



Newsletter of the ASA & CSCA

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Photo by Given Tanri

Annual Meeting Recap

By Ray Lewis and Robin Rylaarsdam

We were glad that many of you were able to join us at Wheaton College for ASA 2019, and we hope this recap stimulates good memories for those who were there and provides a vivid description for those who could not come this year. Our theme of “Exploring Creation” provided a helpful context for many excellent presentations, both from our invited plenary speakers and from the many who gave contributed talks and posters.

Astrophysicist and BioLogos President Deborah Haarsma opened the meeting on Friday evening, speaking on “Exploring Many Worlds.” She took us on a journey of exploring the cosmos and of considering the many worlds that have been detected outside our solar system, and challenged us to consider the possibilities of life out there in the context of understanding these wonders as God’s creation. Biotechnologist James Sherley led us on a journey of exploration through his own experiences, both positive and negative, of his life as a scientist. His bravely vulnerable talk deserved the standing ovation he received. Our Saturday night public lecture with biologist Kenneth Miller was both fascinating and informative as he explored the grandeur of an evolutionary explanation of God’s works, relating many recent events in which he participated that involved understanding evolution. Sunday morning we heard from physicist Gerald Gabrielse on “God Decides, We Measure.” He noted that God’s sovereignty in creation is evident through the scientist’s job of exploring creation, including measuring the inimical properties of electrons and other elementary particles. Biologist Gayle Woloschak’s talk on Sunday afternoon helped us to explore the grand sweep of

life’s history, from origin to diversity, all in the context of God’s creative action. Historian and theologian Jennifer McNutt explained Calvin’s thoughts on understanding creation through science, framing this in the context of the story of landing a man on the moon that occurred 50 years earlier. If you were there, or especially if you weren’t, you can enjoy these talks (or enjoy them again) via the recordings available on the ASA website.

Over seventy contributed talks and posters provided for the opportunity to hear a wide variety of views that explained how these presenters are exploring and understanding God’s creation. The session on “We Believe in Creation” explored the fundamental doctrine of creation in the context of our tasks as scientists and theologians, while celebrating the legacy of Richard Bube (1927–2018), who expressed the mission of the ASA in his article of the same title. At the sessions on “Teaching Faith and Science,” we heard a wide range of talks helpful to both educators and learners. The poster session was jammed with interested participants who heard from poster presenters in a more intimate and interactive format. Additional sessions on science and technology covered a variety of topics on the exploration part of our exploring creation theme. Special sessions for Christian women in science, students and early career attendees, and local chapters fostered helpful interactions and suggested practical ideas for next steps.

While the scholarship at the meeting is outstanding, many attendees thoroughly enjoy the fellowship and personal interactions at the meeting. For the third year in a row, a fresh dimension
(Cont’d on page 2)



Director's Corner



Executive Director Leslie Wickman

Dear friends –

I hope you've had a relaxing, enjoyable summer! For those of you facing new classrooms this fall, I pray that you may embrace this academic year refreshed and invigorated as you engage with bright, inquiring minds, and that you may have abundant opportunities to share your insights about God and his awe-inspiring creation.

If you had a chance to join us for the ASA 2019 Annual Meeting at Wheaton College near Chicago, you already know that "a good time was had by all," across a wide array of lectures, workshops, field trips, and social events. Registration numbers surpassed 300 once again for the third year in a row. It seems that every year we hear attendees say, "This was the best Annual Meeting yet!" From my perspective, this success is due to God actively blessing and multiplying the efforts of the enthusiastic on-site planning teams, the dedicated Boston office staff, and all of our extraordinary members who contribute and participate.

One of my favorite parts of each Annual Meeting—besides having the chance to catch up with you all in person—is the opportunity to hear from members from diverse backgrounds about what the ASA means to them. It is always a great reminder of what is at the heart and soul of the ASA, and what we do best: providing a safe place for people to navigate their own journeys within the science and faith arena in an atmosphere of humility and respect. This issue of the newsletter is chock-full of the stories that made ASA 2019 so memorable. I hope you'll start planning now to join us for ASA 2020 at Point Loma Nazarene University next July.

