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John W. Sanderson brings life to Old Testament studies

A former Covenant College professor, known for his knowledge of the Scriptures and his ability to open them in a practical way, returned to Covenant for a three-week course January 9-29.



Dr. John W. Sanderson, Professor of Biblical Theology at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, is making his first return to Covenant in a teaching role since he left the college in 1976. Before then, he served as Dean of Faculty and also as head of the Philosophy Department at Covenant.

Eighty-three students are signed up for the three weeks of 1½-hour nightly lectures, entitled "Old Testament View of Life." Two credit hours are offered for the course.

Dr. Sanderson is the author of *The Fruit of the Spirit*, now in its ninth printing.

Did you know...

■ That Covenant's new energy computer which regulates utility consumption saved the college \$1800 in its first month of operation and \$2800 during the second month?

■ That the picture on the inside back cover of the *President's Report Anniversary Issue* was Jeremy Donaldson, six-year old son of Charles and Robbie Donaldson? Dr. Donaldson is Assistant Dean of Faculty. The picture was snapped when Jeremy was 3½.



■ That the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra and singers from the University of Indiana performed "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at Covenant to celebrate Christmas? The student senate, headed by seniors Bob DeMoss and Sarah Hamilton, coordinated the event.

Photo contest uncovers latent talent

Twenty students submitted nearly 130 entries to Covenant's First Annual Photo Contest, and the results were encouraging.

Sponsored by the campus newspaper, the *Bagpipe*, the contest featured several prizes. Debbie Storlie from Ellensburg, Washington won first place. One of her winning photographs is featured below.

"The Christian college should be a forum for gifts and talents," said Peter Kress, editor of the *Bagpipe* and coordinator of the event.



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Larry Mehne: his love for chemistry is contagious

When Larry Mehne was in the sixth grade, his science teacher took him on his first tour of a real chemistry lab. Although he doesn't recall what experiments were being done, today he relives the enthusiasm he felt at seeing the Bunsen burners, test tubes, periodic tables of elements and other tools used in the lab.

Using science kits that he received as childhood gifts, he developed his early interest in chemistry. Through working on such curiosity-curing experiments as combining potassium nitrate and sugar to make a bomb, or other experiments having more utilitarian results—such as the manufacture of soap, he has learned to appreciate God's creation in a way that is impossible for the casual observer.

Today, Dr. Mehne, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Covenant, is transferring some of that enthusiasm for chemistry to his students. Whether the student is a major intent on developing a very specific knowledge of chemistry or a non-major taking only General Chemistry, Mehne says Covenant's courses have much to offer.

Students in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry at Covenant participate in the Dual Degree Program with Georgia Institute of Technology. The program involves three years at Covenant and two years at Georgia Institute of Technology, and prepares students for further work or study in the area of chemistry.

"In the last few years," Mehne said, "Covenant chemistry majors have pursued further education in chemistry or a job in the chemistry field more than they had in the past." A survey of the chemistry alumni of the college shows that almost 50% have gone on to graduate school in chemistry or medicine, while roughly 20% are working as chemists or medical technicians.

(A letter during the fall semester to Charles Donaldson, head of the Chemistry Department, said that Chip Hill, a 1979 Covenant graduate, had ranked exceptionally high on entering proficiency examinations for graduate school. The letter came from Duke University, where Chip is enrolled for further study.)

Mehne sees the importance of instilling in his students a knowledge of the way the truths of Christianity and science are the same and not conflicting. As Mehne says, "There can be no disagreement between physical reality and the Bible. Any apparent disagreement is a result of misunderstanding the Bible, misunderstanding the physical creation or both."

For the Christian scholar, a proper understanding of the relationship between the laws of science and God's providence is also noted. Mehne points out that all of the physical creation is dependent upon God for its entire existence. According to Mehne, who attributed this thought to the book, *Science Teaching: A Christian Approach* by Dr. Robert Ream; words or mathematical symbols, which are used in scientific laws are man's attempt to represent God's operation of creation.

Mehne also notes that the Christian scientist encounters a problem when he attempts to observe scientific phenomenon and then represent it accurately. This is particularly difficult for the Christian, who oftentimes must work with data and observations collected by non-Christians. Is this information valid and useful to Christians? Mehne says yes. "I believe the answer lies in a proper understanding of common grace. God graciously gives all men the ability to make certain reliable observations. However, we must still distinguish between false interpretations that don't represent God's workings and valid ones that glorify God."

