

NEWSLETTER

of the
American Scientific Affiliation &
Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation

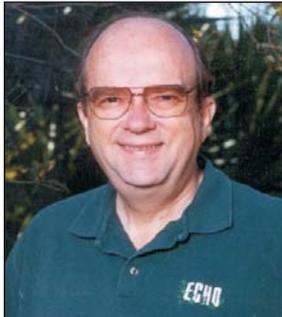


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JAN/FEB 2004

Price Becomes ASA President

The 2004 president of ASA's Council is **Martin Price**, director of ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) since 1981. ECHO is a not-for-profit organization whose web site describes its primary functions as "providing agricultural information to overseas workers, distributing seeds for promising food plants, and offering training opportunities at the Florida farm." Its "living textbook" is the Global Village Research and Learning Center, a semi-arid African setting that simulates African conditions in Florida to facilitate research. More than 3500 agricultural workers in 140 countries receive *ECHO Development Notes*.



Martin Price

Photo Courtesy: ECHO

An old adage contrasts handing out fish vs. teaching a person to fish—providing one meal vs. equipping a person for a lifetime of nourishment. Achievement of a similar concept shows up in an appreciative letter from a missionary in Sierra Leone: "I am using solar disinfection for all my drinking water. Thanks to all of you with whom I consulted. The results have been good—no intestinal problems after four months of using this as the sole method of treating my drinking water."

More info about this exemplary organization that Price directs, at www.echonet.org.

Collins Featured on BSCS Cover

The Fall 2003 issue of *The Natural Selection*, news magazine of Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, featured a 4-page interview with **Francis Collins**, entitled "Genomics and the Future of Medicine." Collins listed several key discoveries that have occurred during the last half-century since the publication of Watson and Crick's classic paper describing the double helix.

A week's work every second!

When asked to name the most significant barriers the Human Genome Project (HGP) had to overcome, Collins answered:

The main challenge was simply the scale. Prior to the initiation of the HGP, even an excellent molecular biology laboratory would be hard pressed to generate more than a thousand base pairs of high-quality DNA sequence in a week. To sequence the 3 billion letters of the human genome, it was necessary to scale up to ... being able to sequence a thousand base pairs every second, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The challenge was so formidable that Collins recalls, "I had doubts all along the way."



Photo Courtesy: NHGRI

Francis Collins

Unlike some scientists who claim a project as their solo achievement, he graciously shares the credit: "It took the combined creativity, energy, and optimism of hundreds of scientists working together in 20 laboratories around the world to make the dream come true," and lauds several specific individuals by name.

A Physician's Heart

The interviewer asked: "What pleases you most about the HGP and your involvement in it?" Collins replied: "As a physician, I became interested in studying the genome because of the promise that it shows for diagnosis, prevention, and cure of disease. As we begin to glimpse the first dramatic examples of that vision coming true, I feel a great sense of excitement and hope." ✉ Thanks to **Keith Miller** for calling our attention to this article.

Pour on the Canadian Comfort

No, not the whiskey. We're just thinking how comfortable British Columbia will be in July, while most of the US swelters. Trinity Western U., Langley, BC, will host the ASA, CSCA and CiS Annual Meeting July 23–26. The perspiring audience at the 2003 Annual Meeting applauded when **Judith Toronchuk** announced, "The mean maximum temperature in July is 75° F., and the mean minimum is 55, so you should bring a sweater for the evening."

Judy is assembling a "cool" roster of presentations around the general theme, "Neuroscience and the Image of God."

Those "mean temperatures" don't sound nearly as mean as those we encountered in Colorado last year. If you you want to stay in "Canadian Comfort" an extra week, take the Canadian Rockies Tour. Details at www.asa3.org.

The Executive Director's Corner

Donald W. Munro

Now that the holiday period has ended, I hope that you are able to settle down again in your workplace. The ASA staff wishes you a wonderful and spiritually uplifting new year and the fortitude to face with our Lord's help whatever the year may bring. We pray that it will be a good year of growth for the ASA in both service and numbers.

Today I more fully understand what physically handicapped accessibility really means. I managed to take a step forward and snap off my superior quadriceps tendon from my kneecap while I was out walking with my wife, daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons. What a way to get a ride in an ambulance! Following the operation, I am recuperating at home where the living room has become my temporary ASA office. There is no way I can navigate the 21 steep stairs up to the ASA office and down again. By the time you receive this, I will be well mended and hopefully close to walking regularly.