Looking forward to my fall travel calendar, I hope to connect with some of you at the "Evolving Faith" conference in Denver in early October (4th–5th), and others at the Canadian-American Theological Association conference at Northeastern Seminary in Rochester later in October (25th–26th). November may include a visit to one of our newest chapters at University of Georgia in the Atlanta area. Stay tuned for further details.

I'll close by reminding you that the ASA's mission spreads most effectively through the efforts of our members. If you have a church, school, or other group you'd like us to help reach out to, or if you're interested in getting a chapter started in your own community, please let us know. We're here to help.

That's it for now. Enjoy the newsletter, and I hope to see you somewhere soon!

With gratitude,
Leslie

(Cont'd from page 1)

was added by a large number of first-time attendees, and many students. Rich fellowship was enjoyed in many other activities. Lunches around a variety of interest groups lent to additional opportunities to meet others.

All in all, this meeting reminded us of why we enjoy these meetings. The variety of opportunities to share scholarly insights, to explore the diversity of viewpoints within perspectives of relating Christian faith and science, to meet others to join in this journey, and to help young or new attendees explore these topics, as well as to meet friends from past years, is all further enriched by the common Christian faith that provides the foundation of our vocations as Christians in or interested in science. We hope you will join us at the next annual meeting, July 24–27, 2020, at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California.

Field Trips at ASA 2019

By Danilo Diedrichs

Every year the ASA meeting offers several field trips to give attendees the opportunity to explore the area surrounding the meeting location. Although the meeting began during the last days of a heat wave in Chicago (with temperatures reaching 100 degrees), several attendees arrived early to participate in an all-day geology tour led by Stephen Moshier, an expert in the geology of the Fox, Illinois, and Vermillion River Valleys. Participants traveled in the comfort of an air-conditioned bus, covering about 200 miles and 470 million years, from Ordovician sandstones to Pleistocene glacial till.



Additionally, almost 40 attendees took a trip to Fermilab in Batavia, IL, located just a few miles from Wheaton College. Fermilab is America's 6,800-acre particle physics laboratory, and home of the Tevatron, which, since its opening in 1967, fostered many fundamental discoveries in particle physics such as the discovery of the top and bottom quarks. The visit included a time for Q&A with a Fermilab scientist after the tour.



Finally, the same afternoon, a group set off to downtown Chicago and boarded the architectural boat tour on the Chicago River. The tour recounted the history of the city, while offering the opportunity to admire incomparable views of the iconic Chicago architecture along all three branches of the river.

If your travel plans didn't allow time to participate in the field trips this year, make arrangements to join us next year in San Diego. Field trip options will be announced when registration opens in the spring.

ASA Volleyball and Softball

By Vicki Best

Volleyball and softball have quickly become fun traditions at annual meetings. The ASA jocks enjoyed double the fun this year with both an intense volleyball tournament as well as an exciting softball game. Some of the athletes dove around the sand court for our fifth annual volleyball game, while the others dusted off their gloves and showed their athletic prowess on the softball field for our second annual softball game. We had a total of about 40 energetic men and women of all ages participate in both activities. The exercise was a great way to clear our minds after tackling those tough issues of science and faith. In addition, we were energized for the State of the ASA meeting and burned lots of calories to fully indulge in the ice cream social afterwards!



PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Teaching High School Science from a Christian Worldview

By April Maskiewicz Cordero and Kathryn Applegate

Nineteen attendees participated in a workshop focused on best classroom practices for bringing biblical faith and biology into dialogue. A recent trend in many private Christian schools and homeschool families is the adoption of secular textbooks or online curricula to deliver a high-quality science education and prepare students for college. These materials, excellent as they often are, don't include Christian perspectives, so parents and teachers must face the challenge of faith integration on their own.

During this workshop, Kathryn and April introduced participants to BioLogos INTEGRATE, a supplement specifically for high school biology teachers that addresses many of the questions these teachers are asking: How can I help my students ask good questions about science and faith? How can I engage in meaningful discussions with them about topics such as evolution, climate change, gene editing, and Adam and Eve? How can I help them move away from fear and distrust to curiosity and wonder? And how can I do all of this while integrating the Next Generation Science Standards and using student-centered teaching practices?



