

Weblogs as Foundations for Discussions About Science and Christianity

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2008 ASA Meeting
George Fox University

Outline and assumptions

- What are blogs?
- Blogging Science
- Blogging Science as a Christian
- Blogging in the Classroom

Disclosure

- I am an Evangelical Blogger
- Create and Contribute to Dialogue

Weblogs or Blogs

- User-generated internet content
 - Personal Journals
 - Complaints
 - Articles
 - How-To...
- Vary widely in style and content
- Growing in popularity and credibility
- Increasingly common among scientists

ScienceBlogs.com

ScienceBlogs - Mozilla Firefox

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http://scienceblogs.com/

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Medicine & Health

Brain & Behavior

Technology


NETWORK STATISTICS

72 blogs

73,088 posts

936,316 comments


TOP SCIENCE STORIES



Revolutionary Minds
Five young thinkers who aren't just crossing disciplinary boundaries; they're shattering them.

THE LATEST POSTS

Technology News and Stuff · Greg Laden's Blog · 3 hours ago

 **Birth Control Rights at Risk**
THE BUZZ IN THE BLOGOSPHERE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a proposal last month that would allow federal grant recipients to deny women access to contraceptives such as the birth control and morning after pills. If passed, the proposal would allow healthcare providers to classify contraceptives as a type of abortion. More than 60 percent of 15 to 44 year old women in the U.S. use birth control.

MORE HOT TOPICS

Dinosaurs and Biofilms

NASA Turns 50

Language Evolution in Action

Science in the Academy

Volcano War

Deep Brain Stimulation for Depression

Hurricane Dolly

LATEST RELATED ENTRIES

Another Bush Administration Backdoor Attack on Reproductive Rights.
08.01.2008 · Mike Dunford

... mops the floor is also included in these protections. And then there's that other term - **abortion**. The traditional definition of **abortion** has always involved terminating a pregnancy after the embryo has successfully implanted in the uterus....

The Handmaid's Tale: Fact or Fiction?
08.01.2008 · "GrrlScientist"

... was just leaked. This document proposes to redefine nearly all forms of birth control, especially birth control pills, as a form of **abortion** and allows any federal grant recipient to obstruct a woman's access to contraception [PDF]. Considering...

Theocracy in action--HHS proposes to limit birth control
08.01.2008 · PalMD

... shortage of health care professionals. What unmitigated bullshit. But then comes the really sinister bit. They wish to redefine **abortion** for the purposes of the statutes. In order to do that they invoke a Zogby poll of American...


HHS, Abortion, And Birth Control
07.31.2008 · afarensis, FCD

... The Department of Health and Human Services is currently considering rule changes that would, in effect, define contraception as **abortion**. You can find a text of this proposal here. RH Reality Check has a thorough discussion of the...

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The World's Fair - A caring scientist's view on things on things to

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Pharyngula

Evolution, development, and random biological ejaculations from a godless liberal

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An excellent science blog, even if conversation on religion and science is one-sided

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Profile



[PZ Myers](#) is a biologist and associate professor at the [University of Minnesota, Morris](#).



...and this is a [pharyngula stage embryo](#).

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- [my calendar](#)
- [Nature Network](#)
- [Richard Dawkins Network](#)
- [facebook](#)
- [MySpace](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Atheist Nexus](#)
- [the Pharyngula chat room](#)
(#pharyngula on irc.synirc.net)

« [Basics: Sonic Hedgehog](#) | [Main](#) | [What's happening down in New Zealand?](#) »

This could be a dreary mistake

Category: Creationism

Posted on: August 1, 2008 4:59 PM, by [PZ Myers](#)

I've agreed to another talk radio debate — this time it's not a Christian radio station, so there's hope of some ethical behavior on their part — on [WDAY, AM 970](#) next Tuesday, 5 August, at 10am. We're supposed to debate intelligent design, and my opponent is...

My opponent is...

Really, I'm embarrassed to say it...

My opponent is...

Ray Comfort.

O Lord, could you please stop making my enemies so ridiculous? It's getting a little bit excessive.



Why do scientists write blogs?

