



## *President's Report*

**A**s I reflect on this past year, I am struck by the evidence of God's guiding hand in our work. Despite the many changes and challenges we have had, a clear theme of progress shines through: ICS is growing partnerships with the church and other institutions to more effectively carry out its mission of Christian education and scholarship.

Partnering was identified as a primary strategic direction at the meeting of the Board in 2014. Here are the highlights of what has happened this past year:

We have had a number of promising conversations with other institutions of Christian higher education. One such conversation has borne the most fruit, and we ask you to continue in prayer for this important dialogue.

The *Wayfinding* concentration has become our flagship innovation in the renewal and expansion of our Master of Worldview Studies program. Under the leadership of Gideon Strauss and Pat Webb, this has become an

exercise in partnering, as we have interacted with church leaders and those in vocational and cultural organisations, to bring this very relevant resource to the people in their communities.

The Master of Arts in (Educational) Leadership is a second important expansion, in partnership with Redeemer and Tyndale University Colleges. The parentheses indicate that, while this program will begin with a focus on leaders in Christian schools, our hope and expectation is that it will reach out into other fields.

Other more wide-ranging expansions of the MWS have been on the development table at ICS, also involving partnerships, and we pray God will use and bless these efforts.

The work this past year of CPRSE, under the direction of Ron Kuipers, continues to be possible by the very nature of building strategic partnerships for co-operative research in service to the wider community. (See Ron's report.)

However, the advancement of this important strategic direction required that we make some significant changes to the way we went about our work. We needed to build new 'tracks to run on', consolidating our infrastructure and rethinking our economic model.

This meant we had to take a hard look at our operations, given the straitened circumstances we face, and make some tough choices. In May, the Board decided on significant steps to reduce our expenditures to achieve a balanced budget, which occur primarily in salaries and rental costs. Obviously, the former require the greatest personal sacrifices, and we deeply regret the impact on all who serve at ICS. We have also reduced tuition scholarships. We believe these to be necessary changes if we are to lay a foundation for the future.

We remain committed to fulfilling our mission within a balanced budget. ICS has not been in debt for many years, thanks largely to the Andreas bequest in 2009. If we are to retain the confidence and support of our donors, potential partners and the broader community, we must continue on this course. The Board committed in May to reserve the proceeds from the sale of 229 College as an endowment, providing the tracks on which to transport our programs.

As well, the (hopefully imminent) sale of the building leaves us to consider our future location. Our May budget projected a significant reduction in our rental costs in 2016/17, which we are working to ensure.

By the grace of God, we will continue to take those steps that will ensure that we are able to fulfil our mission in partnership with the church and other Christian institutions. We have so much evidence of God's grace in our fifty-year history!

### **Thank you for your partnership!**

We have talked a great deal about the importance of the partnerships we are building with Christian institutions. But the most important partnerships we have are with YOU – our members and donors! You have stood by us and have been our major source of support, by far. Thank you to the hundreds whose commitment to our vision and mission has been generous and longstanding. Thank you for helping us to

*Equip people with the educational resources to live faithfully out of our Creator's promises, in higher education and beyond, as ambassadors of Christ's healing of the world.*

We have firm hope in our future, because we believe Jesus has called us to serve him in the ICS vineyard. We believe that, when God calls us, he will also equip us. "His word does not return void."

DOUG BLOMBERG

# Highlights of the Year

## Profile of the Student Body

We reviewed 12 complete applications, all from excellent students, 10 of whom were accepted and 8 enrolled as Junior Members.

Total enrolment at ICS stands at 42 Junior Members: 15 in the MA program, 8 in the PhD program (plus 19 in the research stage), and 5 in the Master of Worldview Studies

Across our total offering of 22 courses, we had 103 course registrations, a figure that includes students enrolling in single courses from the Toronto School of Theology or via distance education.

## Superior Achievements

Our Junior Members published six articles and two book reviews in refereed academic journals, quite remarkable for this small group of students in the midst of their degree programs.

Junior Members gave 14 presentations to academic and other conferences in North America.

We were able to award 9 scholarships to our qualified Junior Members in support of their studies.

On May 18, 2016, ICS Trustees, Senators, staff, members, family and friends gathered to celebrate the graduation of seven accomplished Junior Members: Tanya Weber deRoos (MWS); Ruthanne Crapo (PhD); Tricia Kay Van Dyk (PhD); Caleb Ratzlaff (MA); Flora Sewell (MWS); Dean Dettloff (MA); and Marg Hoogland (MWS).