One thing the new year will bring is another exhilarating annual meeting sponsored by CSCA and ASA in Langley, British Columbia at Trinity Western U. from July 23 to 26. You should have received the call for papers which are due at the end of January.

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Be sure to get yours in. Also, don't forget to register for the tour of the magnificent western Rockies (July 26–Aug. 1). Friends tell us it should not be missed. We are working on filling the first bus. If you lost or misplaced your application, please let us know.

The first Corner of the year always has some special excitement because we recognize people who are completing their fiftieth year of membership in ASA. What a landmark that is! We congratulate you and celebrate the many years that you have been involved in integrating your science calling with your faith. The seven men who joined in 1954 are **William F. Campbell, Edwin Fast, Richard A. Hendry, James H. Kraakevik, Russell W. Maatman, Glenn E. Ruark** and **Lawrence J. Walker**. Thank you for your many contributions and may the Lord provide you with many more years to serve him in the ASA and elsewhere.

Recently, you hopefully received a letter about the Lay Education Committee Project. Many have been working hard under the able hand of **Eugene Maxwell** to put the project together—a book, study guide, and video. Please pray that the funds will be found through contributions and grants to complete the work. We believe that these materials will help those in the church to better understand what science says and how it works.

Jack Haas and I will be serving in ASA's booth at Congress 2004 in Boston, Feb. 12–14. Thousands attend, and we always have interesting discussions. We plan to continuously show a ten-minute demonstration video of the Lay Education Project and also give those who are willing a questionnaire to find out their thoughts on some bio-ethical issues. Previous years we took surveys on creation/evolution (2002) and environmental issues (2003). Our materials also will be at the ecumenical round table at the AAAS meeting in Seattle, WA, Feb. 12–16. Please remember these two opportunities in your prayers.

Here are the rest of the results from the environmental stewardship survey we took at Congress last year. One question asked how Christians should view the development of genetically modified foods. There were a mixture of answers: 20 thought they had great potential for benefitting humankind; 15 felt that it was okay to deploy them as crops and foods as long as they were clearly labeled; 17 said that countries should ban them because of the potential harm to people and the environment; and eight didn't know what to answer. Next the familiar question about what would Jesus drive if he were in the US today. There were many suggestions with a pick-up truck (9) getting the most votes, but the largest group (37) said that it was a silly question.

The last two questions asked what was the most risky activity (given six choices) for human health and what the survey takers thought of the endangered species act. The most risky behavior was thought to be smoking tobacco while being overweight and consuming alcoholic beverages were second and third respectively. These were followed by driving an automobile, air pollution from power plants, and living near a nuclear power plant. As for the endangered species act, 34 thought it provided important protection for species that are part of God's creation while 19 thought it should be revised because it goes too far and infringes on people's property rights. Only two thought it was a flawed act and should be abolished.

As we begin this new year, we covet your prayers and your support. Council is dealing with a budget for 2004 that is about \$5,000 out of balance for the first time in my ten years here. So-called fixed prices keep rising but our income does not. Once again let me thank you heartily for the many donations sent in 2003 to see us through. Happy, Happy New Year!



ASA Veterans Respond

The editors contacted members listed by **Don Munro** as having achieved 30-year membership status last year, asking their remembrances and suggestions. Among the responses:

• **Herman De Haas** said his first meeting was “in the Chicago area (Wheaton or Trinity) when we had a joint meeting with the ETS,” the Evangelical Theology Society. He adds, “I do remember we had to persuade the philosophers of the ETS that a tree falling in the desert that no one heard was a real event. We all had a good friendly time of discussions, and I do remember meeting Carl Henry there also.” Regarding an Annual Meeting at Oxford, England, “I never did figure out why 20 cents was so central to our discussions. Everyone was referring to ‘pair o’ dimes’ quite often.” (If you miss that pun the first time, read “pair o’ dimes” out loud).

• **Charles Kraft** says his Wheaton profs., especially **Russ Mixter**, influenced him to join ASA. He wishes we would devote “more attention to the concerns of the behavioral sciences,” as we used to when **James Buswell** wrote prolifically.

We see two lessons here: (1) Profs can have a lifelong influence by acquainting students with ASA; and (2) Social scientists, we would welcome more input from you.

• **John Clayton** identifies himself as a former atheist who “came to belief through my studies in science.” When he learned about ASA, he was “interested in hearing people who also were science-oriented talk about their reasons for belief and their treatment of faith/science issues.” As a public school teacher, he says, “I totally enjoy and profit from the publications. I learn a lot, and use the concepts in my own outreach.”

