



James C. Peterson

# It Takes a Team

The ASA Executive Council had twenty questions for me to answer in writing, and many more in a personal interview. Considering as well my *curriculum vitae*, references, and work to date with ASA/CSCA, the council brought my name to the annual meeting as the new editor of *PSCF*. The process was emblematic of the rigorous and good-natured teamwork so characteristic of ASA/CSCA and the production of this journal. There is a small army of people that work diligently with marked expertise and good judgment to make *PSCF* happen. Most of them are all but invisible to *PSCF* readers. This editorial cannot mention each one crucial to creating the journal each quarter, but here is a start.

It is Lyn Berg as managing editor who finds a way to winsomely present the content in a certain number of pages on precise deadlines. Esther Martin checks every word for the slightest error. In the midst of all his other duties as executive director, Randy Isaac often supports the journal—as, for example, in recent internal discussions of copyright issues. Frances Polischuk tracks the accounts and mailing list. Terry Gray and Jack Haas make *PSCF* available on the ASA website.

As to content, each year over forty reviewers explain and critique the contribution of new books. It is the subject area editors, Patrick Franklin, Arie Leegwater, Don MacDonald, and Robin Rylaarsdam, who find these experts to evaluate the most relevant and important books out of the hundreds of thousands that are published each year. The resulting reviews are honed to be well written, informative, and prompt. Franklin comes to the task from his post as professor of theology and ethics at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto and will be moving this summer to Providence Theological Seminary in Otterburne, Manitoba. Leegwater taught chemistry at Calvin College and edited this journal. MacDonald is a professor in the social sciences at Seattle Pacific University, and Rylaarsdam is a professor of biology at

Benedictine University. Franklin takes the further step of coordinating the book choices since the subject areas often interact. He then marshals the readied reviews into categories to help readers find the ones that match their interests. He also maintains a database of potential reviewers. If you would like to lend your expertise to this helpful service of reviewing (and get free books!), do send him your contact information and a brief description of your expertise ([psfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:psfranklin@gmail.com)).

Essential to the journal are the twenty or so authors each year who contribute articles that ring true, bring fresh insight, and fit our journal's mission. Sometimes the required blind peer review discovers a young scholar's first important insight for publication. Often blind peer review recognizes yet further contributions by accomplished scholars. We appreciate the luminaries from a wide variety of fields and with contrasting views who have written for us, including (not by any means an exhaustive list) Elving Anderson, Robert Benne, John Hedley Brooke, Richard Bube, Francis Collins, William Dembski, Calvin DeWitt, Owen Gingerich, Joel Green, Malcolm Jeeves, Robert Kaita, Donald MacKay, George Marsden, J. P. Moreland, Nancey Murphy, Ronald Numbers, Clark Pinnoch, Alvin Plantinga, Walter Thorson, Thomas F. Torrance, Charles Townes, John Walton, Bruce Waltke, Jennifer Wiseman ...

Twenty-one editorial board members volunteer sage advice and generously serve in the peer review process. Since *PSCF* articles are usually to some degree interdisciplinary, each article considered for publication requires several reviewers drawn from the interacting disciplines. That requires the commitment of the editorial board and many more scholars as well. Peer reviewers for 2011 are listed in this issue with profound thanks. We will miss the service, ending with 2011, of editorial board members Charles Adams and Walter Thorson. Allan Harvey,

# Editorial

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an engineer with the National Bureau of Standards, and Heather Looy, an Alberta professor of psychology, have ably stepped in to carry on that work.

For four years now, inspiring and holding it all together from title page, masthead, and editorial, through articles and reviews, to the always lively letters to the editor at the end of each issue, has been Arie Leegwater. He has carried on the legacy of ever raising the standards and service of the journal and is graciously following through by finishing the editing of articles he started for this issue and continuing as one of our book review editors. On behalf of the readers of *PSCF*, I extend a heartfelt thank you to Arie for his skilled, thoughtful, and effective work. The journal, *ASA/CSCA*, and we the readers, are better for it.

The Christian tradition is the largest and most global people movement in the world. Science is ever increasing in its influence. What an opportunity to work where the two meet. *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* is a strategic service, encouraging, testing, learning, guiding that interaction. It is well worth the best attention and contribution that so many give to make it possible. Thanks to all who, by our Lord's grace, make it so.

**James C. Peterson**, *Editor*



## In This Issue

In this special theme issue devoted to "Responsible Technology and Issues of Faith," seven authors address a diversity of topics which provide Christian assessments of, and approaches to, technology and its practices. Similar concerns about contemporary engineering practices are also found in recent secular engineering magazines. For example, articles in the March and September (2011) issues of *Mechanical Engineering*, the magazine of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, have advocated a more humanitarian approach to design and have promoted the design of technologies with an eye to the

rest of the globe. Many engineering schools are urging their students to consider *Engineers without Borders*, and engineering departments at Christian colleges have long promoted service learning.

The seven articles in *PSCF* can be broken down into three groups:

1. Two articles written by philosophers of technology: Albert Borgmann (University of Montana) explores the character of contemplation in a technological era by examining what we can glean from the wisdom of Thomas Merton. Marc J. de Vries (Delft University of Technology) details the presence of utopian thinking in contemporary technology and contrasts this with the need for responsible technology in an imperfect world.
2. Two articles written by Calvin College engineers: Steven H. VanderLeest distinguishes between science and technology and argues that an interplay model, rather than a primacy model, best describes the engineering design of technology. Gayle Ermer examines the complexity of technology and provides a rationale for a connectionist approach to engineering design.
3. Three articles written by a former energy research lab director, a biology professor, and a physicist detail specific practices, respectively – renewable energy generation, agrarian agriculture, and solar cooking, all practices that demand attention: Kenell Touryan (recent vice president of R&D at the American University of Armenia) champions renewable energy for a sustainable future, David Dornbos Jr. (Calvin College) argues for a normative consideration of sustainable agricultural practices in agrarian systems, and Paul Arveson (board member of Solar Household Energy) promotes solar cooking as an underutilized solution for the poor of the earth.

May this theme issue promote reflection and give us a more informed understanding of how we can live technologically responsible lives, responding in faith to God's call in Genesis to be culturally engaged in his world.

**Arie Leegwater and Jack Swearingen**

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