



My Wish for ICS

My time at the Institute for Christian Studies was an invaluable part of my academic and personal development. It is my sincere hope that it can continue to provide this experience for other future students. I found ICS in a somewhat random way, or perhaps through the Lord's leading. I have no strong connection with the Reformed Church, so had not heard of ICS until I found it on the internet when searching for a Christian graduate school teaching philosophy. When reading through faculty descriptions, course syllabi, and thesis and dissertation titles, I had the strong feeling that ICS was the right place to be. Although I was a little nervous in applying there, as neither I nor any of my friends and family had heard of the school, and as I had to move all the way from Calgary to a city where I knew only one person, I had a deep sense that this was the right thing to do.

I was at ICS from September 2015 until August 2017 for my MA in philosophy, and during that time developed many deep friendships and underwent a rigorous schooling in how to think and read like a philosopher. Having completed my MA at ICS, I decided to pursue a PhD in religious studies at McMaster University. Even though I did not stay at ICS to do my PhD, the fact that one of the top universities in Canada, and increasingly the world, recognized ICS and the work that I had done there is a testament to what ICS can do and the impact that they have on the world, even if not in the most apparent way.

My wish is that many students for decades to come can have the same experience that I did. Whether coming from near or far, from within the Reformed tradition or part of the broader Christian community, ICS is a great place for aspiring academics to build community and skills for thoughtful engagement with the world. The recent moves that ICS has made—into Knox College at the centre of the University of Toronto



by MARK NOVAK

The recent moves that ICS has made—into Knox College at the centre of the University of Toronto campus and forging an affiliation with The King's University in Edmonton—will allow it to continue to make an impact on the world.

campus and forging an affiliation with The King's University in Edmonton—will allow it to continue to make an impact on the world. Although ICS has had its share of ups and downs in its 50-year history, its ability to adapt coupled with the ongoing support of donors show that it will always have a place in the academy and in the world. ●