As room for improvement, he senses that, by stressing universities and sophisticated scholarship, ASA may be missing an opportunity at the high

ASA 2003 SIGHTSEEING EXCURSION IN DENVER



Photo courtesy Ernie Prabhakar

Early career scientists and friends mug for the cam in Denver, CO.

school level. “... I think there is a need for people who work with young people especially to be included in the ASA long-term planning. Maybe a page for young people in the ASA journal or something like that? ASA needs to avoid being considered an elitist group of scientific theologians.” He maintains a web site, www.doesgodexist.org.

As one of my country cousins says, “Let’s run those ideas up the flagpole and see who salutes!” In more conventional terms, that means please give us your reaction to these suggestions, and we’ll do our best to implement the best ones.

ASAers/CSCAers in Action

• **William B. Hurlbut, M.D.** has been serving as a member of President Bush’s Council on Bioethics, www.bioethics.gov. Posted on the website is the Council’s first report, “Human Cloning and Human Dignity.” Hurlbut wrote a personal statement in this report’s appendix. In addition to his responsibilities as Consulting Professor in Human Biology at Stanford, Hurlbut co-edited *Altruism and Altruistic Love: Science, Religion*

and Philosophy in Dialogue (Oxford U. Press, 2002), contributing the “Empathy, Evolution and Altruism” chapter. His home page is www.stanford.edu/~ethics/WBH.htm.

• Inspired by the response to his paper on radical centrism at ASA 2003, **Ernie Prabhakar** published a “Radical Centrist Platform for California” in response to his state’s recall election: http://radicalcentrism.org/platform_ca2003.html. He adds, “I also finished running a half-million dollar marketing campaign in Silicon Valley, involving 100 churches on behalf of the interdenominational Alpha Course, www.AlphaDinners.org. In between—for my real job—I’m getting ready to launch a new version of Mac OS X, www.apple.com/macosx/panther/.”

• **Harry Cook** attended a workshop in Vienna concerning the history and

Newsletter Disclaimer

This publication is a newsletter. As such, its purpose is to present news spanning a spectrum of activities, reports, and publications in order to keep readers abreast of a variety of events and views. Just as newspapers report statements made by people of various viewpoints and opinions without endorsing them, inclusion in this newsletter does not constitute or imply official ASA endorsement.

philosophy of science in biology. Though retired, he continues to teach at King's University C. and to maintain an active interest in philosophy of science issues.

• **Paul H. Carr**, Air Force Research Laboratory Emeritus spoke on "A Theology for Evolution: Haught, Teilhard, & Tillich" at the AAR/SBL Annual Meeting in November in Atlanta. A summary of his presentation follows.

John Haught's paper "In Search for a God for Evolution: Paul Tillich and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin"¹ expresses doubt that Tillich's rather classical theology of "being" is radical enough to account for the "becoming" of evolution. Tillich's ontology of "being" includes the polarity of form and dynamics. Dynamics is the *potentiality* of "being," that is, "becoming." Therefore, it is impossible to speak of "being" without also speaking of "becoming." Tillich's dynamic dialectic of being and nonbeing is a more descriptive metaphor for the five mass extinctions of evolutionary history than Teilhard's faith in progress. Tillich's "Kingdom of God" within history as well as "the End of History," in contrast to Teilhard's Omega Point, does not appear to contradict the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which predicts that the universe will ultimately disintegrate. Haught's contrast mode of relating science and religion would regard Teilhard's Omega Point as an expression of spiritual hope and purpose rather than a scientifically verifiable principle. Tillich saw religion as part of the verified dimension of ultimate concern and science, as part of the horizontal dimension of relationships between finite objects. Tillich did not share Teilhard's optimistic vision of the future. Both Tillich and Teilhard have made contributions to a theology of evolution.

¹Haught, John F., "In Search for a God for Evolution: Paul Tillich and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin," *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 37 (September 2002): 539.

Trinity Western Choirs on Nationwide Radio

Trinity Western U.'s Chamber Choir and Masterworks Choir, along with the Vancouver Bach Choir, performed Verdi's Requiem on CBC national radio, November 22 and 24.

