

Newsletter of the ASA & CSCA

VOLUME 57 • NUMBER 3 • 2015

Meet the new ASA/CSCA Fellows

The ASA/CSCA selects its Fellows from among our members who have been part of the organization for five years or more and demonstrate a commitment to Christian service at work, at home, and through participating in ASA/CSCA events and publications. Join us in congratulating them!



Kathryn Applegate

For many people, summer camp means silly songs and S'mores. For Kathryn Applegate, it also meant the start of her faith in Christ. While attending a camp for Christian girls at the age of 9, she became a believer. Her Baptist heritage instilled a strong desire to share her faith, something she's now delighted to do as Program Director at BioLogos. In her role there, she speaks and writes on science and faith topics and engages in both science and faith communities. She also oversaw the three year Evolution & Christian Faith grant program, which finished in August 2015.

Kathryn had many opportunities to share her faith in the lab across the

course of her education (she holds a PhD in computational cell biology from The Scripps Research Institute), but she also faced a significant personal challenge in college: doubt. She felt underprepared to engage with what she calls “the onslaught of ‘isms’” she encountered in college, including pluralism and naturalism, and spent years sorting through doubts about biblical truth and interpretation. She says, “Looking back, I can see that God was preparing me to encourage other people who had similar questions, especially ones generated by science.”

Kathryn's current job at BioLogos gives her plenty of opportunity to support people sorting through those questions. She has organized Evolution and Christian Faith conferences at Gordon College, Oxford University, and Grand Valley State University. Other conferences she has facilitated for BioLogos include BioLogos professional development conferences for middle and high school science teachers, and Celebrating Creation conferences for evangelical thought leaders. In

addition, she's given interviews on science and faith in *Relevant* magazine and *Today's Christian Woman*.

She has also been able to engage faith/science questions as a member of ASA. She presented a talk at the 2011 ASA Annual Meeting entitled “Science Has Limits: Why Methodological Naturalism Is A Good Thing,” and subsequently published a paper titled “A Defense of Methodological Naturalism” in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*. Her upcoming activities include InterVarsity Press's publication of a book she coedited with J.B. Stump, *How I Changed My Mind about Evolution: Evangelicals Reflect on Faith and Science* (forthcoming 2016).

Kathryn notes, “I love the fact that many of the people who attend the annual meetings have been ASA members for decades—they know each other well and return every summer, like birds in seasonal migration. Yet despite their long history, they warmly embrace new folks, too. All who love Christ and science are welcome here.”



Director's Corner

From the desk of Executive Director, Randy Isaac

With this issue we are delighted to introduce our new editor, Hannah Eagleson. We are most grateful to Chris and Laurie Matera who served as interim editors for the last three issues.

Hannah has agreed to work part-time for the ASA as a communications writer, which includes editing the newsletter. She continues her work as a part-time communications writer for the Emerging Scholars Network (ESN), a national ministry of InterVarsity which supports graduate students and early career faculty members. Hannah has a doctorate in English literature from the University of Delaware. While studying theology and poetry in the English Renaissance, she also enjoyed learning about the history of science in the period when opportunities arose. Thanks to her association with both the ASA and the ESN, we look forward to closer cooperation with graduate students throughout the country.

In this issue, Hannah introduces us to the five new Fellows who were inducted at our annual meeting in Tulsa in July. Each one brings a wealth of experience and stature in the field of science and faith. ASA Fellows are nominated and elected by current ASA Fellows based on the



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more experienced members, and to enhance the personal growth of all members through strengthening the member community. The Nexus Forum is open to all ASA members. Log in to your membership account through the ASA website. Click on Forums, and select Nexus Forum. Students may sign up for a free Student Basic ASA membership. Additional membership types are available through the ASA website (asa3.org).

Introducing the ASA Nexus Forum

The ASA Nexus Forum is an online discussion forum, through the ASA website, designed to connect Student and Full members through intentional conversations on topics of personal and professional interest. The purpose of these intentional conversations is to facilitate the development of young Christians in Science through the sharing of experience and advice by

degree to which they meet at least two of three criteria: contributions to ASA, contributions to the field of science and Christian faith, and distinction in their own scientific discipline. Approximately 10% of ASA members are Fellows. According to the ASA constitution, members of the executive council can be selected only from the group of Fellows and are elected by all ASA members who are eligible to vote.

