



Newsletter of the ASA & CSCA



Volume 57, Number 2

2015



Bronze praying hands sculpture at west entrance of Oral Roberts University, in the morning.

-photo by L. Matera

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY PROVED TO BE A GREAT HOST, offering warmth and hospitality, when the ASA convened there for the first time, for their 70th Annual Meeting on July 24–27, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The theme of this year's meeting, "Hearing God's Voice in Nature," and the scriptural text, "Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them" (Psalm 111:2), were captured in the spirit and content of the conference.

The conference ran from Friday evening through Monday morning and was preceded by the Friday field trips to the Redbud Valley Nature Reserve (a local geologic area), the Coventa Energy-from-Waste Facility and the Tulsa Air and Space Museum, the Philbrook Museum and Tulsa
(Annual Meeting, continued on page 3)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

From the desk of Executive ASA Director, Randy Isaac.

Enthusiasm was rampant on the Oral Roberts University campus on July 24–27, 2015, as ASA members and friends from around the world converged for fellowship, fun, food, and stimulation. The theme of “Hearing God’s Voice in Nature” was addressed from many aspects as program chair Dominic Halsmer put together a schedule packed with diverse perspectives. This issue of the newsletter is devoted to a brief summary of this event as seen through photos and accounts of attendees.

Once again, our experience in Tulsa reinforced the importance of personal interaction. Written documents, electronic resources, emails, blogs, and other less personal interactions are widespread and valuable but should not replace the effectiveness of seeing one another face to face. Worshipping together as brothers and sisters in Christ, rising above any differences of opinion on specific issues, our hearts were stirred and inspired. While the talks can be heard and read online, the personal discussions remain in our hearts.

We announced three exciting ASA initiatives in Tulsa:

1. The NEXUS Community Connection is an online discussion forum, through the ASA website under the Forum menu, designed to connect students and full members through intentional conversations on topics of personal and professional interest. Join the dynamic conversations by sharing your experience and your questions.
2. The Resources on Science and Christian Faith site, which facilitates access to ASA resources, is now featured on our homepage. Check it out and forward the link to all your friends and followers.
3. The booklet “When God & Science Meet,” a joint project of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA), is now available. Single copies can be purchased from NAE. Quantities of 10 to 100 can be purchased from our online store for the cost of shipping and handling.

You too can experience this fellowship next year in Azusa, California, when we meet from July 22–25, 2016, at Azusa Pacific University (APU). Located about 25 miles from Los Angeles, it is a great location for a summer retreat. Michael Everest is planning an excellent program on the theme “Brain, Mind, and Faith,” and we will be featuring the 75th anniversary of the founding of the American Scientific Affiliation. Mark it on your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

Knowing that not everyone can attend the annual meeting and that a once-a-year event leaves a lot of time in between, it is important to establish and encourage local ASA chapters. Several regions have thriving ASA chapters that facilitate this personal interaction several times a year. Is there one in your region? If not, would you consider starting one? It only takes three ASA members to establish a chapter. Check out the procedure to start one at <http://network.asa3.org/?page=StartChapter> and get in touch with us if you are interested.

See you at APU next July!

Randy

ANNUAL MEETING *(Continued from page 1)*

Historical Society, and the Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa. On the ORU campus, an all-day workshop featured Ted Davis from Messiah College, who gave an overview of work done by others in recent years on the history of the relationship between science and religion, and by Bob Russell, Ian G. Barbour Chair of Theology and Science, Center for Theology and Natural Science, who is known for his decades of research in science and religion.

Randy Isaac, ASA executive director, officially kicked off the conference. The first of four plenary sessions, featured ASA/CSCA's own Bethany Sollereder, research coordinator at the University of Oxford. In her lecture entitled, "Blood, Fire, and Fang: Listening for God in the Violence of Creation," Sollereder offered a theodicy of nonhuman suffering. People, classifying nature into genera and species, in the process are caught putting it into a category separate from humanity, "red in tooth and claw" as once aptly noted by the famed physicist the late Charles Townes quoting the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson. From studying a number of models, she outlined the "phenomenological markers" of God's love that include God allowing self-development within



Plenary Speaker Bethany Sollereder

the freedom he leaves to creation, and who is not detached but who we know shares in the joys and suffering of the creatures of his earth. In deciding from her own field of theodicy—which addresses the challenge to our faith posed by the existence of suffering in our world—on the question of where to draw the boundary between God's creatures for whom he feels compassion and mere inanimate or detached nature, Bethany considered, among other things in her talk, the degree to which suffering nature is mitigated or, citing Colossians 1:12–20, redeemable through Christ.