"Junk Science": An ASAer Responds

John M. Osepchuk, Full Spectrum Consulting, Concord, MA

[Editors' note: This response to a 2002 article was written more than a year ago. We regret that in the transition from **Dennis Feucht** to the present editors, it "fell through the cracks" and was rediscovered only recently. In the interest of balance, we present this in-depth response, slightly edited].

In the *ASA Newsletter* (Mar/Apr 2002), there is a plea for ASA to discern between "authentic and nominal scientific authority," and to disdain "junk science." It is fair to say that this viewpoint is one of "whistleblowers" or critics of industry. I here present a different viewpoint, as one who has defended technology and industry in controversies on environmental matters.

Sin, incompetence, or delusion can exist in any sector of society. The prevalence of such defects in industry is commonly appreciated but, until recently, not in environmentalist or regulatory agencies. The National Academy of Science has stated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service had "no scientific basis" for cutting off water to farmers in Oregon to safeguard an "endangered" sucker fish. This defect may be incompetence, but then "biofraud" was found when some agency employees were found falsifying data by planting Canadian lynx hairs during the study of the wildcat's habitat.

We also should recognize that money and other motivations can cloud the actions of anybody, whatever their place in society or their association—especially in the US where money drives lawyers in all types of litigation. Christians also exist in all sectors of society, even as corporation heads.

Hazards: Real and Imaginary

As part of my scientific duties at Raytheon Co. since 1968, I helped to defend Raytheon (and other organizations) in lawsuits alleging environmental hazards in systems or products associated with electromagnetic (EM) energy. My activities also involved extensive work with organizations developing science-based safety standards, sound bioeffect research and rational public policy. In the late '80s, I met Peter Huber and worked with him on some public education tasks addressing disinformation that derives from "junk science," a term coined by Huber in his book, *Galileo's Revenge: Junk Science in the Courtroom* (1991). This term refers to poor-quality science, whether due to dishonesty, incompetence, delusion, or any other cause. Poor quality is widespread and recognized by most people, except some embarrassed editors and reviewers of scientific and technical publications.

Evaluating Expert Witnesses

Huber's book played a key role in influencing the decision of the US Supreme Court in the celebrated *Daubert* decision (*Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 1993), which specifically disallowed proffered expert testimony for the plaintiff as not meeting scientific standards.

The more general outcome of the case was the requirement for judges themselves, to be the guardians of science quality in the courtroom, whether in distinguishing if an "expert" is at the cutting edge or at the fringe of science, or judging whether scientific papers and other evidence meet standards that represent the consensus of the scientific community. This is a very difficult task, and judges are encouraged to seek unbiased expert help in such cases.

Consider the problem of finding an expert in some field who has no opinion on some issue in that field. About 12 years ago, a utility defendant decided to employ "virgin" experts with no previous involvement in the field of EM health hazards, for more credibility before jurors. The strategy backfired

when cross-examination of the “virgin” experts [MDs] revealed that they had received up to \$75,000 to compensate for the time spent in learning the subject.

In 2000, a Maryland judge presided over the *Daubert* hearings on the admissibility of experts and their evidence in a case alleging a link between cell phone use and brain cancer. The plaintiffs’ bar and their friends vigorously attacked Huber and his use of the term “junk science.” Thus in 1996, two advertisements by the UCS (Union of Concerned Scientists) in the *New York Times* (cited in the *ASAN* article) suggested that “junk science” was that which “corporate interests” were “force feeding America.” They invited the reader to “pick an issue” and they would get back to the inquirer with “sound science.” So, I wrote UCS and asked for their position on alleged hazards of low-level EM energy. I never got a reply, much less an answer.

Some who are inimical to industry continue to this day their efforts to transfer the term “junk science” to industry—starting with tobacco, then asbestos, then chemicals. Still, Steve Milloy, who operates the web site www.junkscience.com, adheres to Huber’s definition.

Toward Achieving Balance

In the last seven years, I, with others, have worked to get ASA to be more balanced in addressing environmental issues; hence the creation of CEST (Christian Engineers and Scientists in Technology), through which views of technologists can be aired. At the same time, I am deeply involved in professional (IEEE) work on standards development in the international community, through the International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety (ICES) and also public education through COMAR (Committee on Man and Radiation) with **Ruth Miller**.

It is impossible to avoid involvement in controversies. I join in urging the ASA to become more involved in such matters, even though they are tough and unpleasant. Why? Think of the

clergy and lay people who face such issues and who wonder where is the “truth.” Any enlightenment from a group such as ASA would be greatly appreciated by such people—surely just as much as they would appreciate the nuances of ASA’s latest debate on creation-evolution.

