

Dean's Desk

Dean Runnalls is away for two months on the "Globalization of Theological Education" Project. United Theological College participates in this ecumenical venture; last year Professor Furcha visited India, and this year the locale is South America.

The academic year began well with Ninian Smart as Birks Lecturer. Dr. Smart, formerly of Lancaster, England now of University of California, Santa Barbara, has been a pioneer in religious studies as an academic discipline. The subject of the three lectures was "Christianity and Nationalism." This was followed by a Symposium on Religion and Nationalism in World Religions.

A second annual lectureship is now in place, the Sproule Lectures in Ethics. Last year the first Sproule Lecturer was Stanley Hauerwas of Duke University, and this year we have Professor Jean Bethke Elshtain of Vanderblit. The title of Professor Elshtain's series was "Sovereignty and Sacrifice: Reflections on States and Selves in a World Come of Age."

The Anderson Lectures at Presbyterian College were given by Professor Lindbeck of Yale, and entitled "The Church's Identification as Israel: Problems of Retrieval."

The Faculty has hosted special lectures by Norman Gottwald of New York Theological Seminary, Thomas F. Torrance of Edinburgh, Rita Belladonna of York University and Albert Pietersma of the University of Toronto.

Last year the Dean reported the spectacular increase in the number of students in our Faculty — ninety percent over six years — chiefly in the Bachelor of Arts programme. Larger classes continue to pose logistical problems. This becomes the responsibility of our doctoral students, most of whom serve as teaching assistants in the larger courses. Some of the problems will be solved by the new staff scheduled to join us in September.

These include Professor Maurice Boutin will be leaving l'Université de Montréal to join the Faculty as Professor of Philosophy of Religion. Dr. Boutin is well known for his role in *sciences religieuses* particularly as President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion. I retire in August, but will continue as part-time teacher and graduate supervisor.

Mr. Eric Beresford, a doctoral candidate in Philosophy of Religion, has been appointed Assistant Professor from September 1, 1991. He will teach in Ethics, chiefly in the new "Medical Ethics" field. Mr. Beresford took his science degree from Liverpool and a theology degree from oxford and has worked at the Center for Bioethics — Clinical Research Institute of Montreal.

A third appointment is still be confirmed by Tokyo, but we are confident that we will have a scholar in Japanese Buddhism, thanks to the "Japan Foundation Special Grant for Japanese Studies in Canada."

The final newcomer will be a junior appointment in Theology, currently being advertised. In light of these appointments, the Faculty profile will look quite different next year. At the same time, Professors Culley and Sharma will be absent on sabbatical leave.

I offer my congratulations to the team of graduate students who have edited this issue of *ARC*.

J.C. McLelland
Acting Dean