This perspective gained further context in the prerecorded second plenary address, "Natural Theology: Seeing God's Fingerprints in Creation" (with live interactive Q&A), by Professor of Science and Religion at Oxford Alister McGrath. He situated the beginning of the conception of God as architect or great mathematician in the late 17th century that, continuing to the present, helped to incorporate science and reason into the "congruence" view, as now termed by Polkinghorne. Thus, for more than a century, we have had decreasing difficulty in seeing the fingerprints of God in nature or, in the words of our conference theme, in "Hearing the Voice of God in Nature."



Plenary Speaker Alister McGrath

In the third plenary address "Covenant Realism: How Love Is at the Core of All Things," Esther Meek of Geneva College, Pennsylvania, spoke on the "defective epistemic default" in seeing knowledge as simply data, and outlined an approach of "trusting reality," in which science and faith take part. We can read



Plenary Speaker Esther Meek

(For more on the Annual Meeting, see page 4.)

ANNUAL MEETING *(Continued from page 3)*

more about her long-time interest in the work of older scientist-turned philosopher Michael Polanyi in a forthcoming book in which she plans to present his realism and apply current advances in phenomenology.

The fourth plenary talk, "The Breath of God and the Light of Nature: Toward a Pneumatology-Science Dialogue" added, in this broad context, a theology of nature that can inform science. Fuller Professor of Theology and Mission Amos Yong in his lecture considered this as being in the same tradition of ASA's work on the dialogue between science and religion. He offered a Pentecostal/charismatic component of that dialogue as an addition to Christological and Trinitarian approaches, reiterating the importance of pneumatology.



Plenary Speaker Amos Yong

In addition to these talks and thoughtful discussion during the plenary sessions, three parallel sessions, comprising more than 50 contributed presentations that covered a wide range of topics, spanned three days. Meal times and breaks between sessions offered opportunities for informal discussion.

The 2015 Meeting especially featured CWIS *(see separate article page 5)*, who sponsored three panel discussions as well as an afternoon pre-meeting field trip/architectural tour at the Boston Avenue Methodist Church, that included a 1½-hour group discussion led by Lynn Billman with CWIS members, field trip participants, and interested church members, allowing for all attending to share personal experiences related to faith, work, school, and family. The art deco-style church, designed in the late 1920s by Adah Robinson, a female Quaker art professor at University of Tulsa, represents one of the finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in that style. Tulsa is known as one of the Art Deco capitals for its concentration of such buildings, and the church demonstrates the design philosophy of "Form follows function," as attested by many architects who have toured the building.



Boston Avenue Methodist Church,
Stained Glass Details, Main Chapel, Upper
Mezzanine (above) and Ceiling (below)
photos by L. Matera

The CWIS tour was complemented by sessions based on design in nature. A session entitled "Revelation" explored the relationship of nature to the divine, and complex-specific information to fundamental values. A similar focus was re-echoed as a theme of research presented in later sessions entitled "Information and Complexity" and "Design in Nature," as well as of necessary related future research, such as in theodicy as suggested by Dominic Halsmer and Man Ho Chen.



(For more on the Annual Meeting, see page 6.)

CWIS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The “Faith, Gender, and Career Panel Discussions” at the 2015 annual conference focused on the very practical aspects of career, family, and church in the life of a Christian woman working in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). Organized by the Christian Women



CWIS Panel (l to r): Faith Tucker, Leslie Wickman, Anne Marie Thro, Kathryn Applegate, Lynn Billman

in Science (CWIS), an affiliate of the ASA, the panel consisted of women speakers. However, both women and men were welcome to participate.

The purpose of this panel session was to provide a forum for sharing personal experiences related to work and life balance in technical careers. Panel members in various career stages suggested some best practices and attendees (both female and male) asked questions that addressed issues that arise in attempting to live out our Christian vocations in our STEM-related occupations as well in our family and church commitments. The session also emphasized ways to encourage spiritual development, manage stress, and find time for joy in leisure activities. Gayle Ermer moderated the discussions.



