and enjoy an evening of celebration and reminiscence. After a buffet reception, a formal program will be held in the Hamilton Cornerstone Church building at 7:30. All who wish to attend this program are welcome. It is here we hope to see many members of our church/school communities join us in thanking God for his great blessings. It is also at this event that the presentation of an anniversary booklet will take place. Its focus will be on the history of both the college and of Reformed education in general. Vignettes from former students will be included.

As you can see, we have decided to start our Twenty-fifth Anniversary year with a bang. This does not mean, however, that the celebratory events will end there. In January of 2007, the college hopes to host some special events open to all interested persons. Final decisions have yet to be made, so stay tuned for more details. In March, the Anniversary Committee hopes to organize a special dinner for all the governors of the board who are in attendance at the Annual General Meeting. An open house at the college will be planned for the same weekend, thereby giving visitors an opportunity to browse around the college and get a look at the work that takes place there.

God has richly blessed Covenant College over the past 25 years. We hope that everyone who is able will come out and celebrate with us.

25 CELEBRATING YEARS



We are excited about the new governance model that was accepted at this year's annual Board of Governors meeting, and we look forward to experiencing it in full action with involvement of school communities from west to east. When we recognize the full implications of living within a covenant relationship before our God and with

each other, we know that the cause of Reformed education touches all. This includes Reformed teacher training. With much joy and gratitude we conclude this year, and with an equal amount of joy and gratitude we look forward to 2006-07 in which we may commemorate the gift of twenty-five years of teacher education at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College. We invite you to join us in our festive year-long celebrations!

...continued from page 3

benefit from the presence of faculty members by inviting them to present in-service workshops for teachers and/or speeches for school societies.

A teacher education program also benefits from special presentations and guest lecturers as part of the regular course work. During the past year we welcomed several speakers. In the "induction" course for our graduating class, Carina Ploeger and Anne-Marie VanPopta told us all what it is really like to be a first year teacher, and Jason Heemskerker demonstrated how using a specific computer program can make student assessment and evaluation so much easier. Based on her own classroom experience, Ellen Verkuil shared with us her knowledge of and enthusiasm for the storyline approach to learning, and Sharon Hofsink assisted our students in identifying potential at-risk learners. As part of English Literature, Hugh Cook (professor emeritus at Redeemer University College, and author of *Cracked Wheat; The Homecoming Man*;

Home in Alfalfa)

shared his insights on the writing process, and Rick Monture (a doctoral candidate living on the Six Nations Reserve) presented a thoughtful and thought-provoking talk on issues represented in native literature. We are pleased that these speakers were willing to share their expertise with our students.

Lastly, a teacher education program cannot exist without a strong board and an enthusiastic supportive and supporting community. We thank our now past-chairman, Mrs. Martha deGelder, for her many years of unwavering support and dedication to our college. We deeply appreciate all that you have done. Enjoy your rest, Martha! We welcome Peter Vandersluis, and wish you well in your position as Chair.



Want to know more about Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College?
Have Questions? Need Answers? Visit us at:
www.covenantteacherscollege.com

Thank You

The CCRTC would like to extend a sincere thank you to WATCH for the \$7,000 cheque they presented (in absentia) at the graduation. Their efforts, as always, are greatly appreciated and the proceeds will be put to good use.

