



# NEWSLETTER

of the  
American Scientific Affiliation &  
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## 2006 ASA Annual Meeting at Calvin College

The 2006 ASA Annual Meeting will be held July 28–31, 2006, at Calvin C., Grand Rapids, MI. Different aspects of the conference theme, “Embedding Christian Values in Science and Technology,” will be addressed by four plenary speakers and will be the focus of seven symposia. For full details on conference plans with updates as they develop, see [www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org).

### Plenary Speakers

Celia Deane-Drummond is professor of theology and religious studies at University College Chester, UK. She has a degree in natural science from Cambridge U. and doctorates in plant physiology from Oxford U. and theology from Manchester U. Her major research interests—environmental ethics, science

and theology, and creation theology—epitomize the theme of our conference. Among her authored and co-authored books are: *God, Humanity and the Cosmos: A Textbook in Science and Religion* (T&T Clark, 1999); *Creation Through Wisdom: Theology and the New Biology* (T&T Clark, 2000); and *The Ethics of Nature* (Blackwells, 2004). *Genetics and Christian Ethics* and *Wonder and Wisdom: Conversations in Spirituality, Science and Theology* are in press.



Celia  
Deane-Drummond

*Continued on p. 4, 2006 Annual Meeting*

## “Crown Jewels” at the Click of a Mouse

Sixty years of the best thinking from ASA members—plus current happenings at the science-faith interface—are readily accessible in your home or office. The ASA website provides access to volumes of material, without tying up shelf space.

### A Decade in Development

In 1994 Jack Haas called an informal lunchtime meeting at the Bethel C. Annual Meeting to discuss what kind of Internet presence ASA ought to have. Several dozen attended, all wholeheartedly agreeing ASA ought to do something.

Among the attendees was Terry Gray, who had become Internet savvy during a sabbatical from Calvin C. at Texas A&M. Within days of his return home, ASA had a 4-page website.

### WWW = ‘Wisdom Within the Web’

Within a few months, ASA journal content became the dominant purpose of the ASA website. Its present server is at Colorado State U. and answers to [www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org).

The “crown jewels” of ASA are the content published in the *Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation* and its successor, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*. Jack Haas started by putting articles he thought would interest those participating in the newly-formed ASA e-mail discussion list. First was “Space and Time in the Genesis Cosmogony” by Meredith G. Kline. To promote e-mail list discussion, Jack selected “classic” journal articles, such as Richard Bube’s “We Believe in Creation.”

*Continued on p. 2, “Crown Jewels”*

## Technology: The Solution, or the Problem?

Christian Engineers in Science and Technology (CEST) sponsored a special symposium at last summer’s Annual Meeting. Evaluating the positive and negative impacts of technology, it was entitled “Technology: The Solution, or the Problem?”

### Plenary sessions

The Saturday morning plenary session was to have featured Egbert Schuurman, professor in Reformational Philosophy at the Technological Universities of Delft and Eindhoven and at the Agricultural U. of Wageningen, Netherlands, and a member of the Senate of the Dutch Parliament. He was scheduled to address the subject, “Struggle in the Ethics of Technology.” Unfortunately, Schuurman was taken ill and was not able to deliver his paper.

### Struggle in the Ethics of Technology

The plenary that Schuurman was unable to deliver verbally is well worth the time to read. One of the many highlights is an analogy attributed to Werner Heisenberg:

With the seeming limitless expansion of material power, man has arrived in a situation of a captain whose ship was so well constructed from steel and iron that the needle of the compass reacted only on the iron mass of the ship and no longer pointed to the North. With such a ship, the correct direction can no longer be established; it simply circles around or is at the mercy of wind and currents.

*Continued on p. 5, Technology*

## The Executive Director's Corner

Randall D. Isaac

As we begin a new calendar year, we typically reflect on God's leading in the past and consider his guidance for the coming year. For the ASA, the past year was a time of significant change as **Don** and Joyce **Munro** retired to North Carolina and Marta and I moved to Massachusetts to help the organization carry out its mission. Moving is hard work, but we are enjoying the beautiful north shore of Boston and are looking forward to making new friends as we serve the Lord in this capacity.

Thanks to your generous support and the contribution of our landlord, we have been able to upgrade the ASA offices in Ipswich and have signed a new five-year lease. The new carpet, fresh paint, and upgraded computers and software provide us with a renewed inspiration as we begin the new year. If you are ever in this area, please come and visit us. We're always glad to have our members stop in and see us.

Internet-based communication is a vital part of our future growth and effectiveness. This newsletter highlights some of the key features of the ASA website. Our vision is to make the website a center of interaction on science-faith issues. Its effectiveness depends critically on the number of participants.

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I encourage each of you to regularly visit our website, check out the new features as we roll them out, and give us feedback on how to improve it.

One benefit of the electronic medium is to facilitate global international communication. Some people have questioned whether our name implies a restriction to U.S. operations. Alton Everest commented that our organization's name was selected from a list of 16 suggestions. He noted that the most common criticism of the name in subsequent years has been the apparent nationalistic focus and the absence of an explicit identification with Christianity in the name. Over the years, the executive council has periodically reaffirmed its commitment to retaining the name while emphasizing our commitment to the Christian faith and extending our outreach to other countries.

Two recent examples show ASA's growing presence in South America. **Rafael Roesler**, a biochemist and professor in Porto Alegre, Brazil, recently joined the ASA. He wrote:

The material available at the ASA website, as well as articles published in *PSCF* and interviews and articles from eminent ASA members like Dr. **Francis Collins** and Dr. Richard Dickenson took a major role in my recent conversion to Christian Faith.

He expressed interest in the possibility of translating *PSCF* articles and to "work for the acceptance of Christian Faith among scientists."