CWIS Panel Moderator
Gayle Ermer

In addition, the CWIS reserved a special cafeteria section for women to lunch together on Saturday, and held an “idea meeting” on Saturday evening that was open to all CWIS members and interested ASA members.

Lynn Billman (CWIS Board Member and ASA Fellow) states that CWIS “exists to encourage Christian women of all ages to pursue, sustain, and grow in a career in science, technology, engineering or math, and to encourage women in these endeavors to pursue, sustain, and grow in the Christian faith. Both men and women ASA members can join the CWIS affiliate by adding CWIS to his or her personal profile. We currently have 195 members.” Sign up as a member to receive periodic e-mails about CWIS, or to read their “Lifting Up Stories,” which highlight eight exemplary CWIS members discussing their faith and work, and their blog with its numerous indexed articles of interest to women in science and related fields at <http://network.asa3.org/group/CWIS>.

2015 ASA Annual Meeting at Tulsa Oral Roberts University



ANNUAL MEETING *(Continued from page 4)*

Other theological and scientific sessions had themes organized around separate disciplines, such as biblical studies, earth science, mind sciences, and biology. Practical sessions included Missions, Creation Care, and Sustainable Development exploring science, technology, and the environment from a faith perspective. The presenters ranged from undergrads to grad students to post-Docs to PhDs. Audio/video recordings of the talks are available on the ASA website.

An InterVarsity reception Saturday evening featured the Emerging Scholars Network.

At the "State of the ASA" meeting, Executive Director Randy Isaac announced three new initiatives (*details, p. 2*), and Director of *(For more on the Annual Meeting, see page 8.)*



Dominic Halsmer



Man Ho Chan



Group photo of Volleyball Players by Kathryn Applegate



Oral Roberts University Prayer Tower

The 2015 ASA Annual Meeting at Oral Roberts University brought together a diverse collection of members (and their families): locals from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and others from places all across the United States and Canada; some participants originated from such distant places as Hong Kong, Jamaica, Nigeria, and Peru. The Annual Meeting provided many opportunities for scientists and others in related fields who might feel isolated in their profession to hear or get to know scientists who share the same faith. Social times included a Friday night mixer at the Hammer Student Center and optional activities Saturday night. Members could choose to participate in a volleyball tournament (played in the sweltering humidity at ORU); or play a game of chess, pool, or foosball; or watch the movie *Gravity*; or attend a CWIS gathering.



ANNUAL MEETING *(Continued from page 6)*

Business Development Vicki Best kept an update of the finances lively by interspersing door prizes. Randy introduced the five new Fellows for 2015 *(see photo and announcement, page 11)*, remembered ASA members who are now in Glory, and recognized nine men who have been members of ASA for 50 years: Myron Mann, Kenneth Olson, Peter Rüst, John May, L. William Yoder, Albert Smith, Stuart Hayes, Gordon Brown, and James Moore. Looking ahead to next year's Annual Meeting in Southern California at Azusa Pacific University (APU) Leslie Wickman, APU professor, presented a PowerPoint slideshow (available on the ASA website). Grace Buchanan gave a moving testimony of what the ASA means to her and her husband Scott.



50-Year ASA Member William Yoder with Executive Director Randy Isaac

Hannah Ryan, Students and Early Career Scientists Representative, invited the students and early career scientists to meet with the plenary speakers on Sunday night. CEST (Christian Engineers

For more on the Annual Meeting, see page 9.)

ANNUAL MEETING *(Continued from page 8)*

and Scientists in Technology) met Sunday night as well.



Steve Ball, Cosmology Speaker

The Cosmology, Theology, and Divine Action sessions left little out of their running discussion, with ten talks in the course of the three days. Steve Ball opened the Cosmology parallel session the last morning on the conference theme with his talk, "Cosmology for Everyone," using photos from the Hubble Space Telescope to help us see, like the Psalmist, "the heavens, the work of your [God's] fingers ..." (from Psalm 8). Ball, professor of physics at LeTourneau University in Texas, provided a framework for that concluding discussion, based on these and other recent astronomical data.

Next Gerald Cleaver of Baylor University spoke on the new multiverse-centric paradigm, a shift in theory from a single inflationary universe. Cleaver also provided the results of a survey of the beliefs of Americans regarding God's engagement with creation.