Speaking of the vote for a council member, stay tuned for the ballot coming your way soon to elect the council member who will succeed Keith Miller on April 1, 2016. Two excellent candidates will be on the ballot. John Wood is professor of biology and environmental studies, The King's University, Edmonton, Alberta. He is also dean of the natural sciences faculty. Uko Zylstra

is professor of biology emeritus, Calvin College and is former dean of natural sciences and mathematics and contextual disciplines. The ballot will have more detailed information on their backgrounds and their vision for the ASA.

The role of the executive council is a vital one for the ASA. You can read more about their responsibilities in the constitution and bylaws. The five members of the executive council meet in person twice a year and by Skype and electronic communication in between meetings. As I mentioned, the Fellows are the pool from which ASA council members are chosen; therefore the selection of Fellows is crucial to the future of ASA. Pray with us that God will bring the right leaders into office who will continue the ministry of our organization.

The Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA is published quarterly for its membership by the American Scientific Affiliation.

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Meet the new ASA/CSCA Fellows continued



Ralph Stearley

Not everyone can list “directed mastodon excavation” on their CV, but Ralph Stearley can. Not everyone has a species of catfish named for him or her, either. But in 2011 one of Ralph’s students, thankful for Ralph’s influence on his career, named a species discovered in Venezuela after him. Ralph’s published research includes work on marine invertebrate ecology and paleoecology, fluvial taphonomy, the systematics and evolution of salmonid fishes, and Pleistocene mammalian biogeography.

Ralph’s commitment to teaching is evident in many ways, from his career as a professor at Calvin College to his summer teaching for the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, a Christian educational institution that provides college students with courses and research experience in field ecology and environmental stewardship. Ralph has taught or team taught several courses for Au Sable, including classes on ichthyology, field geology, and land resources. Since 1988, he has also taught faith and science courses for his church and others, and he recently codirected a summer seminar for early career Christian paleontologists/evolutionary biologists through a BioLogos grant.

Teaching allows Ralph to help others work through questions of faith and science which faced him early in his

career. Ralph grew up in a Methodist church, where he received a sound background in Bible and Christian doctrine. He made a personal decision to follow Christ at the age of 20 when some friends at his state university shared the Good News of atonement with him. He had to sort through a number of questions about how his new commitment to faith and his studies fit together. Ralph had been studying human evolution in his undergraduate anthropology degree, but put that study on hold in order to explore questions about evolution and faith. He delayed graduate studies so that he would have a chance to explore questions about Earth’s antiquity, then went on to study geology and paleontology at the University of Michigan. One goal of his teaching is to help students and others with similar questions.

Ralph also supports those with questions by publishing extensively on faith and science. With his colleague Davis Young, he coauthored *The Bible, Rocks and Time*, published by InterVarsity Press (2008). He is a contributor to the forthcoming *Zondervan Dictionary of Christianity and Science*. In addition, he has contributed to the *Christian Scholar’s Review* and to book collections such as *Not Just Science: Questions Where Christian Faith and Natural Science Intersect* and *Delight in Creation: Scientists Share their Work with the Church*.

Ralph joined the Affiliation of Christian Geologists very early in its existence, around 1990, and has been an ASA member since 2008. He has published a number of articles and book reviews in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* and has another review forthcoming in *PSCF*.



Gladys Kober

Stars provoked an existential crisis for Gladys Kober as an undergraduate. An astronomy major at the Federal University of Brazil, Gladys had trusted in Christ for most of her life when she faced a deep crisis of belief. One day while looking at a photographic plate showing a cluster of galaxies, she was overwhelmed by their vastness. She says: “How shocked I felt. It is one thing to hear galaxies exist. It is another to understand what one single galaxy really is—the number of stars it contains.”

Gladys was firmly convinced that God existed; she was amazed by the “wisdom and ingenuity that underlies the laws of physics” and couldn’t imagine that it didn’t come from God. But, she says, “for 2 long years I was confused about the identity of the Designer of the Universe. If He was an impersonal force or someone I could have a relationship with; I was really not sure at all . . . I started to question in a healthy way all the basis of my Christian faith.”

