Lists

Faculty (Senior Members)

Nik Ansell
Associate Professor of Theology

Doug Blomberg
Emeritus

Hendrik Hart
Emeritus

Ronald A. Kuipers
Associate Professor of Philosophy of Religion

James Olthuis
Emeritus

Calvin Seerveld
Emeritus

Rebekah Smick
Associate Professor of Philosophy of Arts & Culture

Gideon Strauss
Associate Professor of Worldview Studies

Robert Sweetman
H. Evan Runner Chair in the History of Philosophy

Lambert Zuidervaart
Emeritus

Cross-Appointed Faculty from The King's University

Michael DeMoor
Associate Professor of Social Philosophy

Neal DeRoo
Associate Professor of Philosophy

Jeffrey Dudiak
Professor of Philosophy

Administrative Staff

Ronald A. Kuipers
President, Director of the CPRSE

Gideon Strauss
Academic Dean

Héctor Acero Ferrer
CPRSE

Elizabeth Aras
Registrar/Student Services Coordinator

Hilary Barlow
Associate Librarian

Harley Dekker
Finance and Administration

Kathy Lynch
Administrative Assistant

Patricia Webb
Advancement

Vidya Williams
Donor Relations

Danielle Yett
Communications

Senate

John Kok
Dordt College (Chair)

Aron Reppmann
Trinity Christian College (Vice Chair)

Gideon Strauss
ICS Academic Dean (Secretary)

Pamela Beattie
University of Louisville

John Caruana
Ryerson University

Kristin Kobes Du Mez
Calvin College

Henry Luttikhuizen
Calvin College

Carla Nelson
Tyndale University College and Seminary

Margie Patrick
The King's University

Ronald A. Kuipers
ICS President

Nik Ansell
ICS Senior Member

Bob Sweetman
ICS Senior Member

Grace Carhart
ICS Junior Member

Mark Standish
ICS Junior Member
ICS is currently in the midst of a promising and hopeful journey. Yet as we plan for a sustainable, long-term future, many things remain uncertain. We are picking up and following strong leads, and trusting that in our efforts to remain obedient to God’s call for our institution, these leads will direct us to a place of thriving. With such a mixture of hope and apprehension, our current position “in the middle of things” reminds me of that passage in Exodus where Israel sets out for the land God has promised them. Instead of taking the direct route through the land of the Philistines, God sets before them a pillar of cloud that takes them “the round-about way” of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. I have often wondered what it must have been like to follow a cloud, to trust in something so undefined and hazy, especially when it leads you on such an indirect path. It couldn’t have been easy.

Over the 2018-19 academic year, we at ICS have been ‘reading the clouds’ for signs of direction, and in so doing we have also experienced God blessing our efforts at discernment. One of these blessings is our new home. This year marks the first in our new location at 59 St. George Street. ICS faculty and staff spent the summer months of 2018 planning and executing the relocation, which included a significant renovation to our new space. While the renovation and move-in was completed in time for the start of classes in September, it would take a couple of additional months for our new space to be fully functional. ICS staff then made a concerted push to finish unpacking and readying the space for our Open House and Advent concert on December 1, 2018. After a busy November installing our library stacks and shelving the last of the books, our art was finally placed and hung, and we welcomed over 200 guests to our Open House. ICS’s employees rightfully possess a sense of accomplishment and pride in what we have achieved through this move, and our new home has become a bright and joyful place in which to do our work.

2018-19 also witnessed the launch of the new Educational Leadership stream in our MA program, with a small yet intrepid cohort of two students. That work continues apace, and a second cohort of four students started the program in September 2019. We are excited that this new program, designed in collaboration with Ontario’s Christian Teacher Academy, will allow us to continue our tradition of service to the Christian School movement in bold new ways, helping leaders of Christian schools shape their institutions into centres of constructive character transformation, and equipping students with the tools they need to participate in God’s work of healing and blessing the world.
In the summer of 2018, ICS also held its third three-week intensive ART in Orvieto seminar and artists’ workshop. This course is available to anyone interested in the topic, and also serves as a capstone course for the Art, Religion, and Theology stream of our MWS program. Nine students from ICS and beyond participated in this year’s iteration.