ASAers in Print

• **George L. Murphy** has written *The Cosmos in the Light of the Cross* (Trinity Press International, 2003). He summarizes it as a contribution to conversations among theology, science, technology, and ethics from the standpoint of a theology of the cross. Its basic thesis is that of “chiasmic cosmology,” the belief that the God who is present and active in the world is the God who is revealed in the crucified and risen Christ. After a discussion of the cross and its implications for our knowledge of God, the present scientific picture of the world is sketched with some reflections on scientific method and scope. Successive chapters then deal with divine action, cosmology, evolution, technology and ethics, biomedical ethics, the environment, and the future of creation in the light of the cross. The concluding chapter places all of this in the context of worship of the creator who is revealed in the cross.

George is a physicist and pastoral associate at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Akron, OH. A Templeton Fellow, he teaches theology and science at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, and is the author of *Cosmic Witness* and *Toward a Christian View of a Scientific World*.

• As a key participant in White House conferences on aging, Marquette U. Sociology Professor Emeritus **David Moberg** has been called America’s premier gerontologist. Moberg has edited *Aging and Spirituality: Spiritual Dimensions of Aging Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy* (New York: Haworth Pastoral Press, 2001). He defines spirituality broadly as “the basic value around which all other values are evaluated; the persons’ central

philosophy of life—religious, nonreligious or antireligious—that provides direction for their attitudes and behaviors.”

Helping professionals who deal even tangentially with aging individuals will find this volume very useful. Authors of the 16 chapters have training and experience across the gamut of nursing, the social sciences, business administration, theology, pastoral care, dental hygiene and health care administration. The book aims to “aid those who wish to enhance their own spiritual well-being or who desire to help others spiritually” and provides extensive resources and references to help readers achieve that goal.

For additional details, see the June 2002 issue of *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* or the Haworth Press web site: www.haworthpress.com.

With the Lord

• **Cleveland Hopkins** entered the Lord’s presence Sept. 7, 2003 at age 93 in Prescott, AZ. After obtaining a B.S. in Engineering, he was recruited for a classified project at MIT, where his team developed the pulse radar technology now used to guide planes into airports worldwide. At the Pentagon, he headed planning for the airborne early warning system, later becoming Head

Welcome, New Members! October–November 2003

Arnold, T. Patrick –Arlington Hts, IL
Borntager, Kerwin –Harrisonburg, VA
Bronic, William B. –Langley, BC
Canada
Davis, Alisa M. –Baltimore, MD
Deever, W. Thomas –Rochester, NY
Downey, Charles P. –Omaha, NE
Gray, Derwin L. –Charlotte, NC
Grover, Herb –Ovalo, TX
Knight, John –Altadena, CA
Landis, David –Harrisonburg, VA
Libby, Joshua –South Portland, ME
Nield, Donald A. –Remuera, Auckland
1005 New Zealand
Schwartz, Kelly D. –Calgary, AB
Canada
Shenk, Tim –Harrisonburg, VA
Touryan, Jonathan –Berkeley, CA
Touryan, Sharon –Berkeley, CA
Zollinhofer, Mark H. –Charlottesville, VA

of Operations Analysis Office of the Alaska Air Command, in charge of the Arctic Distant Early Warning radar lines.

He served Park Street Church and Derwood (MD) Alliance Church as trustee, and First Baptist Church in Prescott as deacon. His favorite hobby was astronomy, building his own 14" telescope and small observatory. Other hobbies included computers, wood-working, hiking, ham radio and geology.

As author, editor, co-author and co-editor, he had a hand in 57 professional publications.

• **C. Weldon Jones**, biology prof. at Bethel C., passed away Sept. 21, 2003 at age 50 after a brief illness. After obtaining A.B., A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard, he was a teaching fellow at Harvard before joining the Bethel faculty in 1982. He was also a visiting scientist at Mayo Clinic, enabling Bethel students to participate in research projects there. Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education named him Minnesota Professor of the Year in 1995. He was listed three times in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Weldon kept a small poster in his office that read: "Make Them Think." He remarked: "That statement, more than any other, articulates my philosophy as a teacher. I cannot be satisfied with simply providing students with 'the facts.' My hope is that I have helped to produce sensitive students who are able to leave college as working biologists with creative and critical minds and who take with them a bit of my love for the field."