The answer came when God started to reveal himself to Gladys in a new way. At the church she was attending, she saw deep life transformations among people in the homeless ministry. She says, “Among the homeless population in Rio you find murderers, drug dealers, robbers, and lonely people completely numb to life. Society looks at them as embarrassing trash, and this is just how they feel about themselves. I saw Jesus accepting and transforming

them. Loving them, lifting them up, cleansing them, and breaking the strong walls of hatred and rejection in their hearts.”

The experience of watching that transformation convinced Gladys that God had revealed himself: “I realized the love and forgiveness offered through Jesus was too generous to be a story invented by humans. . . . I’m fascinated by his personality, and by his love. He is my reason for hope and joy, I could not imagine living without him.”

Gladys continues to love astronomy as well. She went on to get an MS in astrophysics from the National Observatory of Brazil and is currently a data analyst for Goddard Space Flight Center/National Aeronautics and Space Administration (GSFC/NASA), having previously served as an astronomer for a planetarium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She has worked analyzing data of Eta Carinae, Cassiopeia A and cool giant stars. She received a peer award from GSFC/NASA in 2005. She also finds time to teach, having taught astronomy for both Towson University (MD) and Montgomery College (MD).

Gladys shares her passion for faith and science with others in a number of ways. She has presented several times at the ASA Annual Meeting, and taught adult Sunday school classes on faith and science.

This year, Gladys made another large contribution to faith/science conversations with a textbook for homeschool and Christian school students, *The Crossroads of Science and Faith: Astronomy Through a Christian Worldview* (Glimpse of His Splendor Publishing, 2015). Cowritten with Susan Benecchi and Paula Gossard, the textbook helps high school students to explore questions of faith and science while learning astronomy.

More detail can be found at the website for the textbook: <www.GlimpseofHisSplendor.com>.



Robin Pals-Rylaarsdam

“Part of my calling as a biologist is hearing God’s voice in the tiniest parts of the living world,” says Robin, Professor and Chair of biological sciences at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL. Discovering God was a slowly unfolding process in Robin’s early life. Surrounded by Christian family and friends as a child, she was blessed with parents who supported and encouraged her questioning and exploration of faith. She says, “Over time, the faith became my own; I understood that following Christ was not simply living like others around me, but a personal dedication of my own life to God’s calling.”

Robin’s attention to the biological world inspired her to do a PhD in molecular biology and genetics at Northwestern University, fellowships at the University of Chicago and Northwestern, and teaching at Azusa Pacific and Trinity Christian College before she accepted her current position at Benedictine.

In addition to recent research publications in the *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology*, Robin also contributed a chapter to the book *Science Stories You Can Count On: 51 Case Studies with Quantitative Reasoning in Biology* (2014).

Robin is also active in exploring faith/science questions, both with other believers and with secular scientists.

She contributed a case study and teaching notes to the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science at the University at Buffalo entitled “The Evolution of Creationism: Critically Appraising Intelligent Design.” She also writes book reviews for ASA’s journal *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*.

Robin’s extensive engagement with ASA includes serving as book review editor in biology/evolution/ecology topics for *PSCF* from 2012–2014, doing peer review for the journal from 2007 to the present, giving a presentation at the 2006 Annual Meeting, and supporting students from her lab in poster presentations at ASA annual meetings. She says, “I appreciate the ASA for the longstanding graciousness members have shown to each other, even when engaging in serious debates on faith and science issues from different viewpoints. I believe the ASA is an example of how Christian unity and love can exist in the presence of real and substantial disagreement on issues that members care deeply about.”

Robin’s commitment to mentoring students in research is also evident elsewhere in her teaching career. She has mentored over 30 undergraduates in research activities since 2000. Many of these lab alums are now health care professionals, and four are pursuing or have earned their PhDs in experimental biology.

In addition to flourishing as a research scientist and professor, Robin also draws encouragement from the Benedictine traditions which shape her institution: “Working today at a Catholic and Benedictine university, I am challenged by their incarnational view of life, looking more to see Christ in others—my husband and son, coworkers, students. I am also trying to make prayer and hospitality more a part of the ebb and flow of

my every day, just as the Benedictine monks have done for centuries.”