- For informal community
 - As a test tube for ideas and collaborations
 - To voice concerns about politics or society
 - The public likes to read about science
-
- Some scientists like to write things other than grant proposals

Political Blogs Feature Science

Daily Kos: Book Review: Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming - Mozilla Firefox

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http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2008/7/27/8556/76585/184/557142

DAILY KOS

Book Review: Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming

by **DarkSyde**
Sun Jul 27, 2008 at 05:55:06 AM PDT

Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming
By Michael E. Mann and Lee R. Kump
DK Publishing, \$ 25.00 US or less, Available Now

Let's say you're a preeminent paleo-climate researcher who's been widely recognized for groundbreaking, dramatic work. Your reward from the usual suspects is to be attacked, shamelessly misrepresented, dragged through several legislative circuses with decidedly mixed receptions. At times openly harassed by world class industry whores, forced to appear beside *Michael Crichton* of all people, while antiscience ideologues eagerly take turns metaphorically beating you in public with the political equivalent of soap bars in a sock. What to do? One way out would be to lower your profile.

But if you're my courageous colleague Michael Mann, Associate Professor in the Department of Meteorology and Geosciences at Pennsylvania State University, founding member of the premier climate change blog **Real Climate**, and one of the original producers of the now famous Hockey Stick graph, you team up with like-minded fellow PSU Geoscientist Lee R. Kump to set the record straight. In *Dire Predictions*, Mann and Kump do exactly that, producing along the way a unique resource for any champion of science and the environment.

Here in one book is the skinny on past climate change, current observations, future predictions, economic and geopolitical considerations; on and on the science marches; three decades worth of research compressed into 207 colorful pages. Virtually every antiscience claim is debunked. Whether rw talking points come your way from friends or family parroting energy propaganda, or wind up in your inbox from the friendly community troll working pro bono on behalf of Exxon-Mobil, this book has



THE STATE of THE NATION

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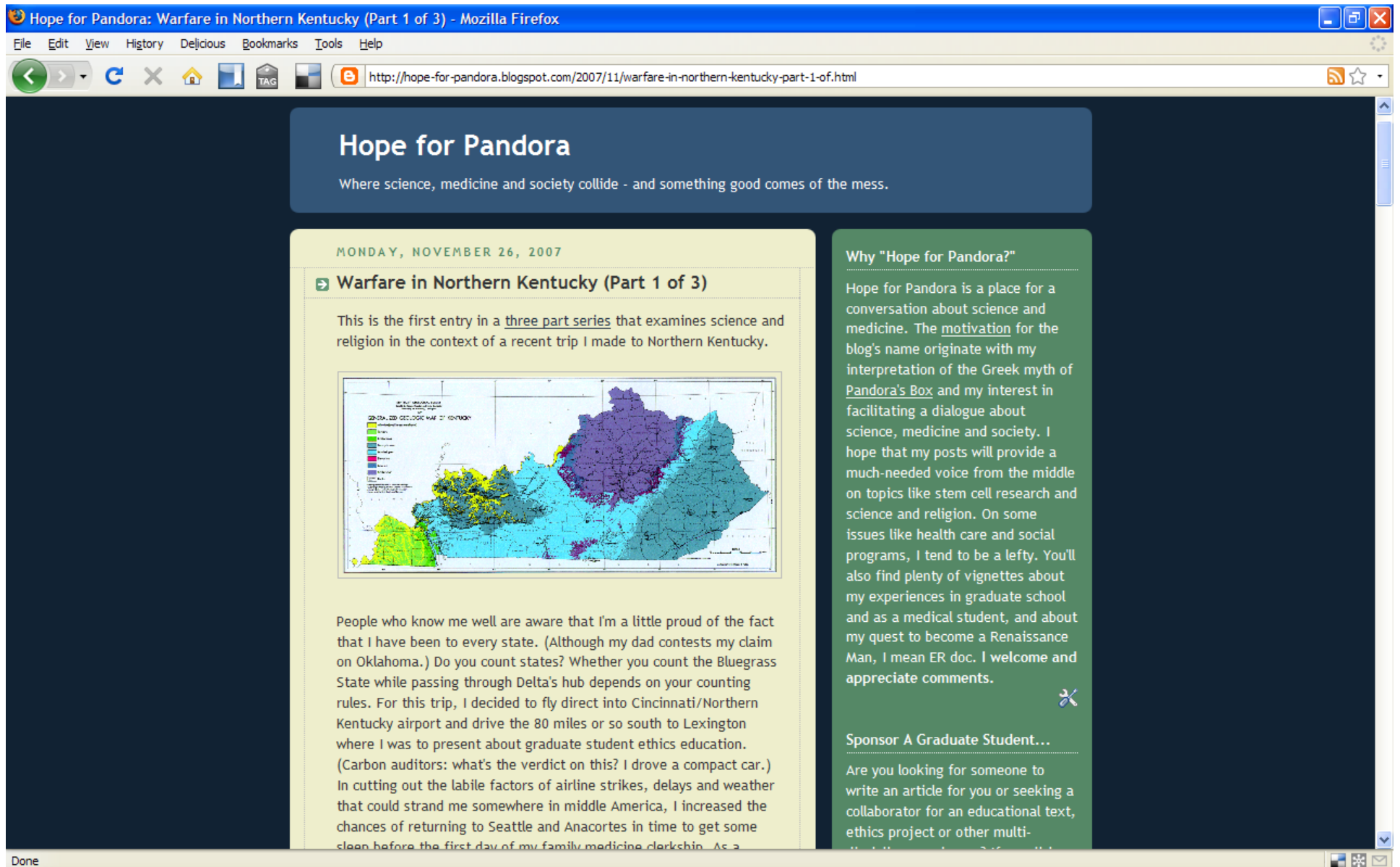
Doing right