Weldon experienced seizures several years ago and this summer had brain lesions and partial paralysis. While undergoing treatment, he experienced complications that ultimately led to respiratory failure.

Detailed tribute at www.bethel.edu/Special_Events/newsrel/2003articles/09-22-03jones.html.

Calls for Papers

The *Journal of Philosophy and Scripture* has just published its first issue. Edited by grad students in philosophy at Villanova U. under faculty advisor John D. Caputo, it describes itself as "an e-journal dedicated to reading scriptures in light of philosophy and to examining philosophy in light of scripture."

My one misgiving was its definition of scripture as "the primary sacred texts (e.g., the Bible, the Qur'an, the Bhagavad-Gita) that fundamentally shape the religions under discussion." In response to my e-mail to several ASAers expert in the philosophy and history of science, **David Siemens** replied, "I consider it as relevant to Christians, but in philosophy and theology, not in connection with faith and science."

Ted Davis sees it as an opportunity to disseminate evangelical viewpoints. In his words, "I recommend it for ASAers who have papers in this area. They are encouraging people to use philosophy as a hermeneutical tool, and to use biblical hermeneutics to inform philosophy. I am not bothered by the inter-religious nature of the journal; that simply means, as I see it, that they are open to us as well as to other religious believers. Many other journals, on the other hand, won't really consider essays that take religious scriptures seriously as sources of truth. I say, go for it, if you have an appropriate essay to submit."

The journal's mission definition is at www.philosophyandscripture.org/aboutus.html. Submission Guidelines are at www.philosophyandscripture.org/SubmissionGuidelines/submissionguidelines.html.

—*Dave Fisher*

Job Postings

For descriptions of job postings, visit the ASA web site, www.asa3.org. At press time, these included:

Executive Director: ASA; **Marine Biology:** Gordon C.; **Field Botany** and **Summer Flora:** Au Sable Summer Inst.; **Organismal Biology and Population Ecology:** The King's University C. (Edmonton, AB).

Coming Events

• **Templeton/ASA Lecture Series** announces some of its upcoming free lectures. For contact information, e-mail Don Munro: don@asa3.org

Jan. 26. "Darwinism and Atheism: A Marriage Made in Heaven?" Michael Ruse, Juniata C., Huntingdon, PA

Feb. 12. "Time to Abandon Darwin? The Challenge from 'Intelligent Design,'" Kenneth Miller, Jacksonville U., Jacksonville, FL

Mar. 1. "The Cloning and Stem Cell Controversies: A Theological Perspective," Ted Peters, Seattle Pacific U., Seattle, WA

Mar. 4. "The Big Bang, Stephen Hawking, and God," **Henry F. ("Fritz") Schaefer III**, Princeton U., Princeton, NJ

Apr. 12. "Whatever Happened to the Soul? Theological and Scientific Perspectives of Human Nature," Nancey Murphy, Juniata C., Huntingdon, PA

• **Jan. 14–17.** 3rd Annual International Whitehead Film Festival, Claremont, CA
Email: events@ctr4process.org;
www.ctr4process.org

• **Jan. 20.** SMHSA Interfaith Symposium: Spirituality and Faith in Treatment and Recovery from Mental Illness and Addiction, Washington, DC. Speaker: Harold Koenig. Email: Jtuskan@samhsa.gov

• **Jan. 21–22.** Not Just Science, Interdisciplinary Conference, King's University C., Edmonton, AB. Speakers: **Harry Cook**, **Dorothy Chappell** and Margaret-Ann Armour. Tel. 780-465-3500.

• **Jan. 22.** Finding a Footing on a Slippery Slope: An Examination of the Ethics of Embryo Cell Research. Grand Canyon Institute for Advanced Studies, Phoenix, AZ. Speaker: Michael Mobley.
www.canyoninstitute.org/events/publect.html#MM

• **Jan. 24.** Genetics, Biotechnology and the Future, Winston-Salem, NC. Speaker: John Kilner. Tel. 336-971-6388
www.cbhd.org/conferences

• **Feb. 5.** Biocultural Evolution in the 21st Century: The Evolutionary Role of Religion. Speaker: Billy Grassie.
www.canyoninstitute.org/events/

• **Feb. 11.** Biotechnology and the Future of Ethics, St. Paul, MN. Speaker: Philip Regal. Email: tnichols@stthomas.edu

• **Feb. 12–13.** St. Francis Int'l Center for Healthcare Ethics: International Bioethics Conference, Honolulu.
www.bioethicshawaii.org