Our partnerships with the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam (VU) and the Toronto School of Theology (TST) continue to grow. In 2018, we signed a new conjoint PhD agreement with the VU, which allows greater opportunity for our PhD students in this program to spend time working with their ‘co-promoter’ in Amsterdam. One of our PhD students spent a significant portion of the year at the VU under this new arrangement. Our increased visibility on the University of Toronto campus has created the opportunity for more intentional collaboration with TST, including our hosts at Knox College. For example, the Reverend Dr. Esther Acolatse, Knox’s Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, agreed to speak at a recent “Scripture, Faith, and Scholarship” seminar, discussing her new book *Powers, Principalities, and the Spirit: Biblical Realism in Africa and the West* (Eerdmans 2018).

This year, our strategic alliance discussion with the King’s University found expression in a hybrid distance-intensive seminar credited by both institutions (an historic first!) entitled, *To the Unknown God: Paul and Some Philosophers*. Led by myself and Jeffrey Dudiak of King’s, the seminar ran from April 21-May 31, 2019. Participants started with four weeks of pre-seminar reading, followed by participation in ICS’s Undergraduate Workshop on the theme “God and Politics,” and concluded with an intensive week of classes. Five King’s students took the course for credit in their undergraduate programs, and four ICS students took the course for ICS credit (including one freshly-minted King’s graduate taking his first ICS course). One MA student from Trinity Western University also participated. This course and the adjoined undergraduate workshop created a terrific recruitment opportunity for ICS, allowing prospective students to experience firsthand the academic community ICS provides.

In these and many other initiatives we see and feel God leading ICS, even as a cloud. In all this work we are also reminded of that other great biblical cloud metaphor, the faithful “cloud of witnesses” composed of those who came before us and whose sacrifice and preparation now allow us to “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). While it is not always easy to perceive everything through the mist, we trust these clouds that are both behind us and before us, and still encourage and accompany us on our way.

**Ronald A. Kuipers**  
President
HE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR at ICS was marked by two key accomplishments: the launch of our new MA (Phil) in Educational Leadership (MA-EL) and the adoption of a new Academic Strategy for the next few years.

While our pioneer cohort of MA-EL students was tiny, the participants in it are real pioneers, bravely collaborating with ICS, the Christian Teacher Academy, and our friends in the Ontario Christian school movement in the experiment of custom-building a unique graduate program for principals and instructional innovators.

Similarly, Senior Members, Junior Members, and staff courageously collaborated throughout the year to forge a three-pronged academic strategy for our various programs. This work will allow ICS to deepen our commitment to the strengths of our existing MA and PhD programs, and expand the scope of our service to the Christian school movement by means of the MA-EL. With regard to our MWS program, this strategy will also allow us to explore ways in which to offer a radically accessible and radically affordable all-online graduate level education to people in non-academic careers who want to inform their own professional development and lives with Christian world-viewing and vocational wayfinding. Additionally, ICS, and in particular Rebekah Smick (Associate Professor of Philosophy of Arts and Culture), has invested in both the development of a hybrid stream, the MWS ART (Art, Religion, and Theology) and, in support of the TST, the development of an arts-oriented Masters in Theological Studies.

Looking back at these accomplishments, my priorities as Dean for the 2019-2020 academic year are to keep these various projects moving forward. My goals, therefore, are (1) to secure the MA in Educational Leadership (MA-EL), (2) to revise all of ICS’s academic policies (documented in our Junior Member Handbook, Senior Member Handbook, and Senate Handbook), and (3) to facilitate ongoing conversations about the shape of our MA and PhD programmes in the Educational Policy Committee, Academic Council, and Senate. My hope with each of these priorities—and the efforts each entails—is that they will lead us to ask how we might most hospitably “grow Christian scholars, one by one” (as President Ronald A. Kuipers describes in the Spring 2019 issue of Perspective) in alignment with the Academic Strategy we crafted together as a community last year.

We started the year well with regard to each of these new priorities, and in particular with the launch of our second cohort of MA-EL students, which includes students in both the principal stream and the instructional leadership stream. In fact, one of my great privileges this year has been accompanying our principal stream students in visits to Christian schools in Ontario, where they are learning from expert practitioners about the nitty-gritty of a Christian practice of leadership. Being alongside our students on these visits has reinvigorated my own belief in the work ahead—and in the spirit of Christian hospitality that has long been, and will continue to be, the motivating spirit of ICS.