- Truth of Fact
 - ScienceBlogs
 - Health Bloggers' Code of Ethics
 - Blogging on Peer Reviewed Data
- Honesty of Opinion
 - DailyKos

Blogging scientist Christians?

- A small number of science bloggers publicly identify as Christians
- Faith communities tend to be represented on blogs by individuals with narrow agendas rather than sincere interests in dialogue
- There is online potential for increasing visibility and credibility of perspectives that do not polarize science and religion.

My Personal Science Blog



An ASA Blog


Executive Director's Corner - Mozilla Firefox

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http://www.asa3.org/users/andyisaac/blog/

WebPine - WebPine Daily Kos :: Diaries Pandora Radio - Listen to Free Internet... Executive Director's Corner 8005 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA ...

Executive Director's Corner blog



Executive Director's Corner

Expelled--the movie May 5, 2008 8:07 AM by [Randy Isaac](#)

Having read too many second-hand reports, I was glad to be able to see the movie Expelled first hand yesterday. The cell animation sequence in the middle was great and worth the price of admission by itself, though it was a bargain matinee. It was also good to see a lot of friends and familiar faces featured in the film.

I had just finished reading John Hedley Brooke's Science and Religion: Some Historical Observations. As one of the premier historians of science and religion, he stresses complexity. He amply demonstrates that no simple description of the relationship between science and religion is adequate. In contrast, it seemed that Ben Stein stressed simplicity and actively avoided complexity in the movie. Good and evil were cast in black and white. Lining up on one side were evolution and eugenics, Darwin and Dawkins, Hitler, Provine, mainstream scientists, suppression of ideas. On the other were Intelligent Design, Dembski and Berlinski, Discovery Institute, academic freedom, basic American freedoms. The Berlin wall symbolized the crisp distinction between the two. Yet this veneer of superficial truth masked a wealth of complexity that was ignored presumably to avoid confusing the audience. Unfortunately, the result was a blurred message that depended on the background knowledge of the viewer.

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- ☐ creation care
- ☐ information technology
- ☐ integrating science and faith
- ☐ integrity in science
- ☐ medical ethics
- ☐ new atheism

Done

A Group Blog I Contribute To...

What ID should focus on (take 2) « Clashing Culture - Mozilla Firefox

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http://dashingculture.wordpress.com/2008/07/24/what-id-should-focus-on-take-2/

ClAashing Culture

What ID should focus on (take 2)
July 24, 2008 by Anastasia

Subtitle: What the ID/Creationism movement should preach if they truly want to inspire faith in a Designer/Creator



Literal creationism is scary. Not because I think they are right and some vengeful god will spite me for being a scientist, but because I worry about the future, about what will happen in a world that is increasingly dependent on science and technology but where more and more children learn some biblical interpretation instead of reality. I think I'm justified in this fear because of things like the [Creation Adventure Team](#), the Creation Museum, Dr. Dino, etc. These would be amusing if they weren't actually believed by people and intended to replace science. The avowed goal of creationists such as those at the Discovery Institute Culture is to kill science as we know it, which they equate with materialism, replacing it with some religion infused science lite that prefers predetermined conclusions to actual hypothesis testing (ok, so those aren't their words *exactly*, but they are awfully close, see [The "Wedge](#)

July 2008

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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AUTHORS

thomas
Lincoln
vs. Darwin
Evolution and Creation in
Presidential Politics



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Case: Cl^Ashing Cul⁺ture

- Group Blog
 - 2 Christians, 1 Atheist, 1 Agnostic, more?
 - Mutual respect
 - Shared goal of dialogue
- 2 Months
 - 25 posts
 - 4000 different visitors
 - 125 comments
- Outcome?

