



## Christ College Newsletter

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

Volume 8, Summer 1991

### THE DEAN'S REPORT

My first year as Dean of Christ College has been marked by so many important changes that I decided to change, for this one issue, the traditional contents and format of **The Spillikin**. News stories and notes replace the customary feature articles by alumni. Know that we shall return to the established format with next year's issue; **The Spillikin** should serve primarily to publicize your thoughts, your gifts, and your actions as a way of sustaining the intellectual community that is CC.

I suspect that as you read the stories that follow you will recall the worldly-wise French maxim, *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. The new post-doctoral teaching fellowship program will be directed by my predecessor, Arlin Meyer. One of this year's new faculty members is a CC alum, Michael Caldwell. Another new appointment brings to the College a dimension we have long sought, expertise in non-Western cultures, but Janet Lynn's interests in East Asia focus upon religious subjects and questions, and these have been important to Christ College from the beginning.

These and other efforts to broaden and deepen established collegial emphases seem warranted by the needs and the confusions of our time. I recently watched the splendid documentary, **Weapons of the Spirit**, the story of a small community of 5000 Huguenots that sheltered, at great risk to themselves, 5000 Jews during the Nazi occupation of France. Why, the film forces us to ask, do some Christian communities combat atrocities even as other Christian communities are perpetrating them? The philosopher Charles Taylor concludes his magnificent portrait of the modern identity, **Sources of the Self** (Harvard, 1989), by raising the same question as the central dilemma of our time. What should we do in view of the fact that Christianity has at one and the same time given rise to the noblest ideals and the most atrocious actions? "The prudent strategy [stifling the ideals] makes sense on the assumption that the dilemma is inescapable, that the highest spiritual aspirations must lead to mutilation or destruction. But if I may make one last unsupported assertion, I want to say that I don't accept this as our inevitable lot....There is a large element of hope. It is a hope that I see implicit in Judaeo-Christian theism (however terrible the record of its adherents in history), and in its central promise of a divine affirmation of the human, more total than humans can ever attain unaided."

The changes and continuities in Christ College are based in large part on just this hope. . . . MS

### FIFTH ANNUAL HOMECOMING SYMPOSIUM

Christ College alumni Carole L. Nuechterlein ('83) and Dan P. McAdams ('76) will lead this fall's Homecoming Symposium. Presentations and discussions will explore the question: **Is There a Moral Breakdown of Civility in American Life?**

The topic will challenge us to consider to what extent contemporary society's public attitudes and patterns of behavior may be eroding the bounds of respect and decorum that have heretofore survived in a highly individualistic and mobile country. Are we seeing more public displays of tastelessness, verbal confrontation, and even physical harassment? If so, why, and what might be done about such behaviors?

Come share your experiences and perspectives. Mark your calendars now! Note that Symposium will begin a bit later than usual. We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming Symposium and at our traditional CC gathering between the parade and football game.

#### CC HOMECOMING SYMPOSIUM 1991

Friday, October 4, 1991 -- Mueller Hall Refectory

#### Is There a Moral Breakdown of Civility in American Life?

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2:30-3:15 pm | <b>Address</b><br>Carole L. Nuechterlein, JD     |
| 3:30-4:15 pm | <b>Address</b><br>Dan P. McAdams, PhD            |
| 4:30-5:15 pm | <b>Response and Open Discussion</b>              |
| 5:30 pm      | <b>Reception</b><br>Home of Dean Mark R. Schwehn |

**ALUMNI SURVEY ENCLOSED  
PLEASE RESPOND TODAY!**

## SENIORS HONORED

Christ College Scholar honors were awarded to 34 graduates at Valparaiso University's 117th Annual Commencement in May. Six students received Associate honors.

CC Scholar Thomas Nutter III of Carlinville, Illinois, received the VU Alumni Association's Distinguished Senior Award for excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

A double major in chemistry and biology with a minor in theology, Tom plans a career in medicine. On campus he tutored students in writing, served as publicity chair for the World Relief Campaign, and managed public relations for VU's Christian Activities Board.