## Centre for Philosophy, Religion and Social Ethics

CPRSE continues to connect to the community within and beyond the academy through innovative, community-based research partnerships. This year, the Centre joined a two-year research project – *Faith and Settlement Partnerships: Setting Immigrants and Canada up for Success* – with the Centre for Community-Based Research, and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The study will focus on the work of CRC-

NA's *World Renew* as well as the work between the *Peel Newcomers Strategy Group* and the *Interfaith Council of Peel*.

The Centre's other focus this year involves the planning work for two major public conferences in 2017:

1) a two-day conference (April 3-4 2017) in partnership with the Toronto International Film Festival's *Higher Learning* program, entitled *Post-Secular Cinema: Navigating the Open Space between the Sacred and the Secular*, with American cinematic legend and Calvin College alumnus, Paul Schrader, as the keynote speaker.

2) the Canadian Interfaith Conversation's third biennial conference, *Building Our Whole Society*, promoting religious freedom and understanding in Canada, will take place in Ottawa on May 8-9. This coincides with Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is appropriately themed 'Religion and Citizenship'. Keynote speakers include public intellectual John Ralston Saul and indigenous legal scholar John Borrows (University of Victoria), and will close with an all-party panel of MPs on Parliament Hill.

RONALD KUIPERS

## Faculty Highlights

Our faculty at ICS have continued their impressive pace of research and published scholarship, even as they expand the breadth of our course and program offerings and teach and mentor our students towards successful completion of their program – the heart of the work they perform.

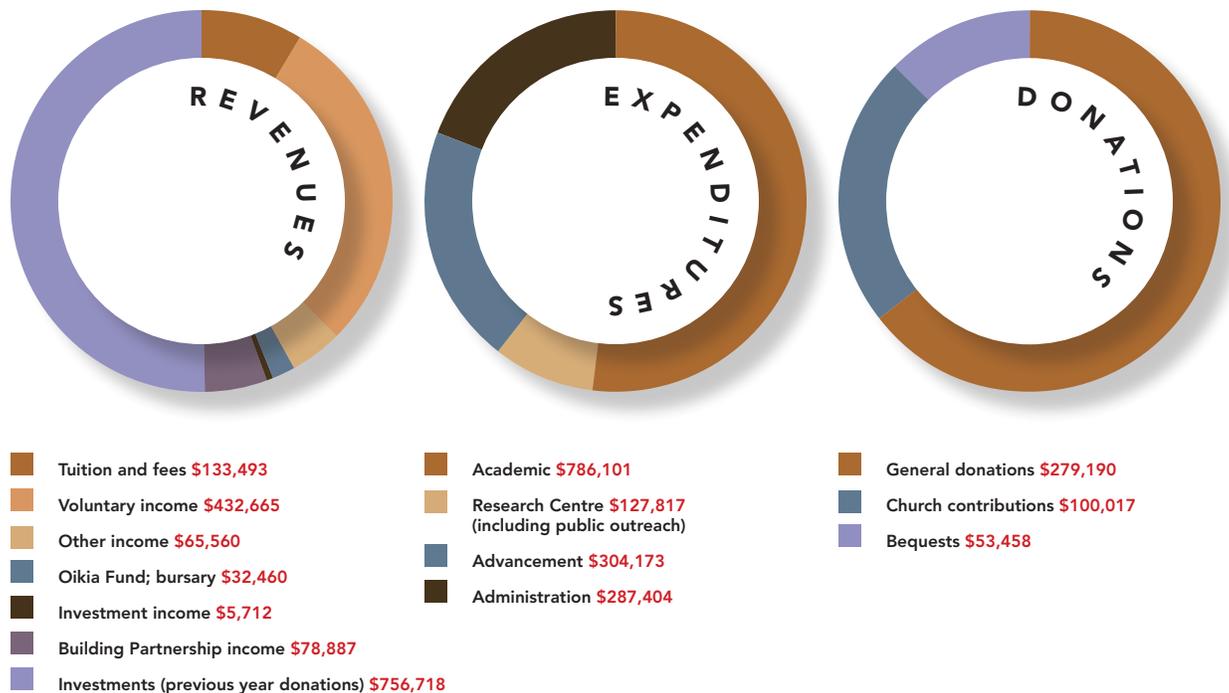
Their achievements include, among scholarly publications, a total of 3 books, 12 refereed journal articles, 1 encyclopedia article, and 2 book reviews. Faculty were also active in popular publishing.