Theologian George Murphy, former adjunct professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, further critiqued during the Q&A as specious the "grandeur" argument which, from the new data showing the vastness of the cosmos, has been made as an attempt to show an inconsistency of God's engagement with creation.

Picking up on the topic of belief again, in the last Cosmology presentation, ORU research by Andrew Lang and Caleb Lutz led to a discussion of the role of a higher power in their developing understanding of the universe.

Aside from the academic proceedings, ten exhibitors (AAAS DoSER, ASA, BioLogos, Christian Women in Science, Fuller Theological Seminary, Global Scholars, InterVarsity Emerging Scholars Network, Nexus Forums, Novare Science and Math, and Solid Rock Lectures), and a clerk from the ORU bookstore manned tables during the Meeting.

As attendees reflected on their experiences, ASA received positive feedback from many. In answer to the question, "What did you like best about the meeting?"

Said one member, "The friendliness and helpfulness of the folks at ORU. I also really liked the topic: I'm so glad that we had a meeting with a number of talks on the Holy Spirit's work and included work from the Pentecostal/charismatic tradition;"

Another commented, "The interactions with people were exhilarating and helpful. There is no other context that is so fascinating and useful for hearing the thoughts of Christians in science. I'm thankful for the ASA!"

Yet another responded, "The interactions between attendees: Conversations, encouragement, discussions and debates. Iron sharpens iron. I especially enjoyed seeing interactions between the younger and older members of ASA."

We extend warm and sincere thanks to Program Chair Dominic Halsmer, Local Arrangements Chair Wes Odom, and the ORU conference staff for a well-organized meeting.

The next Annual Meeting will take place at Azusa Pacific University, July 22–25, 2016.



George Murphy,
Divine Action Speaker





MEMBERS IN GLORY

Hessel (“Bud”) Bouma III of Grand Rapids, Michigan, whose career as Professor of Biology at Calvin College spanned 37 years, died on May 2, 2015. He was 64. A member of the Church of the Servant, Bud’s tenure at Calvin College followed a post-doctoral research fellowship at University of California at San Diego, after receiving his PhD in human genetics from University of Texas Medical Branch. A member of ASA since 1974, Bud was very active in annual meetings and with the local section, and published in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith (PSCF)*. He was head of the former ASA bioethics commission, an ASA Fellow, and served on the ASA Council for a five-year term. In addition, he was a member of the *PSCF* Editorial Board, serving since 2008. Bud also published various articles dealing with science and ethics, and co-authored a book entitled *Christian Faith, Health and Medical Practice* (Eerdmans, 1989). Bud is survived by his wife Ruth of 43 years, and four children, Christopher, Brian, Amy, and Laura.

Daniel Harcourt Osmond, a founding member of the CSCA who had a deep and extensive influence on both its founding in 1973 and its development, died on April 25, 2015. He was 80 years old. A part-time farmer, maple syrup producer, and beekeeper, Dan received his PhD from the University of Toronto, where he subsequently worked on projects and taught as Professor of Physiology and Medicine and Associate Chair until his retirement. A lifelong Christian, he continually promoted the need to integrate the historic Christian worldview with solid scientific thinking. He participated very actively in the sessions at the joint ASA/CSCA/CiS meeting last summer in 2014 at McMaster, and it had been under Dan’s urging that John Walton was brought in for the special workshop on Genesis. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Faith Margaret (Kilburn), two sons, Mark and Paul, and two daughters, Grace and Deborah, as well as six grandchildren.

John (“Jack”) M. Templeton, Jr., passed away May 16, 2015. Born in New York City in 1940, he spent his childhood in Englewood, New Jersey, and Winchester, Tennessee. As a young boy, he attended Englewood public schools, the George School (a Quaker school in PA), and received his BA in history from Yale. He received his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1968, and completed his residency in surgery from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. There he also met Josephine Gargiulo (“Pina”) who was studying to be a pediatric anesthesiologist. They married in 1970.

Jack trained and served as a pediatric surgeon at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. He spent two years as U.S. Naval physician, and was later director of the trauma program back at Children’s. He then entered teaching, as a professor of pediatric surgery at the University of Pennsylvania until his retirement. He joined his father’s foundation, where he became the John Templeton Foundation president and chairman.