*"Like Eric Liddell, the young athlete who refused to run in the Olympic heats because they were held on the Sabbath, Tom Nutter is the kind of committed Christian gentleman that really belongs to another era."*

Having placed fifth in the 1990 National Men's 10K Race Walk Championship, Tom is spending a year training for the Olympic race walking trials before starting medical school.

In nominating him for the award, Dean Mark Schwehn noted, "Tom's character is truly exceptional. He reminds me of a runner featured in the film **Chariots of Fire**. Like Eric Liddell, the young athlete who refused to run in the Olympic heats because they were held on the Sabbath, Tom Nutter is the kind of committed Christian gentleman that really belongs to another era."

Three Christ College students were among 11 seniors honored by the Vice-President for Student Affairs for contributions to the extracurricular and student life of the campus. Those receiving Outstanding Service Awards were

Anna-Lisa M. Erickson of Austin, Texas; Cindarae Hupert of Hanover Park, Illinois; and Philip J. Reinke of Anchorage, Alaska.

## FACULTY EARN PROFESSORSHIP, GRANT, FELLOWSHIP

Mel Piehl ('68), Professor of Humanities and History, has been named one of two VU Research Professors for 1991-92. In addition he has received a grant from the Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture to help underwrite his research. His project is a book on the history of the relationship between religious and social thought in 20th Century America from World War I to the mid-1970's. He will be on sabbatical leave from the College during the spring and fall semesters of 1992.

Clare Pearson Geiman, Instructor in Humanities, has been awarded a full year DAAD doctoral fellowship for a 1991-92 research leave. She will continue her study of the work of philosopher Martin Heidegger at Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, Germany.

## COMMON MEALS FOCUS ON WORLD HUNGER

This past fall the CC Student Steering Committee initiated weekly meals at which students gathered to focus their attention on world hunger, diet, and related issues. Each week members of the committee prepared a very simple meal--sometimes only a scoop of brown rice with soy sauce or honey--and shared it with interested members of the campus community.

Response to the program, which was modeled after a similar gathering at Holden Village was positive. Students reported different reactions to the experience. For one student, the meals were "a discipline

of consciously eating less at one meal a week--more like the amount of food the majority of the world's people eat at a meal or even in a day."

For another the meals were a chance to think about what hunger means in different populations, in different parts of the world. "Does hunger mean less food? Or food lacking in some essential nutritional element?"

For another the meals were "opportunities to think about how foods usually prepared with fats, oils, and salt can be cooked more simply."

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Often, meals had a theme tied into the week's Symposium topic. Typical soup kitchen fare was served prior to a Symposium presentation on the plight of Chicago's homeless. When VU Professor and Middle East expert Walt Rast spoke to the College about the situation in the Persian Gulf, a typical Middle Eastern meal of lentils and rice preceded his talk.

Sometimes members of the group shared personal experiences in communities where food and eating customs are quite different. A student who had lived among some of Africa's poor cooked a Liberian meal. A professor just returned from the Soviet Union provided insights into hunger in the USSR and instructions for a peasant meal of rye bread, potatoes, and cabbage.

The program will be resumed in the fall when the campus community will be invited to join concerned CC students and faculty at "Solidarity Meals" held each Tuesday in the Mueller Hall Refectory, 12:45-1:15 pm.

## CC ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD NAMED

About a year ago as Mark Schwehn assumed the Deanship of Christ College, he formed CC's first Alumni Advisory Board. The Board of nine alums representing a variety of graduating classes, vocations, and geographic regions meets annually at Homecoming.

Current board members are profiled here: **Fredrick Barton ('70)** is an award-winning fiction writer and film critic, and Director of the Creative Writing Workshop at the University of New Orleans, where he teaches creative writing and film as a member of the English faculty. He has just completed a third novel, **Black and White on the Rocks**. His first two novels, **The El Cholo Feeling Passes** and **Courting Pandemonium** received widespread critical acclaim.