ICS faculty also travelled within North America and Europe to academic and other conferences, expanding our scholarship presence with a total of 8 research presentations.

# Statement of Financial Position

	2016	2015
<b>Assets</b>		
Assets	\$1,901,593	\$2,784,748
Liabilities	311,698	371,067
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$1,589,895</b>	<b>\$2,413,681</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
General Fund	\$865,111	\$1,627,513
Restricted Fund	\$676,746	\$728,208
Fixed Assets	\$48,038	\$57,960
Scholarships awarded from Restricted Funds	\$33,750	\$33,000

Note: Complete financial statements are available upon request.



## A Student Reflects

As I write, I am reflecting on the reading I am doing to prepare for my next course at ICS 'Vocational Wayfinding.' I have been struck by the authors' insistence on the value of realising You Are Here. Given the far-reaching sense of anxiety among my generation when faced with questions of where we are going or what we are doing with our lives, observing Where You Are is an exercise in attention to one's life and desires when it is so easy to get swept along by relentless demands of various kinds.

It seems fitting amid these exercises in attentiveness to my present and in creativity toward my future that I also take time to reflect on my past—to ask: "How did I get here?" It has been such a winding and unexpected path that Being Here can seem like being adrift. This sense of disconnect often leads me to ask what it means to live into not only my personal history but also my larger traditions. In my time at ICS, though, I have realised this disconnect does not run so deeply. What led me initially to study philosophy was a desire to understand others. I now see this desire applies just as much to my own life and where I have been as much as it does to the lives and views of others.

Though I would be the first to tell you that graduate studies are not for the faint of heart, when I realise the above, I realise the great blessing of Where I Am. As I keep in contact with friends on various other life paths, it strikes me just how rare it is to find oneself in a place among people who willingly and humbly inhabit that difficult space of being committed questioners *together*. So, while I must be the one to see what it means for *me* to Be Here, I do so among others who give their academic efforts as offerings, rather than shoot them off as arrows. I have to work out why the aesthetic mode fascinates me so much and why it continues to guide how I engage with everything, what my Reformed religious sensitivities have to *offer to* and need to *learn from* others, how I am to *live* not only *think* that through, and how I personally can bridge academic/non-academic divides. But that's vocation. And though often done in seemingly-adrift spaces, it is never actually done alone.

Here I am. Praise God.

DANIELLE YETT

## Message from the Board

It is said that one of the principal roles of a Board of Trustees is to be "keepers of the vision" of the institution they serve.

At no time in ICS's nearly 50 year history has this been more important or a greater challenge.

Global economic uncertainty, which has affected the portfolios of both the ICS *and* our donors has required us to spend down capital. We have also been hampered by protracted and difficult negotiations with the Receiver in the matter of the bankruptcy of our co-owner in 229 College Street. With great regret, the Board has determined that our best asset for securing the future of ICS's mission, while we wait for promised new initiatives to bear fruit, will be the sale of our 27% share in the building. We have made significant cuts to our spending, and are projecting a balanced budget in the 2017-2018 academic year. However, these cuts come at considerable cost. Some employees have lost their jobs. Others have generously accepted reductions in pay or scope of work.

In all these decisions, the Board has been deeply mindful of protecting our capacity in the long-term to deliver on the mission of the Institute for Christian Studies. In this respect, we have worked with the President to refine and rebalance our vision for ICS – and in particular, at this time and place in our history, to strengthen our emphasis on community engagement and education.

In support of our mission, we have continued to stress the importance of Advancement, and of building relationships with our friends and supporters. It is more important than ever that we communicate effectively, and build our financial base. In our current straitened circumstances, we have judged it more important to maintain faculty positions than to hold on to our building (beloved though it is). Each decision has been weighed against its ability to protect our capacity to fulfil our mission in the future. For this reason, we continue to invest energy in exciting new initiatives, such as the Wayfinding Program, and in partnering strategically and effectively with sister institutions.

Once again, ICS has been called to step out in faith, casting our seed expectantly and widely, and trusting that God will provide good soil, and an abundant harvest. Thank you for being part of this vision.

M. ANSLEY TUCKER  
Chair

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