Walking humbly

- Openness to opinion
- Allow all comments that are not racist or otherwise personal attacks
- Addressing colleagues respectfully
- Keeping lines of dialogue open

Blogging for brothers and sisters

- Support for closeted Christians in science
- Appeal to younger generations
- Promote collegial environments for discussions about science and religion
 - Evolution
 - Stem Cells
 - Environment
 - Origins
 - Medical Ethics

Blogging in the classroom

- Expand teaching modalities
- Student focused discussion
- Extend the classroom into students' net space
- Effective at many levels
- Cultivate web-based communicators

Teaching with blogs

- Call & Response
 - Students must comment on instructor's posts
- Group Blog
 - Students must author original entries and comment on others'
- Discussion Board
 - Students must contribute a basic entry based on the week's assigned readings

Blogging for High School Students

Endless Forms Most Beautiful | This is the course blog for AP Biology at AEHS. - Mozilla Firefox

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http://access.aasd.k12.wi.us/Staff/Hoffman/Wpress/?paged=2



ENDLESS FORMS MOST BEAUTIFUL

About

This is the class blog for AP Biology at Appleton East High School in Appleton, WI. The instructor (Elissa Hoffman) wants her students to become fluent in online learning and discussion. To that end, she and her students will be posting articles, research, photos / videos, and hopefully even the contributions of "guest bloggers". Outside commenters are welcome, but must abide by the same rules that the students do - and must contact Mrs. Hoffman to establish an account. Interested in being a guest blogger? Please click on the link at the top right under the "Pages" section!

Categories

- 2007-08 (11)
- diversity of life (5)

Devil frogs

The name alone is intriguing, isn't it?

Head on over and read [this story](#) about a recently discovered ancient frog species. Found in Madagascar, this species lived abot 65-70 million years ago and was, simply put, ginormous. They would've weighed 10 pounds - more than a newborn baby human - and been about 16" long. (To put that in perspective, a sheet of regular paper is 11" long...)

It is hard for me to even picture a frog of that size. I would say that, if they existed today, I'd put one in a terrarium in the classroom, but apparently they were also pretty nasty - they were carnivorous giant frogs!

Responses?? Do you like its scientific name? Does it surprise you that such an outlier (in terms of size, it certainly seems to be an outlying data point on the frog size curve) would exist on an island? Why / why not?

(More info on the frogs is available [here](#) and [here](#).)

Posted by Ms. Hoffman on March 19th, 2008
2007-08, [diversity of life](#), [evolution](#) | [No Comments](#)

The power of combinations

Back more than a month ago, I mentioned that virtually all of the cells in the human body contain exactly the same DNA, and that the reason muscle cells and skin cells and nerve cells, etc. look different from one another is

Pages

- How to Write a Post - Here's the Link, Kids!!
- Interested in being a "guest blogger"?

Recent Posts

- You've always known the platypus was weird-looking...
- Embryonic stem cells successfully turned into heart cells
- Frog: We don't need no stinkin' lungs!
- Devil frogs
- The power of combinations