Photo by Given Tanri

The participants learned about the recent findings from science education research on best practices for approaching controversial topics in the biology classroom, and participants experienced some of those best practices as they engaged in various interactive INTEGRATE activities. A home school parent and a Christian school teacher shared the unique challenges of interacting with their Christian communities about topics such as evolution and climate change. The workshop ended with some time for participants to think about ways to approach this conversation in their own schools or co-operatives.

Incubator for Interdisciplinary Connections

By Walter Rogero



Photo by Given Tanri

Placing focus on the ASA's desire to see interdisciplinary scholarship flourish in our ranks, the afternoon workshop was well attended and featured a strong group of presenters. In the opening presentation, the Henry Center's Geoffrey Fulkerson laid a theoretical groundwork for the proceedings. Gayle Woloschak, of Northwestern University, drew from her experience with the Zygon Center in suggesting the need in interdisciplinary work to embrace mystery and hold lightly the tension of complexity innate to the conversation. From his position as editor-in-chief of *Perspectives on Science and the Christian Faith*, Jim Peterson stressed the value of collaboration to enhance the quality of journal submissions. Jennifer Wiseman accentuated key features of the collaborative approach which has led to the great success of AAAS's Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program. Jeff Schloss, of Westmont College and BioLogos, shared about his experiences in working collaboratively with Michael Murray and others, and discussed how one goes about funding collaborative work.

Subsequent panel and Q&A sessions made clear that relationships are the pith of the matter. The best interdisciplinary connections work because those involved have fun exploring something together. Among the best practices of successful interdisciplinary connections is a counterintuitive approach: when seeking collaboration, allow a product to arise from the interaction of people instead of choosing people to better develop a predetermined product. The workshop concluded with several individuals sharing their ideas for possible collaboration and receiving feedback from the panel. While this was fruitful, it was product-driven. Perhaps next time we should ask everyone to take some interesting person for coffee instead, and see what happens in response. In any case, ASA members should know that the ideas that might begin sketched on a napkin with a friend (as perhaps all the best ideas begin) can find a place with us—a place to explore and develop the idea further.

Kenneth R. Miller Gives Plenary Talk after Chicago-Style Pizza Party

By Dana Oleskiewicz



Photo by Dana Oleskiewicz

The New England clambake last year at the ASA Annual Meeting was such a big hit that we decided to do it again, capitalizing on local cuisine. A Chicago-style pizza party, complete with pizzeria tablecloths and decorations, became a fun atmosphere to gather conference attendees together in fellowship on the evening of Saturday, July 20. For the non-connoisseurs, Chicago-style is a deep-dish pizza pie with tomato sauce on top of the cheese. Following a blessing given by ASA President John Wood, guests, served buffet style, chose from a variety of pizza options. Of course, for a balanced dinner, the meal started with salad that was not to be outdone by the delicious cannoli and tiramisu for dessert. Mangia, mangia!



Photo by Given Tanri

The festive evening meal was followed by a plenary presentation given by Kenneth Miller; "Darwin, God, and Design: Grandeur in an Evolutionary View of Life." Miller expertly wove together the historical significance of western religious beliefs and its impact on science and faith related to evolutionary concepts. He walked us through the controversy as seen in the public square, highlighted by the famous Scopes Trial and subsequent debates in science education. Miller discussed evidence supporting the theory of evolution with a focus on design, offering a glimpse at the forever glory that is God's creation. The session concluded with thought-provoking questions from the audience.



Photo by Given Tanri

And yet, the merriment wasn't over! InterVarsity then hosted a reception with opening remarks made by Hannah Eagleson, Interim Associate Director at InterVarsity Emerging Scholars Network. She introduced Bob Trube as the Area Director for Ohio Valley InterVarsity. Conversation among guests continued over an array of hors d'oeuvres and refreshing drinks. To cap off the evening with a surprise, Leslie Wickman gave homage to the 50th anniversary of the NASA Apollo moon landing by reading an essay she had written about the impact of scientific discovery on the formation of science careers. Her presentation was followed by a viewing of a video from the actual broadcast to Earth from the moon exactly 50 years ago to the day, on July 20, 1969, as all of America watched with excitement, as did we in celebration of this historic event.



