

Treasurer's Report Butch Medemblik

At time of writing, the books for our 24th year of operation for Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College have officially been closed. The financial report presented at our September Board meeting indicated that we were able to close the year with an excess of revenue over expenses! Thanks to those of you who are our

this new academic year. In order to address the ongoing concern regarding our financial position, the board has formed a Fund Raising Committee whose mandate it is to plan a more concerted and consistent method of raising the funds required to meet our budget. As we move forward into 2006 it is the desire of the governors

that this mandate develops and grows. We ask that you will pray for the Lord's blessing upon the ongoing work of the board and of all its committees.

In order to keep each of you up to date, we have included an abbreviated copy of the board-approved budget for the current year (September 2005 to August 2006). The recommended donation for this year has 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 following information on a separate piece of paper or by completing the form below.

Canadian Reformed Teachers College 09/2005 to 08/2006 Final Budget			
REVENUE			
Contributions / Donations	222,415.00	Outdoor Maintenance	2,500.00
Society Revenue	90,000.00	Wages - Cleaning	6,532.00
Student Tuition	73,125.00	Cleaning Supplies	500.00
Staff/Facility Revenue	1,000.00	Building Insurance	3,824.00
Miscellaneous	50.00	Building Security	1,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	386,590.00	Utilities - Hydro/Gas/Water	10,000.00
EXPENSES			
Remuneration - Teaching	240,824.00	ADMINISTRATION	
Fringe Benefits	42,421.00	Postage	1,250.00
Prof. Dev. / Princ. Conf.	1,500.00	Telephone / Communications	2,500.00
Research Leave	7,500.00	Administrative Services	10,898.00
Practicum Teaching	7,000.00	Bank Charges	1,250.00
Graduation	1,500.00	GST Paid / Recovery	1,500.00
		Administration Expense - Other	250.00
LIBRARY		Copier / Computer Supplies	2,200.00
Books Reimbursed	7,000.00	Stationery & Supplies	1,800.00
Services - Library	4,341.00	MISCELLANEOUS	
Stationery	1,900.00	Staff Travel	2,000.00
Books	14,000.00	Board Travel	2,500.00
Subscriptions	5,000.00	Gym Rental / Programs / Lecturers	2,500.00
		Public Relations	7,500.00
LCRSS (League)	100.00	Capital - SW/Audio Visual	2,000.00
		Capital - Computer / Furniture	2,000.00
BUILDING EXPENSES		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 386,590.00
Building Maintenance/Improvements	2,500.00		

regular donors. Your continued support is essential to our very existence. Thanks also to those individuals and corporations who answered our plea for financial aid. Because of your contributions we were able to meet our budgeted commitments.

As board, we press ahead in the confidence that our heavenly Father will provide all that is necessary to operate Covenant College during

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

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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Reflections from the Chair Martha De Gelder

What should have the special attention of the board of Covenant College and keep its members busy? This question has been in the forefront during these past few months as we have continued our efforts to produce good and usable handbooks for the board and its committees. We have also been discussing at length how we can better fulfill these responsibilities and where improvements must be made.

These questions are not unique to our institution. The management sector of organizations and companies has received a great deal of attention for many years and today the governance of these same groups is also being studied and discussed. Consequently there is a growing number of resources available. Change is coming!

The primary reason for such change is that there has been a shift in focus. Instead of reviewing reports of what has been happening (i.e., looking back), organizations are now being encouraged to spend more time looking ahead (i.e., on refining their vision and planning the future direction of their organization). The board of Covenant College, too, feels that the operation of the college and the planning for its future will be enhanced when its focus is forward-looking.

Although this matter has received increased attention during the past year or so, the board has been busy with it for quite a few years. We once again determined that membership is by school society rather than by individuals. We have sought to establish an increased level of interaction with these societies and their boards. Our constitution and by-laws were reviewed and updated. At the same time, we continue to look for ways to improve communication with you, our individual supporters, who are so valuable and without whom we could not continue to operate.

Each member school society sends a representative to serve as governor on our board. This provides the means by which these societies can become actively involved in what the college does. Since the college was established

to serve the needs of our school societies, their feedback and input is most necessary. School boards receive a bi-monthly short report in which the decisions and actions of the board are summarized. Individual church members are kept informed of the ongoing activities at the college by way of the bi-monthly Featherpen news bulletin (as published in your local school magazine) and via this publication, our bi-annual newsletter.

Although a lot of work has been done, much remains to be done. We feel that by reviewing the structure of the board and of its committees, as well as their mandates, policies, and procedures, improvements can be made. In time, this should be of benefit to the college, its board and committees, and to all who are involved in one way or another.

None of this can be done without the expenditure of time and effort. Most of those involved with this project are busy people. The work they do for the college must, therefore, be done in their spare time. Since most have families and daily jobs and are involved in their local congregation and/or school society, this effort advances more slowly than is ideal. Nevertheless we carry on in the belief that ultimately our work will improve the operation of the college and, thereby, the cause of Reformed education.



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Also of interest to you will be the landscaping and paving projects. A generous donor has funded the paving of our driveway and parking lot. If you had seen the amount of mud tracked in during the fall and spring seasons, you can imagine how those at the college have welcomed this change! And what a difference it has made to the outward appearance of the college! A new landscape design, also donated, will complete the beautification of our grounds. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all who have been involved with this project at its different phases.

Finally, I would like to inform you that the plans for a big college celebration are in the works. Next year will mark our 25th anniversary and the board has appointed a committee to make the necessary plans. Keep posted – we hope to involve as many of you as possible.

On a more personal note, this is the last message I will write from my position as chair. I have considered it an honour, privilege and

From the Principal Christine van Halen-Faber

At the time of writing, the first semester of our 2005-06 academic year is already in full swing. Our students have experienced their first practicum placement of the year, and faculty members have completed the on-site supervision visits. Now it is back to the classrooms at 410 Crerar Drive in Hamilton where the sense-making connecting of practice and theory continues.