GIDEON STRAUSS
Academic Dean
In addition to the more typical academic efforts, ICS faculty all helped organize and enable the move from 229 College to 59 St. George over the summer. They did not, however, let a change of venue hamper their academic activity. This year was instead used to bring projects to fruition and to further existing relationships with fellow institutions. Collectively, ICS faculty offered 18 courses to ICS students and interested students of the TST. One of these courses was To the Unknown God: Paul and Some Philosophers, led by Ronald A. Kuipers and Jeffrey Dudiak (The King’s University). This course was available for credit to both ICS and King’s students, and marks the first concrete learning opportunity offered conjointly by ICS and King’s.

Amid the weekly coursework and teaching preparations, ICS faculty also provided one-on-one mentorship to roughly 40 students both internal to ICS and through participation on TST thesis and dissertation committees, thereby bolstering our presence among the TST schools and fellow TST faculty. For ICS students in particular, the generosity of mentorship our faculty provide is irreplaceable, embodying the spirit of hospitable and holistic scholarship that makes ICS a shared academic home to students across the world and across the years.

Ongoing academic work and achievements were further lauded by ICS faculty receiving 3 grants and awards this year. One of these awards was Bob Sweetman’s appointment as an adjunct fellow of the Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies (PIMS). This award suitably recognizes Bob’s longstanding connection with and academic service to PIMS and the world of mediaeval scholarship. Another notable achievement was Rebekah Smick’s being awarded a sizable ATS Innovation Grant for Interdisciplinary and Community Partnerships to develop an academic stream in Theology, Spirituality, and the Arts for TST’s Master of Theological Studies degree program. This project has required extensive work with TST administration on Rebekah’s part, and will allow for ICS’s own arts-related courses to count toward this new TST degree stream.

Our faculty also worked diligently to bring their research beyond the walls of the classroom. Over the course of this year, they successfully published 6 academic articles and book chapters, and progressed in their respective research for 23 academic publications currently in the works. They also published 9 popularly accessible pieces, and gave around 20 public presentations in various academic, liturgical, workshop, and community contexts.

Each of our faculty members contributes to the whole ICS community with their own unique voice. A final way in which faculty’s voices have made themselves heard is through their active participation in the ICS podcast Critical Faith throughout the last year. Collectively, faculty have eagerly contributed to individual episodes as a way of making parts of their research accessible to the public and as a concerted effort at student recruitment. Our faculty constantly serves the ICS community in innumerable ways—of which the above provides only a glimpse.
Student Profile and Convocation 2019

Student Numbers on the Rise
During the 2018-19 academic year, ICS carried forward and welcomed 22 new and continuing Junior Members in total: 2 in the MWS program, 2 in the MA-EL program, 6 MA students, and 12 PhD candidates. We also retained 14 external PhD candidates. In gratitude, we were also able to award 5 scholarships to 4 deserving students this academic year.

These students enjoyed a variety of course offerings this year. We ran a total of 24 courses with a total of 179 course registrations. These registrations stemmed from both internal and external sources like the Toronto Centre for Psychotherapy & Counselling Education, the Toronto School of Theology, and The King's University. As a result, we also had a notable increase of program applications (three recruitments via the Undergraduate Workshop) and single-course takers (thanks to MWS courses like those offered by Junior Member Dean Dettlof).

Updates on our 2019 Graduates
Benjamin Groenewold (PhD, Philosophy) currently works as a professor at LCC International University, a Christian Liberal Arts college in Lithuania. Benjamin and his wife, fellow ICS alum Tricia Van Dyk, have joyfully served with their family in this capacity for a number of years, together teaching philosophy and various Christian worldview courses to the students there.

Kiegan Irish (MA, Philosophy) recently began working at The Working Centre in Kitchener, a community project intent on creating a holistic environment of support and opportunity for those pushed to the margins of society. Kiegan’s passion for philosophy and politics has also expanded to hosting The Poplar Tapes, a podcast on current political events.

Ann Post (MWS) successfully mounted an exhibition in New York City of a number of original paintings inspired by the work of ICS Emeritus Calvin Seerveld as the culmination of her MWS project. Ann continues her artistic vocation in NYC in ongoing attunement to the needs of her local community.