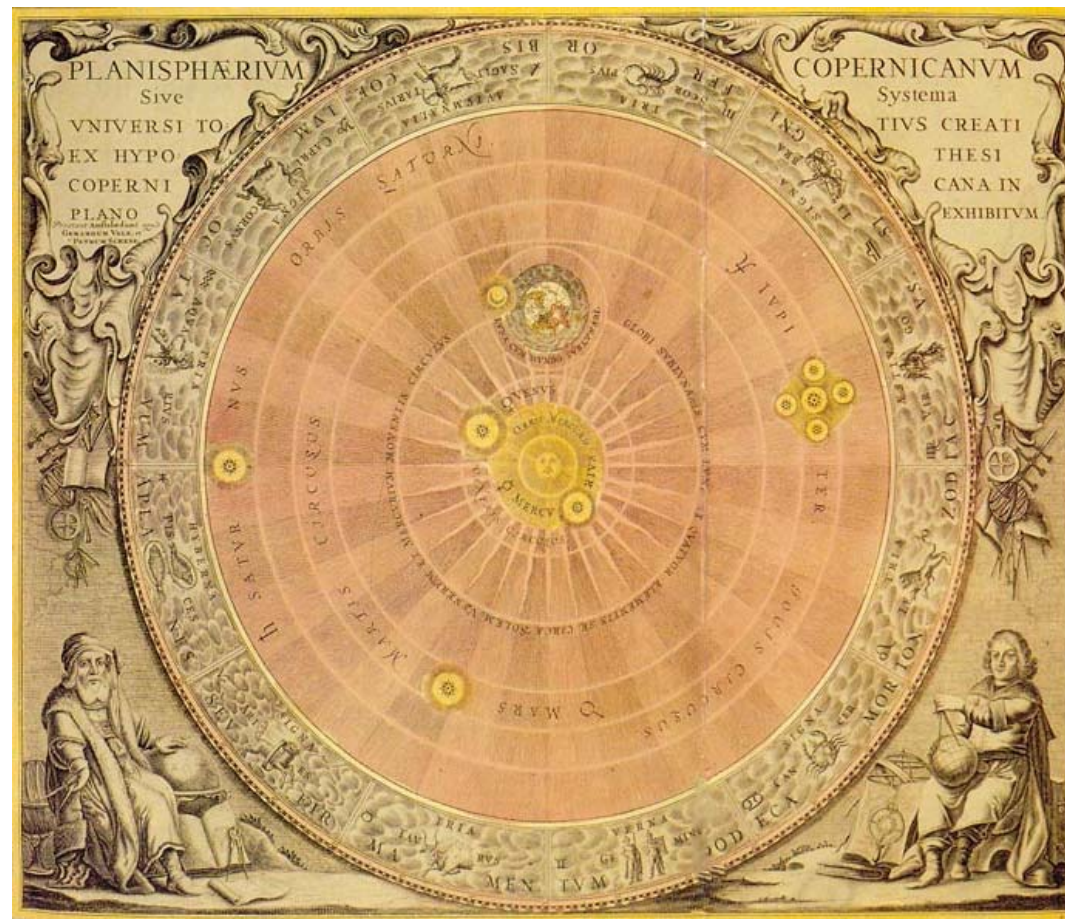
Tags

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diversity of life
evolution genetics
guest blogging
human body & health insects
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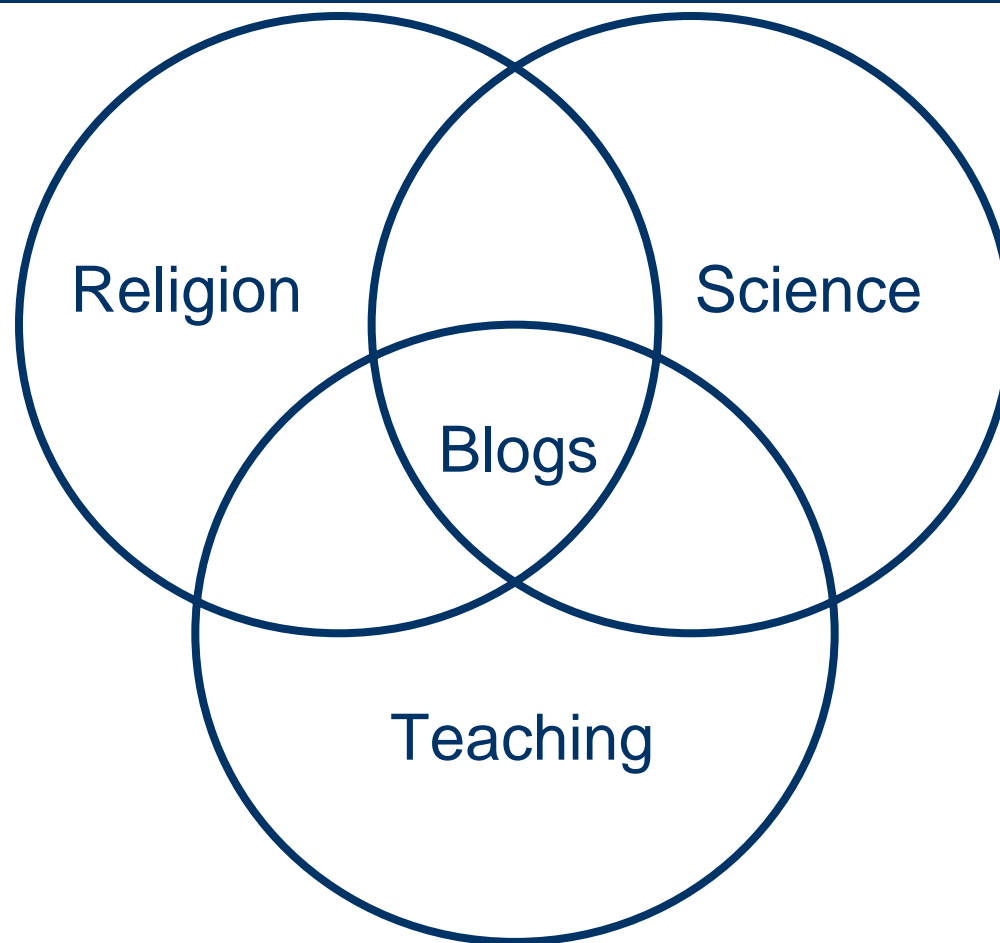
Learning from blogs and boards