**Mark H. Duesenberg ('84)** graduated with a major in political science and was a Christ College Scholar. He attended Harvard Law School (JD, '87), where he was the executive editor of the **Harvard Environmental Law Review**. He is presently an associate at the law firm of Hughes, Hubbard and Reed in Washington D.C.

**Marie A. Failing ('73)** received her JD from VU's School of Law in 1976, and her LLM from Yale Law School in 1983. She is Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Hamline University School of Law. Along with alumnus Patrick Keifert, she edits the **Journal of Law and Religion**. Her teaching and research interests include ethics, constitutional law, welfare law, and law and religion.

**Dan Friedrich ('80)** is president of Friedrich, Klatt and Associates, a microcomputer and LAN consulting firm based in

Chicago. He and his staff of nine consultants do PC and LAN training, consulting, installation, and programming. He graduated from VU with high distinction and with honors in political science for his BA thesis. His software products developed or under development include the LAN-based Integrated Legal Office Management System; an insurance coverage information system provided to hospitals; and a PC-based course that teaches advanced writing skills.

## HOMECOMING OPEN HOUSE FOR CC ALUMNI

Saturday, October 5, 1991

11:30 am -1:30 pm

Mueller Hall Reading Room  
(Room 112)

Refreshments will be served

**Mark G. Knoblauch ('69)** graduated with high distinction as a history major. After graduation, he attended the School of Information and Library Studies at the University of Michigan, where he earned the AMLS degree in 1970. Since 1985, he has been Director of the Technical Services Division of the Chicago Public Library, supervising a staff of over seventy librarians and clerks. He is responsible for the acquisition, cataloging, and processing of all of the CPL's collections. In addition to these administrative responsibilities, Mark is very active in the cultural life of the city of Chicago. He has been a restaurant reviewer and columnist for **The Chicago Tribune** since 1976.

**Carole L. Nuechterlein ('83)** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history, English, and

humanities, with a minor in German. She was a TA and a member of the CC Steering Committee. In 1986, Carole obtained her JD from the University of Michigan Law School and moved to San Francisco. She currently works for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom as a corporate associate, specializing in Mergers and Acquisitions and Corporate Restructurings.

**Rebecca R. Pallmeyer ('76)** majored in history and humanities and was a CC Scholar. Rebecca received her JD from Chicago in 1979. Since 1985, Rebecca has been an Administrative Law Judge for the Illinois Human Rights Commission, a quasi-judicial state agency responsible for enforcement of the state's anti-discrimination statute. She has taught Employment Discrimination at Loyola University and is an active member of the Chicago Bar Association.

**Sally Wilson ('70)** is a psychologist in private clinical practice and consultation. She graduated with a major in history and with minors in education and sociology. She earned the MS (1972) and PhD (1977) in psychology from Purdue. She has taught at several institutions of higher learning, including VU, Purdue, Concordia College (Bronxville), Kent State University, and Kenyon College. In addition, she has had extensive clinical and research experience in a variety of institutional settings, such as the pain clinic at the Veterans Administration Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio and the Kent State University Psychology Clinic.

**Sue Zillman ('77)** received an MA in English from the University of Chicago in 1978. She is a Product Manager for the Bank Marketing Association in Chicago, responsible for the development, production and marketing of new books, reports and manuals for the Association's members.



## CC PROPOSES POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Since early last fall, CC Dean Mark Schwehn and former CC Dean and Professor of English Arlin G. Meyer have led a committee of VU faculty in planning a post-doctoral teaching fellowship program for individuals who are committed to pursue their vocations at church-related colleges and universities.

A \$98,560 planning grant from the Education and Religion Divisions of the Lilly Endowment funded their work. A proposal for establishing the Lilly Fellows in Humanities and the Arts at Christ College was submitted to the Lilly Endowment this summer for action in mid-September.