Convocation and Celebrating an Educational Legacy
At this year’s Convocation, we were able to celebrate both the achievements of a representative graduate from each of our academic programs and the extensive academic and institutional contributions of ICS Emeritus and former President Doug Blomberg. Celebrations began with friends, family, and supporters spending an evening honouing Dr. Blomberg’s legacy in Christian education. The following evening, Dr. Blomberg shared with those gathered an inaugural address entitled “I believe in the resurrection of the body.” In his address, Dr. Blomberg reflected on the course of his academic career and explored his fascination with distinctly Reformational pedagogy. He then invited graduates to consider the role of the body in education, and put forward a biblical vision of personhood that is integrally developed “from the ground up.”
A Spirit of Collaborative Research: The Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics

One of the most distinctive aspects of our work at ICS is a collaborative spirit. Over the 2018-19 academic year, the CPRSE stretched the boundaries of such collaborative spirit, inviting our community to imagine and enact innovative ways to collectively respond to our mission through research, scholarship, and public outreach.

In its attempt to promote a healthy integration of faith and scholarship, the CPRSE continues to generate spaces for ICS to converse with academics whose work and lives are firmly grounded in a Christian worldview. To this end, the CPRSE presented two seminars in our “Scripture, Faith, and Scholarship” seminar series. In the fall, we welcomed Dr. Esther Acolatse, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Intercultural Studies at Knox College, who outlined the ways in which her most recent book, *Powers, Principalities, and the Spirit: Biblical Realism in Africa and the West*, integrates her life of faith and her academic research. In the winter, Dr. Heath Carter, Associate Professor of History at Valparaiso University, shared with us some highlights of his work about the rise and fall of American Social Christianity.

During our first full year of activities at 59 St. George, the CPRSE continued to listen attentively to the emerging ideas of our Senior and Junior Members, orienting its programming efforts around these ideas. Proof of this is the 2018-19 season of ICS’s podcast, *Critical Faith*, which underwent significant transformation in response to an internal visioning process. Starting in October 2018, *Critical Faith* was redesigned to serve as an outreach tool for the Centre, as well as a recruitment and advancement opportunity for ICS. Under this new format, the podcast has gained popularity and is listened to by a loyal audience across North America and beyond.

Our Annual Undergraduate Workshop provided another opportunity for collaboration. Between May 25-28, 2019, the CPRSE hosted 10 undergraduate students from across the globe for three days of intensive reflection on some of the major issues in political theology. This year’s workshop also constituted a portion of the course *To the Unknown God: Paul and Some Philosophers*, co-taught by President Ronald A. Kuipers and The King’s University Professor, Dr. Jeffrey Dudiaik. The event was a wonderful opportunity for alumni and Junior and Senior Members to form a community of learning around the course participants, discussing the role of theology, biblical interpretation, and Christian philosophy in today’s society.

Finally, 2018-19 saw the fruits of another successful partnership between the CPRSE, the Canadian Interfaith Conversation, and other interfaith and community-based groups, in the fourth “Our Whole Society” conference. From April 28-30, 2019, over 150 academics, practitioners, and religious leaders gathered at the Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Toronto to address pressing questions for religious communities in Canada today. These questions focused on the role and responsibility of religious organizations in the construction of a truly multicultural society and are part of a continued conversation in which the CPRSE is an active participant.

The CPRSE recognizes that the uniqueness of the ICS community resides in its openness to dialogue and collaboration, and its desire to forge partnerships that explore the role of faith in society through an interdisciplinary lens that is both philosophically grounded and religiously aware. Through its activities, the CPRSE is always seeking new ways to fulfill this mandate by connecting the diverse initiatives of our Junior and Senior Members with our numerous community partners.

Héctor Acero Ferrer
Associate Director, CPRSE

Participants in our third annual Undergraduate Workshop on God & Politics

Academic Dean Gideon Strauss interviews Dr. Heath Carter for one of this year’s Scripture, Faith, and Scholarship seminars
Financial and Operations Reports

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Fund Balances Represented by

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Note: Complete financial statements are available upon request.
E
dlier this year, a number of board members
had an opportunity to call many of our members
and supporters. For me this was really special. It
was an opportunity to let our supporters know
that things at ICS are positive and doing well. They were
good calls and I enjoyed every one of them. We were able
to give praise to our God for his faithfulness and love.