Time moves quickly. With the arrival of autumn, seasonal jobs and vacations seem already in the distant past. A new school year is well under way.

During the summer of 2005, our building was buzzing with activity. In addition to various planning meetings, course development and preparation, faculty and colleagues met to examine curriculum. The final stages of the Guidance document draft were also completed. All this while outside a beautiful new parking lot was being installed!

On Tuesday, September 6, the library meeting room was filled to capacity as students, staff, and faculty began a new academic year,

a challenge to serve in this position. All praise belongs to our heavenly Father who provides what we need in any and all situations. I have had the privilege of working with many board and committee members. To them I would like to say “thank you” for your support and for giving of yourselves for the sake of the college. I would also like to say “thank you” to the faculty and staff members. It has been wonderful to witness your interest in and dedication to the cause of educating young people to become teachers in our Reformed schools. Finally, I would like to say a special “thank you” to our principal, Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber. Not only is she a tireless worker for all aspects of Covenant College, she has also been a great support to the board and to me personally as chair. The college has made great strides forward in the past few years and I believe that this is due, in large part, to Christine’s sense of vision and to her willingness to do whatever needs to be done for the good of the college. May the Lord continue to bless and guide all that is done at the college and may it be done to the glory of His name.

the 24th in the history of our college. We welcome as full-time students Rachel Brockema, Amey Meijaard, Angela Ouwersloot, Amy Van Straten, and Menco Wieske in the one-year *Diploma of Education* program. Jessica Broersma, Janna De Jong, Diana Forsyth, Jolene VanDyk, and Amanda Vanderhoeven are in their first year of the three-year *Diploma of Teaching* program, while Virginia Jager, Patricia Jonker, and Twyla VanLeeuwen are enrolled in the second year. Christa Agema, Reuel Feenstra, Heidi Kingma, Jennifer Lodder, Walter Smith, Linnet VanDyk, Marla VanDyk, Mary-Ellen VanDoornik, Lorien VanPopta, and Jessica Vis are in Year 3. In addition to these 23 full-time students, we also welcome two part-timers. Together we look forward to a record number of graduating students this year, and wish all the Lord’s guidance and blessings as they continue to learn what it means to teach a next generation the ways of the Lord. We will continue to do our work with the words of our opening theme texts firmly embedded in our hearts and minds:

As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience... Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... (Col. 3:12, 15, 16).

We welcome back as full-time faculty this year Mr. Allard Gunnink, Miss Judy Kingma, and the undersigned. Holding the part-time and sessional course fort are Rev. Douwe Agema, Mme. Teresa Boisvert,

French at the College Teresa Boisvert

Parlez-vous français? We do at the college (sometimes). The students enrolled in the *Diploma of Teaching* program are



required to take two French courses at some time during their three years at the college. What is so important about French and why is it offered at the college? It is one of the official languages of many countries in the world. Canada is one of these countries and the ability to communicate in both of our official languages opens a wealth of job opportunities. I know from personal experience how very rewarding it is to be able to communicate with Reformed Christians in our neighbouring province. In fact, studying a second language gives a greater understanding of one’s own mother tongue. In Ontario, the Ministry of Education requires all elementary schools to provide 600 hours of French instruction. This may begin at grade four or be spread throughout the eight grades. French is a very beautiful language and well worth the effort it takes to learn it.

The French courses at the college focus primarily on improving the student’s own language skills. A secondary focus is promoting student growth in regards to becoming responsible, competent, and creative French language teachers at the elementary level. Students, through a variety of activities, practice listening, speaking, reading and writing French within the context of French culture studies.

Upon entering the college, some of our students know very little French whereas some can communicate quite well, having taken French at the Grade 12 level. Because of the huge range in background, we offer the courses at two levels: advanced and general.

Mrs. Karen Dieleman, Mr. Bill Horsman, and Dr. Frederika Oosterhoff. Ms. Cobie VanEerden hopes to join us in semester 2.

We look forward to a good year – a year in which the Board of Governors and its committees, the faculty and staff, together with the students may continue to be actively engaged in the work of Reformed teacher preparation and development, seeking to do all aspects of this work, in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col.3:17).

The advanced level is for those who have acquired a Grade 12 French language credit and the general level is for those who have not. There is a different language textbook for each level. Students taking the general level will do all of the assignments but these may be shorter and are occasionally done in English. Unfortunately, of the 19 students who are presently taking French, only four are doing so at the advanced level.

Each week the students are to hand in a journal entry that has been written in French. They are also to complete a French bulletin board at some time during the course. There are quizzes every week on language structures and vocabulary and there is, of course, a final examination. Teaching French at the college is a very pleasant experience and the three hours slip away very quickly on these Wednesday evenings.

A typical, three-hour Wednesday evening class is conducted as follows:

1. Recitation of the Lord’s Prayer in French.
2. Singing of a Psalm, Hymn or spiritual song in French.
3. Two students read a short passage from the French Bible and explain in French why they chose it and what it means.
4. Two students present a current events topic in French.
5. Together we read short culture capsules in English or in French.
6. Two students present a French story they have written themselves.
7. Together we read, in French, a section of the History of the ERQ (The Reformed Church of Quebec).
8. Two of the students team-teach one of the three lessons they have planned from a program based on the current Ontario Curriculum Guidelines for French.
9. Break time.
10. After break we separate into advanced level and general level. While the general level students study the intricacies of the French language, the advanced level students prepare and tape dialogues based on a selected list of vocabulary terms. After a half hour, we switch. The advanced level students also study a more in-depth book about the history of the Protestant church in Quebec.