Photo by Given Tanri

Student & Early Career Track Report

By Hannah Eagleson, ASA Student/Early Career Track Coordinator

As I listened to NASA scientist Jennifer Wiseman encouraging a full house at our Annual Meeting student/early career lunch, I was delighted to realize how much the student track has grown since we officially launched it in 2017. The partnership between InterVarsity's Emerging Scholars Network and the ASA continues to deepen. Here are a few key areas where the foundation we have built together really bore fruit this year.

Growing Engagement with Early Career Track

We're really starting to achieve critical mass for early career activities, with great attendance and strong interest from early career members in ongoing engagement with ASA. The student track and lunch meetup had around 45 participants, and InterVarsity Press generously donated a book to all early career members at the lunch. We're excited to see strong attendance from undergraduate students in Christian colleges and graduate students in secular universities, as well as early career members already in the workplace. Even more exciting is the growing sense that early career members are thinking of the ASA Annual Meeting as an enriching experience they want to participate in over the long term.

Deepening Collaboration with InterVarsity

When I first connected with the ASA leadership in 2015, I was delighted to find out that leadership had a long-term interest in partnering with InterVarsity to serve early career members. This year, our collaboration has continued to grow in wonderful ways, with the new director of InterVarsity's Emerging Scholars Network, Bob Trube, attending ASA 2019 as one of his first official actions in the role. After Boston grad students got a taste of the ASA at the 2018 Annual Meeting at Gordon, the Harvard graduate chapter of InterVarsity reached out to the ASA and collaborated to co-host some evening lectures with the Boston chapter. InterVarsity Press (IVP) cosponsored an InterVarsity reception at the Annual Meeting this year, and ASA members enthusiastically welcomed IVP to the exhibit hall. As usual, it was wonderful to connect with ASA members who serve as InterVarsity faculty advisors—we're so grateful for you! I'm also thankful for long-term ASA member and InterVarsity staffer Dwight Schwartz, who continues to support the early career track in so many ways and did a great job interviewing Jennifer Wiseman at the student lunch. We look forward to other forms our growing collaboration will take, as well as continuing to partner with the early career track.

Thank You to the ASA

As the coordinator of the early career track and the official liaison between ASA and InterVarsity's Emerging Scholars Network, I want to thank ASA members for donating to make student attendance possible, and welcoming early career members so warmly once they arrive. Recognizing the scholarship recipients at the State of the ASA was deeply encouraging to new and more experienced members alike.



Photo by Given Tanri



Photo by Given Tanri



Photo by Given Tanri



Photo by Given Tanri

A Student's Perspective on ASA 2019

By Matthew Solt



This was my third annual American Scientific Affiliation conference. As a Christian graduate student in particle physics, the annual meetings are always a highlight of my year as it is a chance to experience community with fellow Christians in the sciences. This year I was once again a grateful recipient of the student scholarship for room and board, a gift that has always been influential in my ability to attend the annual meeting.

I thoroughly enjoyed the usual parallel and plenary sessions, especially those that sparked interesting discussions. Other than the anomalous weather, some of the unique things that I experienced at this meeting included my first trip to Fermilab (a similar lab to my current institution), Chicago

deep dish pizza (now one of my favorite foods), and Kenneth Miller's excellent plenary talk. My personal highlight this year, besides hitting home runs and making diving catches at the annual softball game, was sharing part of my personal journey of navigating science and faith issues at the State of the ASA meeting in front of a large group of those who have been a significant part of that journey.

I look forward to future ASA meetings as an early career scientist and will continue to encourage other Christian students in the sciences to attend future annual meetings.

* You can read Matt's story given at the State of the ASA here: <https://network.asa3.org/page/StateoftheASA2019>

ASA New Members April–June 2019

Please join us in welcoming these new members!