- Students do (more of) the reading assignments
- Shy students can shape discussion via online contributions
- Writing exercises force (encourage?) precise thought
- Enriches class discussion

Do right, love mercy, walk humbly



A blogocentric model of intersection

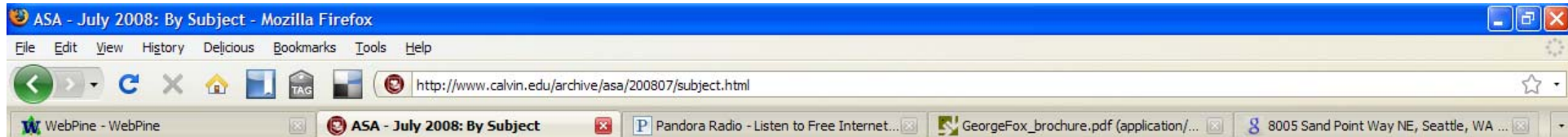


Resources

- Blogs of note
 - <http://scienceblogs.com>
 - <http://hope-for-pandora.blogspot.com>
 - <http://clashingculture.wordpress.com>
 - <http://access.aasd.k12.wi.us/Staff/Hoffman/Wpress>
- Start your own blog @
 - <http://www.blogger.com>
 - <http://www.wordpress.net>
- My contact:
 - scienceandmedicine@gmail.com

Other forms of online dialogue

- Listserv email distribution lists
- Discussion boards
- Websites
- Personal communication



ASA - July 2008 By Subject

[471 messages](#); Starting Tue Jul 01 2008 - 02:30:58 EDT, Ending Thu Jul 31 2008 - 19:04:27 EDT

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- **[asa] a test**
 - [j burg](#) (Fri Jul 11 2008 - 15:44:12 EDT)
 - [George Cooper](#) (Fri Jul 11 2008 - 15:22:30 EDT)
 - [George Murphy](#) (Fri Jul 11 2008 - 13:13:58 EDT)
- **[asa] Article - Odd Fish Find Contradicts Intelligent-Design Argument**
 - [David Campbell](#) (Thu Jul 10 2008 - 14:04:30 EDT)
 - [Jim Armstrong](#) (Thu Jul 10 2008 - 13:05:57 EDT)
 - [Murray Hogg](#) (Thu Jul 10 2008 - 12:01:23 EDT)
 - [Jim Armstrong](#) (Thu Jul 10 2008 - 11:41:51 EDT)
- **[asa] Causal Dynamical Triangulations**
 - [George Murphy](#) (Thu Jul 03 2008 - 15:03:06 EDT)
 - [Alexanian, Moorad](#) (Thu Jul 03 2008 - 14:04:15 EDT)
 - [George Murphy](#) (Thu Jul 03 2008 - 13:43:46 EDT)
 - [Randy Isaac](#) (Thu Jul 03 2008 - 10:57:58 EDT)
- **[asa] CiS Conference in London**
 - [David Opderbeck](#) (Wed Jul 09 2008 - 13:52:11 EDT)
- **[asa] Creation Museum Faith Day at the old ballpark**
 - [George Murphy](#) (Tue Jul 29 2008 - 16:43:55 EDT)
 - [Ted Davis](#) (Tue Jul 29 2008 - 12:19:00 EDT)
- **[asa] Creation Museum Faith Day at the old ballpark (scientifically agnostic)**
 - [Dehler, Bernie](#) (Tue Jul 29 2008 - 17:14:40 EDT)
- **[asa] Curricula of the Gaps**
 - [Jon Tandy](#) (Tue Jul 29 2008 - 15:49:35 EDT)
- **[asa] e o wilson**
 - [j burg](#) (Tue Jul 15 2008 - 11:26:17 EDT)