Robert John Russell

Robert John Russell has been referenced over 100 times in ASA publications, so it's no surprise that he is one of this year's ASA Fellows. As founder and director of The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS), and the Ian G. Barbour Professor of Theology and Science at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), Berkeley, Bob is profoundly committed to discussing the intersection of faith and science.

CTNS explores the intersection of science and faith, especially focusing on physics, cosmology, evolutionary biology, and genetics and also engaging with neuroscience, environmental science, and mathematics in the ecumenical and inter-faith context of the GTU. CTNS faculty offer doctoral and seminary level courses to support future faculty and clergy in their understanding of faith and science. CTNS also publishes the peer-reviewed journal *Theology and Science* in partnership with Taylor & Francis, a division of Routledge.

Bob has served as principal investigator of three CTNS international research and teaching programs funded by the John Templeton Foundation, most recently the Science and Transcendence Advanced Research Series. He has served on the John Templeton Foundation Board of Advisors since

its inception and has been a judge for the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

Bob has published more than 92 scholarly and popular articles on faith and science. Two recent books include *Time in Eternity: Pannenberg, Physics and Eschatology in Creative Mutual Interaction* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame, 2012) and *Cosmology: From Alpha to Omega* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008). He has also edited more than 15 books, including a six-volume series copublished with the Vatican Observatory on the general theme “scientific perspectives on divine action.” The series includes such topics as quantum cosmology and the laws of nature; chaos and complexity; evolutionary and molecular biology; neuroscience and the person; and quantum mechanics.

Bob's interdisciplinary interests began early: as an undergraduate at Stanford, he triple-majored in physics, religion, and music. After his MS in physics at UCLA, he earned an MA/MDiv in theology and science from the Pacific School of Religion and then a PhD in experimental physics from the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 1996, CTNS created the Ian G. Barbour Chair of Theology and Science in Residence at the GTU which Bob holds. He recently taught an MDiv course on Christian theology and natural science, and a PhD course on eschatology and cosmology. He was ordained in 1978 to Specialized Ministry to Higher Education by the United Church of Christ, Congregational.

He says, “One of the things I treasure about the ASA is that our shared faith in Jesus Christ is more important than the differences we have in how to relate science and religion.”

Member in Glory



Austin Anthis (1928–2015)

Austin Forrest Anthis, Jr., born September 28, 1928, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on April 22, 2015, at the age of 86. Austin served as an ASA Fellow and was an ASA member for 59 years. Austin was a strong advocate for ASA doing more to help churches deal with issues of science and faith. He urged that ASA produce material for laity in addition to its academic publications. He earned a BS in chemical engineering from Rice University (1950) and later a PhD in chemical engineering from Lawrence College in Wisconsin. After graduation, he met his beloved wife Norma Ann at Houston's South Main Baptist Church, and they were married in August of 1959. They had two children, Laurie and Joel.

Austin was a faithful husband and father. He served his family and others with a kind and gentle spirit that was admired by all those who knew him. He was also an accomplished professional engineer but more than anything he was a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Nothing gave Austin greater joy than to see his children walking in a living relationship with Jesus and living according to the word of God. He was a long time dedicated member of Houston's First Baptist Church where he was active in missions. In his retirement years, he found great joy in prison ministry and Christian discipleship through InnerChange Freedom Initiative and Kairos Prison Ministry.



THE MYSTERY OF THE COSMOLOGICAL CONSTANTS: Evidence for the Existence of God?



On October 2, the ASA Boston Chapter gathered in the Thirsty Ear at MIT to hear two ASA Fellows present opposite views of the above question.