ETERNAL MEMORY. ETERNAL MEMORY.
GRANT TO YOUR SERVANT(S), O LORD,
BLESSED REPOSE AND ETERNAL MEMORY.

Prayer for the departed of the Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches

Welcome, New Members!

January–March 2015

Abraham, Andrew –Manassas, VA
 Beam, Stephen –Whittier, CA
 Bellenir, Karen –Farmville, VA
 Braganza, Morgan –Kitchener, ON
 Braunecker, Wade –Lafayette, CO
 Brown, Shelley –Somerville, MA
 Caldwell, Robert –Hastings, NE
 Carts, Lisa –Fullerton, CA
 Commins, Ian –Antioch, CA
 Connell, Joseph –Browns Mills, NJ
 Crick, Justin –Milpitas, CA
 Crites, Roger –Lake Saint Louis, MO
 Curtis, Bryan –Oceanside, CA
 De Castro, Abel –Arcadia, CA
 Figueroa, Robert –Redwood City, CA
 Francis, Carrie –Madison, WI
 Friesen, Chris –Warren, MB
 Grace, Peter –Melbourne, FL
 Green, Joel –Pasadena, CA
 Haney, Fallon –Riverside, CA
 Hiett, Peter –Morrison, CO
 Hillwig, Todd –Valparaiso, IN
 Hoppin, Ruth –Daly City, CA
 Horikiri, Susan –New Westminster, BC
 Howard, Allen –Houston, TX
 Howell, Drew –Tulsa, OK
 Janssen, Luke –Dundas, ON
 Kallio, Kalyn –Anaheim, CA
 Kearney, Christopher –Woodway, TX
 LeGault, Joe –Roanoke, VA
 Lugo, Carlos –Boca Raton, FL
 MacLean, Kersty –Wenham, MA
 Mallery, Mitchell –Elgin, IL
 Marshall, Brittany –Reading, MA
 McCord, Kristin –Saugus, CA
 Meyer, David –Victorville, CA
 Monzon, Javier –Coram, NY
 Morley, Carson –Layton, UT
 Naughton, Noel –St. Paul, MN
 Parker, Wes –Vancouver, BC
 Paul, Jocelyn –St. Davids, PA
 Pearce, Lauren –Minneapolis, MN
 Rorem, Nadine –Wheaton, IL

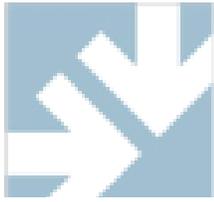
Rueben, Matthew –Corvallis, OR
 Ryan, Emily –Wenham, MA
 Shiraef, John –Lookout Mountain, GA
 Shiver, Joshua –Auburn, AL
 Skodvin, Torbjorn –Tromso, Troms, Norway
 Smith, Carroll –Roanoke, VA
 Smith, Daniel –Baton Rouge, LA
 Sowa, Walter –Toronto, ON
 Strelau, Matthew –Surrey, BC
 Teague, Craig –Mount Vernon, IA
 Twigger, Dianne –Springfield, MO
 Umesiri, Francis –Siloam Springs, AR
 VanDusen, Nathan –Brighton, MA
 Varley, Harrison –Edmonton, AB
 Vernon, John –Azusa, CA
 Visscher, Darcy –Edmonton, AB
 Wary, Clyde –Socorro, NM
 Weber, Bethany –Suffolk, VA
 Weese, Zeb –Midway, KY
 Weerner, Yvonne –Truro, NS
 Whisler, Jaren –Concordia, MO
 Zygmunt, Stan –Valparaiso, IN

NEW FELLOWS ANNOUNCED

During the “State of the ASA” meeting at the Annual Meeting in Tulsa, the newest ASA Fellows were announced. We’ll be introducing these five Fellows in an upcoming issue.



Executive Director Randy Isaac (far left), standing beside the new Fellows present at ASA’s 2015 Annual Meeting (left to right): Robin Rylaarsdam, Kathryn Applegate, and Robert J. Russell. Two additional new Fellows, Gladys Kober and Ralph Stearley, were unable to attend.



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Hope to see you in 2016,
at the next
ASA Annual Meeting at
Azusa Pacific University!
July 22–25



Photo by Vicki Best