This has been our first full academic year at our new
digs, a great place to work and study. We had a great
Open House and first ever Advent Concert to celebrate
our new home. Being in the heart of the University of
Toronto also gives our faculty, staff, and students a great
environment to do what it is they do.

We also want to celebrate the second year of the
presidency of Ron Kuipers. We have seen him grow into
the role as he meets with our supporters all across Canada
and in the US, and as he gives sound leadership to the
Institute. From the perspective of the board it has been a
good year. We are grateful that God has provided us with
what was needed for this time in our history.

The first cohort in our new program, the MA in
Educational Leadership (MA-EL), got off to a good start
in September 2018. This is an exciting and important
development for those in Christian education who want
to deepen their skills.

In May, we also celebrated the major contribution
of Doug Blomberg to ICS. After many years of providing
leadership as ICS’s President and developing sound
educational theory and practice in Christian education,
the event was a fitting celebration. His contribution to
ICS was immeasurable and was marked by many of his
supporters and friends with a dinner and goodbye party.
It was a joyful event, although it is always hard to say
goodbye to a friend.

Lastly, we have a strong board to assist, support, and
watch over our President. We have good representation
from most of Canada and the US, although we could use
a member from Eastern Canada and another from the
Canadian Midwest. If you have a suggestion for these
positions, let myself or John Joosse know.

It has been a good year to head the board as its Chair,
especially when things are going well. After this year’s
AGM, I will be stepping down as Chair and our cur-
rent Vice Chair, John Joosse, will become the new board
Chair. Thanks, John, for being willing to take on this
important task.

And thank you all for your faithful support and
prayers as we weather the tough times and celebrate the
good. Thanks be to God.

JOHN KAMPHOF
Chair

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Hilda Buisman
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Brad Breems
Luke Seerveld
John Kok
Tim Postuma
Marci Frederick
Case Hoogendoorn
**In for the Long Haul**

As we look back on 2018-19, we are deeply humbled by the amazing support and encouragement that we received throughout the year from the ICS community. We watched with thanksgiving as volunteers came to 229 College Street and helped us pack boxes and move to our new home at 59 St. George Street. We were so blessed by the number of folks who came to help us accomplish the seemingly impossible task of getting our new space ready for our Open House on December 1st—and we made it thanks to you!

And on top of that, we saw God touching the hearts of our friends to give freely and generously to fund the renovation of our new space so that it could be a comfortable and inspiring place to work and study. Thank you so much—your partnership with us this year has ensured that our continued journey into this new era for ICS has been successful beyond anything we could have imagined!

Because of your remarkable contribution to our relocation project, we were able to more quickly move into the important work of developing our new program, the MA in Educational Leadership, find better ways to connect to our supporting community, and continue the work of building local partnerships in the Christian education sphere, among other things.

Thank you for continuing to give us the confidence to carry out ICS’s historic mission in Christian higher education for many years to come. Thank you for working together with us in the faith that we are called to be covenant partners in our Maker’s healing work.

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**Gratitude from the ICS Library**

Moving to a new location in September 2018 was a major undertaking for every department at ICS, and the library was no exception. Moving the ICS library and archival collection was made possible through a team effort by staff and volunteer support from the community. The library is especially grateful to Claire Veenstra, Don Johnson, and Regis College for their assistance in acquiring and constructing (in some cases re-constructing) high-quality shelving.

The new library space is more open and welcoming than its predecessor, with a study carrel and seating for students, and a fitting home for historic documents from ICS. There is even some room on the shelves for the Toronto-based collection to expand.

With the help of the library’s new research assistants, for example, we aim to expand the ICS Institutional Repository (IR), which currently holds decades of theses, issues of *Perspective*, and many other ICS publications by adding external publications by Junior and Senior Members. We also hope to expand the ICS archives by creating inventories of potential donations from Seniors Members emeriti and by increasing our efforts to preserve acquired collections. Having settled into our new space with your help, we face these prospects for expansion with renewed energy, excitement, and hope.

Hilary Barlow  
Associate Librarian

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**The Staff, Faculty and Junior Members of ICS**