Walter Bradley explored the awesome features of the values of constants such as the speed of light, the mass of the electron, and the force of gravity. The slightest deviation of their values would have rendered life as we know it impossible. He argued that this amazing and complex set of parameters was clear evidence, though not proof, of the existence of God. Randy Isaac then warned of the danger of interpreting scientific ignorance as evidence for God. Our lack of understanding of how these constants obtained their values does not qualify as evidence for God's existence. Instead, it is scientific comprehensibility

that is the result of the doctrine of creation. The very existence of the universe and its comprehensibility is a testimony to God's creative and sustaining power. The two talks and the Q&A were recorded and can be heard online at this link: (<http://network.asa3.org/members/group.aspx?id=87261>). No matter how one answers the question in the title, the existence and power and glory of God are on display in our universe.

Walter and Randy had given their talks at the Cambridge Roundtable at the Harvard Faculty Club two days earlier (hear the recordings: <http://cambridgeroundtable.org/readings/>) and at the Brown University Roundtable the previous night. All three nights featured stimulating discussions.

Welcome, New Members! April–June 2015

Bae, Joshua
Bossier City, LA

Baughman, Matthew
Moses Lake, WA

Belicki, Kathryn
St Catharines, ON

Benek, Christopher
Plantation, FL

Calma, Nicole
Hicksville, NY

Carlson, Sharon
S. Hamilton, MA

Cieslinski, Emily
Farmingdale, ME

Dorman, Daniel
Fairfax, VA

Dunn, John
Ventnor, Godshill,
UK

Ernest, Emmalea
Ellendale, DE

Farnsworth, Christopher