- **Feb. 12–16.** AAAS Annual Meeting and Science Innovation Exposition, Seattle; Email: aaasmcching@aaas.org www.aaas.org/meetings
- **Mar. 12–14.** The 4th Goshen Conference on Religion and Science, Goshen, IN; Speaker: John Haught. Email: carlsh@goshen.edu Tel: 574-535-7302
- **Mar. 13.** The Bioethics Revolution: A Christian Introduction, Chicago. Speakers: Ben Mitchell and Susan Haack. www.cbhd.org/conferences Tel. 773-486-9590
- **Mar. 16.** Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds: Religion/Spirituality and Mental Health in Later Life, Durham, NC. Speaker: Harold Koenig. Tel. 407-691-5476 Email: herdley.paolini@flhosp.org
- **Mar. 25.** “Conflicts and Confederacies between Mathematics and Christianity: Parables for Our Road Ahead in Science and Technology,” Speaker: Bruce Lundberg. www.canyoninstitute.org/events/
- **Mar. 25–27.** Christianity and the Soul of the University: Faith as a Foundation for Intellectual Community, Waco, TX. Speaker: John Polkinghorne. www3.baylor.edu/CCSS/events/soul.htm Tel: 254-710-4805
- **Apr. 15.** “Interpersonal Forgiveness: Forgiving for Life,” Speaker: Douglas Kelley. www.canyoninstitute.org/events/
- **Apr. 23–28.** The Int’l Conference on Science and Consciousness, Albuquerque, NM. Speakers: Peter Russell, Raymond Moody, Judith Orloff and Alan Wallace. Email: message@bizspirit.com <http://bizspirit.com/science>
- **Apr. 26.** Religion, Health and Aging: Purpose and Power in Retirement, Baltimore. Speaker: Harold Koenig. Email: RWC@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu
- **May 13–15.** Written on the Heart: The Tradition of Natural Law, Grand Rapids, MI. Speaker: J. Budziszewski. E-mail: seminars@calvin.edu www.calvin.edu/scs
- **May 27–29.** Third North American Multi-disciplinary Conference: Spirituality and Health; Calgary, Alberta, Canada; E-mail: spirit@ucalgary.ca www.cme.ucalgary.ca/courses/8100343.html
- **June 5–9.** Works of Love: Scientific and Theological Perspectives on Altruism, Grand Rapids, MI. Speaker: Stephen Post. Email: seminars@calvin.edu Tel. 616-526-8558
- **June 21–July 16.** Nature in Belief: Evolutionary Explanation, Biological Function

and Religious Purpose; Grand Rapids, MI. Speakers: Alvin Plantinga and **Jeffrey Schloss**. Email: seminars@calvin.edu www.calvin.edu/scs

- **July 12–30.** Writing the World History of Christianity Since 1900; Grand Rapids, MI; Speaker: Mark Noll. Email: seminars@calvin.edu www.calvin.edu/scs
- **July 15–17.** 11th Annual Bioethics Summer Conference: Conflict and Conscience in Health Care; Chicago. www.cbhd.org/conferences
- **July 23–26.** ASA/CSCA Conference: Neuroscience and the Image of God. Trinity Western U., Langley, BC, Canada. Email: carol@asa3.org www.asa3.org
- **July 24–26.** IRAS 51st Annual Star Island Conference: Earth’s Water in Crisis: A Scientific, Spiritual and Moral Challenge; Isle of Shoals, NH. Speakers: **Owen Gingerich**, Holmes Rolston III, David Haberman. Tel. 610-432-8711 www.IRAS.org
- **July 30–Aug. 1.** ICSA VI World Congress: Science and Religion: The Missing Link; Malibu, CA www.jis3org/icsavi.htm
- **Aug. 5–8.** Energy Conservation and the Environment, Grantham, PA; www.asa3.org

Brag a Little!

If you’re doing something worthy of mentioning in “ASAers in Action” or “ASAers on Mission,” tell us about it at asan@asa3.org. Knowing about your activities can inspire our readers to pray for you and your activities, and maybe to join you in similar activities.

Miller, *continued from p. 8*

adage, “If it bleeds, it leads” —the media’s tendency to feature sensationalism and ignore “boring stuff” like laboratory advances. “I could live locked up in my office and spend all my time irradiating cells, but it’s important to get those results out to people.”