John Adams –Athens, GA
Douglas Anderson –Wheaton, IL
Tammy Bacon –Statesboro, GA
Zach Bailey –Arlington, TX
Darren Brouwer –Ancaster, ON
Sage Buckner –Vancouver, BC
Esther Cha –Grand Rapids, MI
Junior Cianne –Hobe Sound, FL
Brennley Cloyd –Burlington, OK
Sarah Davis –Wheaton, IL
Gary Driver –Shepherd, TX
Matthew Dusenberry –Mountain View, MO
Roelof (Rudy) Eikelboom –Waterloo, ON
Johanna Florez –Uncasville, CT
Milton Friesen –Hamilton, ON
Robert Gardner –Santa Rosa, CA

Rebecca Giesecking –Waltham, MA
Helen Goff –Glendora, CA
Matthew Groves –Nashville, TN
Martin Hanna –Berrien Springs, MI
Sara Heap –Bethesda, MD
Jonah Jones –Wheaton, IL
Christopher Kawell –Corvallis, OR
John Kirkwood –Crystal Lake, IL
Harold Kuester –Washington, DC
Gavin Lockard –Moline, IL
David Loo –Saint-Laurent, QC
Steve Malinowski –Kitchener, ON
Robert McGowan –Arcadia, LA
Kathleen McInerney –Philadelphia, PA
Nathaniel McVey –Braselton, GA
David Meddaugh –Texarkana, TX

Wilderson Medina –Durham, NC
Hai Nguyen –Murrieta, CA
Elijah Potter –Grand Rapids, MI
Mady Privatsky –Tacoma, WA
Matthew Pulis –Durham, UK
Peter Punin –Narbonne, France
Lindsey Quintana –Highlands Ranch, CO
Dan Reilly –Fergus, ON
Austin Richardson –Wheaton, IL
Hembly Rivas –Saugus, MA
Hayes Robert –Raleigh, NC
Jackson Ross –Grand Rapids, MI
Sarah Salviander –Round Rock, TX
Benjamin Showman –West Point, NY
John Smith –Nashville, TN
Mopa Sooro –Nanjing, China

Alexander Sredenshek –Media, PA
Tricia Stephens –Dallas, TX
Robert Strauss –Frisco, TX
Ryan Striker –Moorhead, MN
Toluwalase Talabi –Phoenix, AZ
Given Tanri –Wheaton, IL
Beverley Ted –Ajax, ON
samuel Van Amberg –Wheaton, IL
Tengqing Wang –Andover, MA
Joshua Wang –New York, NY
Matthew Wiley –Chicago, IL
Erica Woertz –Wauwatosa, WI
Audrey Young –Sunnyvale, CA
Andrew Zhao –Concord, CA
John ZuHone –Cambridge, MA



ASA 2019 | Wheaton College





Photo by Dena Oleskiewicz



Photo by Chelsea Church



Photo by Given Tanri



Honoring Lyn Berg's 25 Years of Service

It was a deep honor to recognize Lyn's 25 years of dedicated service as Managing Editor at ASA 2019 at Wheaton College. At the conclusion of the annual meeting, Lyn received a standing ovation as Vicki Best gave a meaningful and heartfelt tribute to her. Vicki expressed her deep admiration and appreciation for Lyn's strong work ethic, long-standing loyalty, and unwavering dedication to her job and the ASA. For a quarter century, Lyn has not only selflessly given of her time and talent but she has also faithfully have given of her treasure.

Please join us in thanking Lyn for her many contributions and tremendous impact as well as offering her congratulations on this major milestone!



ASA Fellows/Chicago Roundtable Event Held in Wheaton Coinciding with ASA 2019

By Vicki Best and David Thom

Fashioned after the Cambridge Roundtable/ASA Fellows dinner last summer following ASA 2018 at Gordon College, this event was the inaugural Roundtable outside New England. Hosted by David Thom, President of The Leadership Connection and a Chaplain to Faculty at MIT, our Roundtable evening was designed to draw guests holding faculty, clergy, and other professional positions who are affiliated with Wheaton and Chicago area religious and educational institutions.

To follow is an interview with David Thom that will provide you with a sense of the unique opportunity that he afforded the ASA Fellows in hosting this special evening.

Vicki Best: This is the second Roundtable event at an ASA annual meeting. After a successful one last year in Boston, you recently led and executed a fantastic one in Wheaton. How did this concept come about?