Rochester, NY

Gross, Susan
South Hamilton, MA

Hampson, Robert
Nottingham, UK

Harper, John-Paul
Stellenbosch,
Western Cape,
South Africa

Harris, Elizabeth
Tucson, AZ

Herrington, Mark
Wasilla, AK

Jiang, Joshua
Great Neck, NY

Kendall, Joshua
Columbus, OH

Knowlton, Thomas
Beverly, MA

Kuehnel, Joshua
Woodstock, ON

Little, Natasha
Vancouver, BC

Lutz, Caleb
Tulsa, OK

Mantha, Jordan
Olathe, KS

Marikano, Rebecca
Mansfield, TX

Mason-McCaffrey, Deborah
Reading, MA

McCarrick, Alan
Garnet Valley, PA

Melberg, Julie
Irvine, CA

Morris, John Bradley
Peachtree City, GA

Nwadah, Nekabari
Port Harcourt, Rivers
State, Nigeria

Oh, Soojin
Cambridge, MA

Oliveira, Carlos
Brasilia, Distrito
Federal, Brazil

Parker, John
Oregon City, OR

Peddicord, Clark
Berlin, Germany

Petillo, Alice
Falls Church, VA

Rogero, Walter
Arlington, VA

Sikora, Arthur
Charlottesville, VA

Sivakumaren, Sindhu
Allston, MA

Statton, Troy
Glen Allen, VA

Treadwell, Jerry
Pine Grove, CA

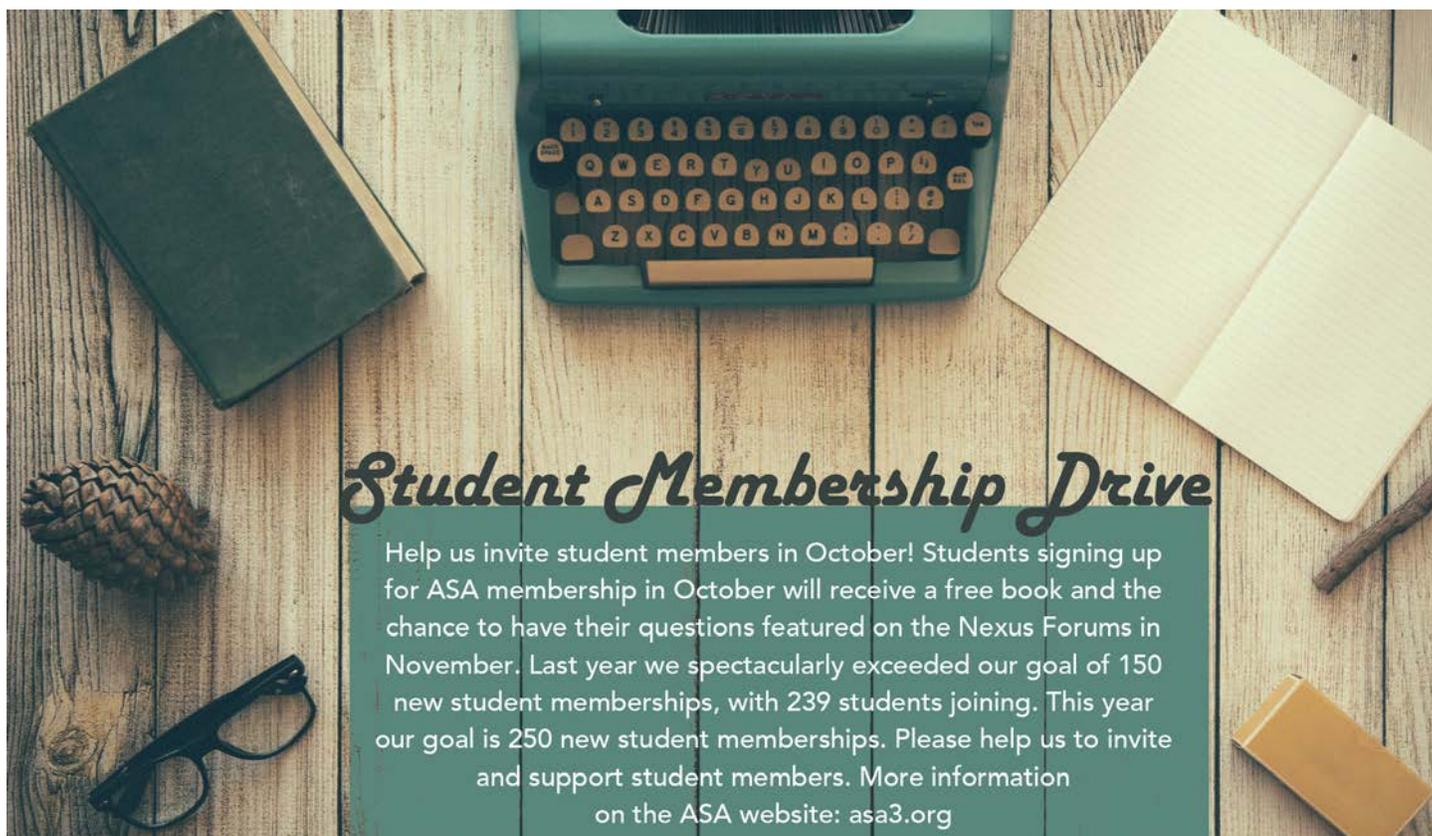
Troyer, Robert
Lewisville, TX

Weibley, Steven James
Chelmsford, MA

Williams, Elizabeth
Berkeley Lake, GA

Wilson, Paul
Tucson, AZ

Xu, Huizhi
Langley, BC



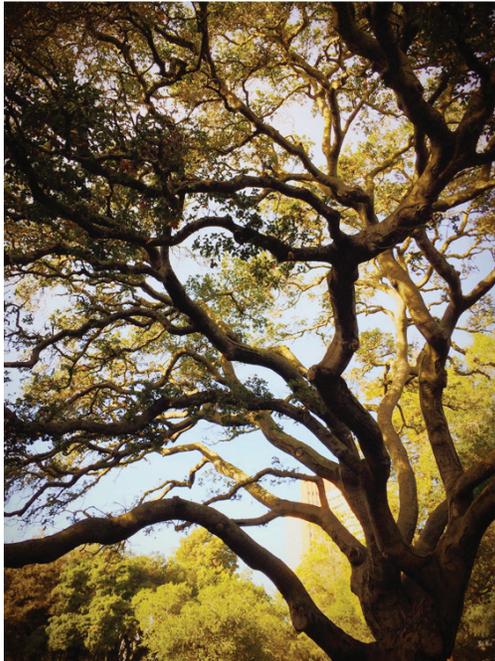
Student Membership Drive

Help us invite student members in October! Students signing up for ASA membership in October will receive a free book and the chance to have their questions featured on the Nexus Forums in November. Last year we spectacularly exceeded our goal of 150 new student memberships, with 239 students joining. This year our goal is 250 new student memberships. Please help us to invite and support student members. More information on the ASA website: asa3.org

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