

# Catalyzing Compatibility of Evolution & Christian Faith (on Secular Campuses)



HARVEY MUDD  
COLLEGE

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# Project Summary

- I am developing group curricula for college students to consider the compatibility of evolution and Christian faith.
- These include multi-week discussion/study guides and a book, *Science + Faith Investigation Groups*.
- I will host a one-day *Evolution and the Bible* conference in Claremont in October 2014.



# Rationale

- Students on secular campuses lack the resources for science-faith integration that Christian campuses offer.
- Faculty at secular schools are rarely rewarded for promoting science-faith integration.
- Campus ministers (like my wife) and local pastors are often intimidated by or uninformed in science-faith issues.
- A group/community setting is essential.

# Project Documents

- 6-, 7-, and 10-week curricula for groups centered on *From the Dust* and *Test of Faith* films

- BioLogos blog posts



## Using Film to Catalyze Conversations on Faith and Science

What are the best ways to spark productive conversations about science and faith? Certainly there are books, articles, blogs (like this one), and podcasts. But there are particular advantages to using film.



## Science and Faith on a Secular Campus

While many Christian colleges actively seek to help their students engage issues of faith and science constructively, few secular colleges are active in promoting the conversation. As a professor at a secular school, how can I encourage my students to authentic engagement and dialogue on science and faith issues?

- ASA talks



- Book: *Science + Faith Investigation Groups*

# 10-Week Group Curriculum

- Group dynamics, film trailers, Psalms/Job/NT
- Genesis 1-2
- *From the Dust* film (4 weeks)
- *Test of Faith* film (3 weeks)
- Delight in creation



- Emphasize discussion in small and large groups
- Read articles from BioLogos, Faraday, ASA

 BIOLOGOS



# Tentative Book Outline

## *Science + Faith Investigation Groups*

- Why the science-faith controversy?
- What does the Bible say about creation?
- *Psalms, Job, NT (semi-inductive Bible study)*
- *Genesis 1-2 (semi-inductive Bible study)*
- Is science vs. faith historically accurate?
- What are we afraid of?
- Delight in creation

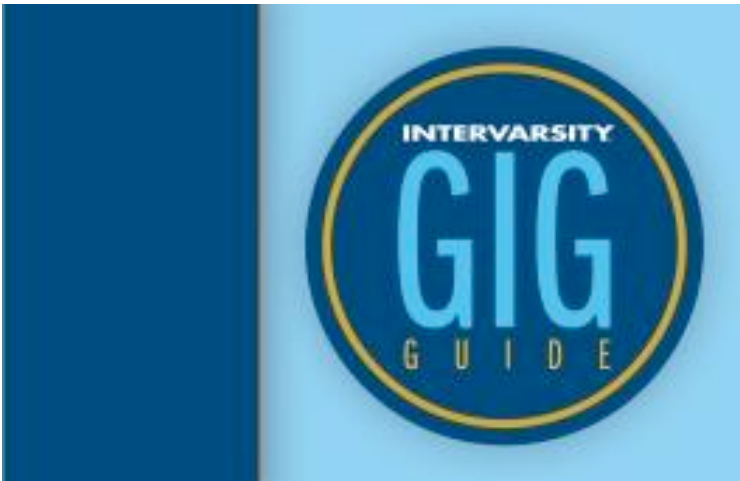


# Inspiration from GIGs

*GIGs: God Investigation Groups*

*SIG FIGs: (Science + Faith) Investigation Groups*

*SIG+FIG = (S+F)IG*



# Project Events

- 15 screenings of *From the Dust* film
- 3 x 10-week studies with college students
- 7-week church adult education series
- 3 ASA presentations
- *Evolution & the Bible* conference October 2014
- Urbana 2015 missions conference workshop



INTERVARSITY  
URBANA 12



# *From the Dust* Screenings

- World premiere
- Undergraduate students
- Graduate student & faculty groups
- Church small group & adult education
- Conferences (InterVarsity faculty, ASA 2012)



# *Evolution & the Bible* Conference

- Saturday, October 25, 2014  
in Claremont, CA
- John Walton and Jack  
Collins on the Bible
- *From the Dust* screening
- Jeff Schloss on biological  
evolution
- Panel discussion



# Project Advisors

Campus ministers



Scientists



Bible scholars



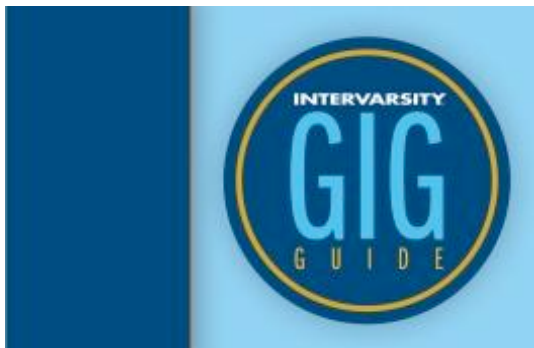
Science-faith enthusiasts



You?

# Reference Books

- Walton, *The Lost World of Genesis One*
- Rau, *Mapping the Origins Debate*
- Carlson & Longman, *Creation, Evolution, and the Bible*
- Giberson & Collins, *The Language of Science and Faith*
- Falk, *Coming to Peace with Science*
- Haarsma & Haarsma, *Origins*
- *InterVarsity GIG Guide*



# Reference Articles

- Lam, “The Biblical Creation in its Ancient Near Eastern Context” (BioLogos)
- Keller, “Creation, Evolution, and Christian Laypeople” (BioLogos)
- Berry, “Creation and Evolution Not Creation or Evolution” (Faraday)
- Hutchinson, “Warfare and Wedlock: Redeeming the Faith-Science Relationship” (ASA)
- Venema, “Genesis and the Genome: Genomics Evidence for Human-Ape Common Ancestry and Ancestral Hominid Population Sizes” (ASA)
- Alexander, “Models for Relating Science and Religion” (Faraday)
- Louis, “How Does the BioLogos Model Need to Address Concerns Christians Have about the Implications of its Science?” (BioLogos)
- Coles, “God and the Brain” (Faraday)
- Wiseman, “Science as an Instrument of Worship” (BioLogos)



# Reference Films

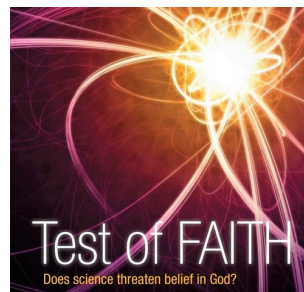
- *Origins Today: Genesis Through Ancient Eyes* (John Walton)



- *From the Dust: Conversations in Creation* (BioLogos/Highway)



- *Test of Faith: Does Science Threaten Belief in God?* (Faraday)



# Contact Info

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2013-14 sabbatical at University of Cambridge, UK

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