David Thom: As people we long to give and receive, and in sharing a meal we instinctively share an intimacy that invites shared thoughts and reflections on what is important to us. Roundtable dinner discussions among university faculty and on-campus clergy and other interested professionals have proven to be an effective way to exchange thoughts on faith and science and explore typical objections to faith perceived to be “science-based.”



VB: This was an inaugural Roundtable in the Chicago area. How were you able to pull off such a well-attended event?

DT: The answer: trust! For years, Roundtables at Harvard have brought together science professionals of faith and “not of faith.” Vicki Best and her team trusted me to find thoughtful people to bring to the table if she brought ASA Fellows

together who were willing to explore science and faith with others who were also leaders in science or religion. In turn, I trusted God that people could be found in Chicago who would be pleased to meet and get to know ASA Fellows. Given a history of people coming together at Harvard, these guests, from Chicago and ASA, were trusting me to come to a similarly meaningful dining experience—and I think everyone’s trust in each other and in God was met with satisfaction.



VB: It was an interesting choice to bring Jews, Muslims, and Christians together for this discussion. How did that come about and how did it work out?

DT: A dinner discussion is more interesting and informative when people are different from each other in some significant ways but still have some common ground. Therefore, since synagogue and mosque leadership boards often feature science and medical professionals, that common ground had the potential to assure all parties of a valuable experience in discussing recent biomedical research and the thoughts that we have as people of faith about what defines us as humans. Featuring three speakers—one Jewish, one Muslim, and one Christian—put everyone on an equal footing of honor and respect and certainly encouraged wide participation.



VB: What exactly is a Roundtable? Tell us a little about the what, where, why, and how of the Roundtables.

DT: Presently, we have local coordinators conducting Roundtables at Yale, Dartmouth, Columbia, Brown, and among the Five College Consortium in Western Massachusetts, where our first Roundtables were held in 2002. At a Fall 2004 Roundtable at UMass-Amherst, conducted thanks to a grant from ASA's Executive Director Emeritus Don Munro, featured speaker Owen Gingerich concluded his remarks by saying "I wish we had these at Harvard." His wish was fulfilled in March 2005 and ever since, with Owen's trusted and respected name featured in every invitation to every guest for the last 14 years, we deliver an experience worthy of his endorsement.

Roundtables were born from my experiences in ministry among students, coaches, and faculty where sitting down to coffee, a snack, or a whole meal could lightly or deeply bring out a willingness from both parties to listen to the other's personal reflections on faith, in addition to one's "informed" positions. Faculty do not typically mix outside of their discipline except for institutional committee concerns, so giving them that opportunity in a Roundtable is a breath of fresh air. Add an interesting speaker and an emphasis on dinner conversation and you have an irresistible feast for the body, mind, and soul.



VB: You are a big proponent of strategic partnerships in the faith and science arena. What is your future vision for Roundtables? And specifically, as they relate to the ASA?

DT: The ASA and Roundtable leadership both foster a terrific emphasis on an individual's responsibility to understand the relationships between faith and science. Both recognize that no single institution or dogma can capture and communicate these truths—it is individuals and smaller groups that promote and explore discoveries that bring us innovation in understanding and in practice, and that inspire human flourishing. Wherever there are Roundtables, we hope to encourage ASA membership, and we hope to train and encourage ASA members to host Roundtables in order to explore the intersection of science and faith to affect wider community understandings of faith and science.



The Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA is published quarterly for its membership by the American Scientific Affiliation. Please send Newsletter information to Chelsea Church, chelsea@asa3.org, and Coming Events information to David Fisher, dfisherasa@gmail.com. Kindly send Canadian matters to CSCA, PO Box 63082, University Plaza, Dundas, ON L9H 4H0. Send address changes and other business items to The American Scientific Affiliation, 218 Boston Street, Ste. 208, Topsfield, MA 01983. Phone: (978) 887-8833; E-mail: asa@asa3.org; Website: www.asa3.org. ©2019 American Scientific Affiliation (except previously published material). All rights reserved.



ASA 2020

THE GIFT OF *SCIENTIA*,
THE BODY OF CHRIST,
& THE COMMON GOOD:
Scientists & Theologians
Working Together

Point Loma Nazarene
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July 24 – 27, 2020



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