But she finds many media outlets “more interested in sensationalism than ... in the truth. If it’s going to attract lots of attention, like saying 60-Hz power lines are going to give you cancer,” that will sell more papers than the realistic finding that they won’t.

From Resonance to Radiation

Ruth sees that need to communicate as a mission of ASA. “We have to be careful not to bog ourselves down in old arguments, or we are not relevant to most scientists.” I asked, “In electrical engineering parlance, what would it take to complete the circuit of what God wants ASA to be? What resistors need to come out, what new components should we add, and how can we be brighter bulbs in a world that needs a higher wattage of God’s light?”

With her pet bird Mango screaming in the background, she answered that ASA has a tendency to be too inward-focused. “Perhaps we are a resonant circuit where we’re just feeding off each other with an L and a C [inductance and capacitance]. We put the energy back and forth and it never gets out and never gets amplified.” To propagate our Christian worldview, we need to add some transistors to amplify our message—and an antenna to radiate it beyond the intra-mural confines in which we circulate much of our thinking.

She and Keith concluded their *PSCF* article: “It is the passionate pursuit of truth, not a defensive response to criticism or a reactionary denouncement of others, that will make the Christian world view a respected voice. Above all, a life lived with integrity and in sacrificial service will reveal the reality of a God who demands our entire lives.”

Ruth adds, “I hope I can be a contributor toward advancing the ASA down a road that makes it more useful to working scientists and more relevant to current societal and global problems.”

Upcoming ASA Conferences

- July 23–26, 2004:** Trinity Western U., Langley, BC Canada
“Neuroscience and the Image of God”
- Aug. 5–8, 2005:** Messiah C., Grantham, PA
“Alternative Energy Resources, Conservation and the Environment”
- July 28–31, 2006:** Calvin C., Grand Rapids, MI
“Science, Technology and Ethics”

Ruth Miller Elected to ASA Council

Dave Fisher

Ruth Miller, associate prof. of Electrical & Computer Engineering at Kansas State U., has been elected to the ASA Council. In a phone conversation shortly after **Don Munro** informed her, she told me of having once been an agnostic, unable to see God with her five senses. But she saw God in the actions of friends at a Christian youth group. "They were friends with me when there was no particular reason for them to do so." They went out of their way for her, even as a newcomer to the group. Over the course of a year, she realized "These people don't behave like ... your average people." Thus, she stresses that reaching our students and professional peers requires more than giving them a book or article to read, but establishing and sustaining friendships to demonstrate Christ's love.

Ruth and husband **Keith** grew up in PA, within 30 miles of each other, but

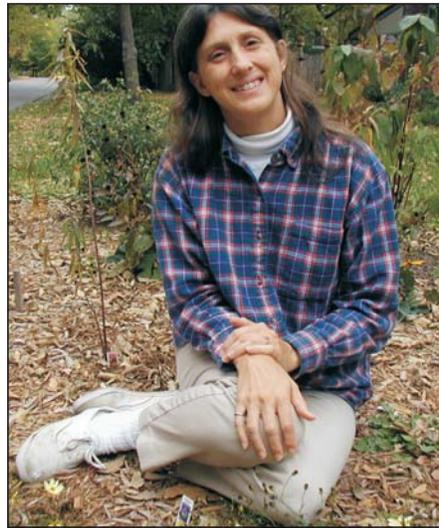


Photo courtesy Ian Miller

Ruth Douglas Miller

they didn't meet until U. Rochester grad school. She looked up the campus InterVarsity group, and Keith was on welcome duty that day, "trying ... to look very geologic with his fancy hat on."

Seeing Science as Ministry

The Millers co-authored a *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith (PSCF)* article, "Taking the Road Less Trav-

eled: Reflections on Entering Careers in Science" (1997). In it they lamented the "sacred/secular dichotomy" that categorizes pastors, missionaries, and church workers as the only full-time Christians. Ruth asks, "If you're not in full-time service, what are you? A part-time Christian?" She points out that whatever you do can bring glory to God, and that our understanding of Scripture can help us decide what projects to undertake. (For the full on-line text, see www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/1997/PSCF12-97Miller.htm.)

Leading without Bleeding

Besides teaching and research, Ruth attempts to communicate her results to a wider public through COMAR (Committee on Man and Radiation), a subcommittee of IEEE (Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers) whose charter is "to ascertain and communicate the [health] risks or lack thereof of any exposure to non-ionizing radiation" on frequencies from d.c. to daylight. She laments the journalistic

Continued on p. 7, Miller

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