According to Dean Schwehn, "The Lilly Fellows Program will address two of the most pressing problems facing church-related higher education in the United States today. On the one hand, young Christian scholars have little or no support for resisting the erosion of their originally religious sense of vocation, since many of them are educated at largely secular graduate institutions that often do not address the pedagogical importance of spiritual virtues. On the other hand, church-related colleges and universities that are seeking to recover a sense of purpose and identity do not have a specially qualified group of young scholars whom they can draw upon to help them to fortify their sense of mission."

The program will be national in scope and ecumenical in character. It will offer young scholars a chance to renew and deepen their sense of vocation, to enrich their post-doctoral intellectual life within a Christian community of learning, and to prepare themselves, through a variety of teaching experiences, to seek permanent employment within church-related institutions of higher learning. In turn, church-related colleges and universities will be offered a group of specially qualified candidates for appointment--scholars

who will have been carefully prepared to advance the distinctive purposes that these schools have set for themselves. Twenty-five church-related colleges and universities have pledged their support of the Program.

For more information contact

**Arlin G. Meyer**  
Program Director  
Valparaiso University  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

(219) 464-5317/ 5770  
FAX (219) 464-5381

Fellows will be appointed to two-year terms. They will teach in Christ College, in VU's Freshman Seminar Program, or in the departments in the College of Arts and Sciences that represent their academic specialties. In addition, they will participate in an on-going colloquium that explores the connections between Christianity and a life devoted to teaching and learning. The first Lilly Fellows would begin their work at Valparaiso University in the fall of 1992.

Arlin Meyer serves as Program Director. He is assisted by Margaret Franson, Assistant to the Dean of Christ College.

The Lilly Endowment, Inc., of Indianapolis is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by the Eli Lilly family. The planning grant has already funded a national conference which will be held at VU in October 1991. (See **National Conference: Christianity and the Academic Vocation.**)

Competition for **The Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts** will be open to persons interested in considering the relationship between Christianity and the academic vocation and in pursuing a career at a church-related college or university. For appointments beginning in the

academic year 1992-93, an applicant must have received a PhD or equivalent terminal degree within eighteen months prior to August 1992. Fellows would be recruited from the following disciplines: art and art history; creative writing; history; interdisciplinary studies; languages and literatures; music and music history; philosophy; religion; rhetoric; theatre history and theatre arts.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE: CHRISTIANITY AND THE ACADEMIC VOCATION

*Christianity and the Academic Vocation* is the theme of the conference to be held October 11-13 on the VU campus as part of CC's current Lilly Endowment grant to reinvigorate the national conversation about the nature of the Christian academic vocation and the future of church-related higher education. (See **CC Proposes Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program.**)

The conference will feature three major speakers--Lawrence Cunningham, Notre Dame University, *Gladly Wold He Lerne and Gladly Teche: The Catholic Scholar in the New Millennium*; Frank Burch Brown, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, *Teachers, Medlums, and Magl: Christian Educators in Humanities and the Arts*; and Sallie McFague, The Divinity School of Vanderbilt University, *The Planetary Agenda and an Earthly Theology*. Martin Jean, University Organist, will lead Choral Vespers at the Chapel of the Resurrection as part of the program.

Participants will include representatives from 25 church-related colleges and universities across the country that have formed the network of institutions of the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and The Arts.

## LEE TO EDIT VALPO

President Harre has appointed Richard Lee ('60) editor of **Valpo**, VU's alumni publication. He will be on leave from regular duties in Christ College during his editorship.

Mr. Lee, Professor of Humanities, received his BA from VU, his BD from the University of Chicago, and ReID from the School of Theology at Claremont. He specializes in religion, literature, and film. This past year a Lilly Endowment Summer Research Grant enabled him to purchase a library of religiously significant films (on videocassette) for the College and to develop a course on religion and cinema.

A regular member of the CC Freshman Program faculty, Mr. Lee has also recently taught "Sex and Sexuality" and "Metaphorical Theology and Religious Drama" for the College and "Editorial and Opinion Writing" for the Department of Communication. He spent 1990-91 on sabbatical studying and traveling in England, Canada, and Mexico.

## ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY TEACHING CC FALL COURSES

Each year faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences teach sections of Christ College "core courses" or teach upper level classes in their disciplines that are cross-listed in CC.

This fall **Richard DeMaris**, Assistant Professor of Theology will teach "Christian Scriptures and Theological Classics." **Richard Maxwell**, Professor of English, and **David Morgan**, Assistant Professor of Art, will teach "Word and Image." **Arlin Meyer**, Professor of English, will teach "Updike, DeVries, and Contemporary America."

## CC "WISH LIST"

As the faculty and Dean's staff plan for the continued growth and enrichment of life at CC we note that many of our alumni may have special expertise, counsel, and support to lend to our various efforts.

Here are some of the "wishes" we have for the near future. Can you help with any of these projects?

--Refurbishing the Mueller Hall Commons, now sorely in need of new draperies and furniture after more than 20 years of use.

--Refurbishing the Mueller Hall Reading Room, now in need of new furniture after more than 20 years.

*We improved the Reading Room this year BY hanging a portrait of Founding Dean Richard Baepler. By early fall we expect to place there a commemorative Bible honoring the generous contributions of the late Reverend Ewald Mueller.*

--Purchasing a new piano for the Refectory (essential for Freshman Production, and highly desirable year 'round).

--Upgrading and networking computer systems in the Dean's and faculty offices, and establishing a desktop publishing workstation.

--Establishing a microcomputing resource center for students in Mueller Hall.

--Endowing a full-time faculty position for a minority professor at CC.

--Endowing scholarships for minority students enrolled in CC.

--Removing the non-functioning fountain bed from the Mueller Hall entryway to make the space more hospitable.

If you or your business can help in any way--with advice, professional services, donations,

discounts, or other forms of assistance, we will welcome your contributions. Please call Dean Schwehn directly at (219) 464-5022 to discuss how you might help.

## THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

**August...**The College welcomed 65 freshmen as Mark R. Schwehn became CC's third Dean.

**September...**Faculty and staff considered strategic planning for CC at an overnight retreat.

**October...**CC's 1990 Homecoming Symposium, **North & South: The Clash of Two Hemispheres, Economies, Cultures**, and our Homecoming Open House brought many alumni home to CC for a visit.

**November...**The 1990 Freshman Production, **Auditions for God**, dazzled turn-away crowds at four performances.

**December...**The record number of students who attended the annual **Christmas Symposium** were more than a little amazed to witness the faculty's unforgettable rap number, **We Are Yo Profs**.

**January...**25 academically talented high school seniors participated in Honor Student Campus Visit Day.

**February...**Arlin Meyer convened an overnight retreat for faculty and staff planning the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts.

**March...**Spring Break!

**April...**40 students and faculty saw **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

**May...****Walpurgisnacht**, CC's annual end-of-the-school-year picnic, allowed the College to wish the senior class well as they approached **Commencement**.

## CHRIST COLLEGE FACULTY PROFILES 1991-1992

### FULL TIME CHRIST COLLEGE FACULTY

Δ **Michael Caldwell** ('88), Instructor in Humanities. Mr. Caldwell received his BA in English and humanities. He is currently working toward his PhD in English at the University of Chicago. He teaches in the CC Freshman Program.

Δ **Paul J. Contino**, Instructor in Humanities. Mr. Contino received his BA with honors from Harpur College, State University of New York at Binghamton, and his MA in English from the University of Notre Dame. He is currently a PhD candidate at Notre Dame University. His doctoral dissertation in progress is "The Prosaic Confessional Dialogue in *The Brothers Karamazov*." He has recently edited and introduced a special issue of the journal *Religion and Literature* entitled "Religious Thought and Contemporary Critical Theory." Mr. Contino coordinates the CC Freshman Program.

Δ **Janet M. Lynn**, Instructor in Humanities. Ms. Lynn received her BA in General Studies from the University of Chicago and two MAs from Indiana University, one in Religious Studies and one in Chinese. She is a PhD candidate in East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. Her main areas of interest are East Asian religions, Chinese religious literature, and Chinese vernacular literature. She is a member of the CC Freshman Program faculty and teaches an upper level course in East Asian religions.

Δ **William Olmsted**, Professor of Humanities. Mr. Olmsted received his BA in English from the University of Michigan, his MA and PhD from the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. His principal area of interest is French literature and painting of the Nineteenth Century. His essays and reviews have appeared in *The Cresset*, *Romanic Review*, *Michigan Romance Studies*, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* and elsewhere. He has participated in several projects sponsored by the Indiana Humanities Council, and his videotaped interviews with contemporary American authors are part of the Council's permanent humanities resource collection. Mr. Olmsted currently teaches "Word and Image" and a tutorial "World Views."

Δ **Mel Piehl** ('68), Professor of Humanities and History. Mr. Piehl received his MA and PhD from Stanford. His scholarly interests include religious, social, and political thought, and 20th Century American history. Mr. Piehl is the co-author of a history text, *A Brief American Pageant*, and author of *Breaking Bread: The Catholic Worker and the Origin of Catholic Radicalism in America*. He has contributed to several historical anthologies, including a recent article, "American Catholic Social Thought, 1789-1989," in *Perspectives on American Catholicism*. He teaches a general education seminar "Totalitarianism and Moral Crisis," a tutorial "Families and Society," and "Inquiry in the Liberal Arts."

Δ **Warren Rubel**, Friedrich Professor of American Literature and Professor of Humanities. Mr. Rubel received his MDiv in historical theology at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, his MA from Washington University in St. Louis, and his PhD in English and American literature from the University of Arkansas. Mr. Rubel advises students who major or minor in humanities. He teaches "Interpretation in the Humanities" and a seminar "William Faulkner and the Moral Imagination." His is on sabbatical during Fall 1991.

Δ **Mark R. Schwehn** ('67), Dean. Mr. Schwehn received his BA in history and philosophy and his PhD in history and humanities from Stanford University, where he was a Danforth Graduate Fellow. He has written widely about Henry Adams and William James, including, with other scholars, *A William James Renaissance*. He has completed a book about the relationship between religion and higher learning in the US. *Exiles from Eden: Religion and the Academic Vocation in America* will be published by Oxford University Press.

### ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY JOINING CC FRESHMAN PROGRAM STAFF

Δ **John Feaster** ('63), Professor of English and Chair of the Administrative Committee on American Studies. Mr. Feaster received his BA in Political Science from VU and his PhD in English from Purdue University. He is particularly interested in critical theory and American literary realism, and teaches courses in literary criticism, the novel, and modern fiction. An essay on Stephen Crane's "The Blue Hotel" and frontier capitalism is forthcoming in *American Literary Realism*. Another on teaching and learning styles is scheduled to appear soon in *College Teaching*.

Δ **Jon Pahl** ('80), Assistant Professor of Theology. Mr. Pahl received his BA from VU, his MTS from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and his PhD from The Divinity School of the University of Chicago. His first book, *Paradox Lost: Free Will and American Culture, 1630-1760*, will be published in 1992 by Johns Hopkins University Press. He is at work on a history of the International Walther League, a Lutheran youth society.

Δ **John Steven Paul** ('73), Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre and Television Arts and Director of the VU Theatre. President Harre has recently appointed Mr. Paul Chair of the newly formed division of Visual and Performing Arts. Mr. Paul received a BA in speech and drama from VU, and an MA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His special research interest is American Theatre and Drama, 1880-1914. Mr. Paul directs VU's chancel drama troupe Soul Purpose, and VU's Young Actors Shakespeare Workshop. He directs the CC Drama Workshop and Freshman Production.