From Lima, Peru, ASA member **Oscar Gonzalez** expressed his appreciation of the ASA and his desire to open an ASA chapter in Peru.

These examples illustrate the tremendous opportunity we have to share the testimony of Christians in science and the ways in which science and Christian faith can be integrated. The minutes of the very first meeting of the founders of the ASA report that "the fundamental needs to be met by this organization" are to review, prepare, and disseminate material relating to science and Christian faith. Your con-

tinued participation and support through your prayers and contributions make it possible to carry out this mission in an era where new technology makes the work easier and more critical.

In this issue, we also highlight the upcoming annual meeting at Calvin C. As much as we utilize electronic communication, there is still no substitute for direct personal interaction. Many members have appreciated the fellowship at our meetings. Make your plans now to attend and, if possible, to submit an abstract for consideration.

As you continue to pray for the ASA, focus on the need for more members and more people willing and able to take the time to review, prepare, and disseminate material. Have a very Happy New Year!



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### "Crown Jewels," from p. 1.

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The ASA office had electronic copy of all content from 1986 onward, and Jack placed that online. Next began the tedious process of scanning the 1949–1985 issues (complicated by the scanning software's habit of reading "God" as "Cod"). This project was essentially complete by the Fall of 2004 (although there's still a good deal of proofreading to do). Currently, we post all journal content after at least 18 months (so we don't adversely affect paid subscriptions). You can access a Table of Contents page for each issue at [www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF.html](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF.html).

In the mid-1980s, **Paul Arveson** had created a journal database with basic bibliographic information, keywords and related discipline. We converted that to a web-accessible database and created a variety of search and display pages for it. Try it at [129.82.76.41:591/ASAdb/search.html](http://129.82.76.41:591/ASAdb/search.html)

### Resources for the Christian Community

One purpose of the ASA website is to provide faith-science resources for the broader Christian community. The most

popular article of all time on the website is Roger Wiens' "Radiometric Dating: A Christian Perspective."

The homepage contains a set of "Topic Collections," an annotated list of resources from ASA journal articles and other websites. It's a great place to go if you have questions or want to point someone to resources in one of the covered areas. See, for example, the Ethics topic page at [www.asa3.org/ASA/topics/ethics/default.html](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/topics/ethics/default.html). The "Youth Pages" ([www.asa3.org/ASA/topics/Youth%20Page/index.html](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/topics/Youth%20Page/index.html)) by Jack Haas and Wendee Holtcamp are written at an even more popular level.

### FAQs and Faith

There is growing interest in providing a nontechnical Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page to help students, parents, teachers, pastors, school-board members, etc. navigate the sometimes tricky waters of faith-science controversies. **Craig Rusbult** and others from the Science Education Commission are developing a "site within a site" ([www.asa3.org/ASA/education/](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/education/)) aimed primarily at students and teachers.

Another resource aimed at a more popular audience is the Faith-Science News page (now at [www.asa3.org/weblog/jackhaas/](http://www.asa3.org/weblog/jackhaas/)). Jack scans the web science news *daily* for items of interest.

### Multimedia

Around 2000, the John Templeton Foundation enabled ASA to provide streaming videos of selected Templeton/ASA lectures. Our first implementation was hosted by friend of ASA David Granz at Newline Software, using Real Networks streaming technology. A second generation of videos was hosted directly on our website and available for download (in addition to streaming) at [www.asa3.org/ASA/ASATempleton/Videos/index.html](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/ASATempleton/Videos/index.html).

We have also put some audio from recent Annual Meetings—mainly keynote lectures—on the website in MP3 format. This year we will begin to "podcast" the audio content from the most recent Annual Meeting.

### Taking Care of Business

ASA has used its website to promote its Annual Meetings. Calls for papers, program announcements, abstracts, etc. for most meetings for the past several years went on the web (sometimes before being mailed) at [www.asa3.org/ASA/meetings](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/meetings). Also there are online forms for membership application and renewal, plus Annual Meeting registration. PayPal expedites payment for these and for donations to ASA, all accessible from the homepage. We're working on a secure online directory and some tools to enhance communications with and among ASA members. And, of course, issues of this newsletter are online.

### Podcasting and RSS—

#### The Bleeding Edge

RSS (Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary) is a newer Internet technology designed "to push" news headlines to interested readers (subscribers). One popular use of RSS is among weblog (blog) writers so that readers are notified when a new post is added, instead of having to visit the blog every day to see if there is new content. The Faith-Science News is now published in blog form and readers can subscribe to it with their RSS news readers. We also have an ASA News blog to push out announcements and other items of general interest to subscribers. Many recent web browsers have built-in RSS readers. Subscribe to our feeds via links on the home page. Go to [www.feedburner.com/fb/a/aboutrss](http://www.feedburner.com/fb/a/aboutrss) to find out more.

Podcasting is a permutation of RSS that emerged in the Fall of 2004. Here links to MP3 audio files are embedded in the RSS feed. There are also specialized podcasting clients (iTunes, iPodder, iPodderX). You subscribe to the podcast (an RSS feed) through your client. Your client downloads to your computer new episodes of the podcast as they are published. You can listen to this content directly on your computer, or you can transfer the content to your iPod or favorite MP3 player and listen to them while you do other things.

ASA is now podcasting lectures from the 2005 Annual Meeting. Of course, you can still order tapes, CDs, and DVDs and get the goods the old-fashioned way.

With the new blog format for some of our features, we have the ability to have more collaboratively-authored web content. We hope to push this further in the near future with a content management system. The Students and Early Career Scientists Network and the Communication Commission have already been experimenting with collaborative tools on the website.

### Steady Growth

Website visits have increased steadily, reaching a current level between five and six thousand monthly hits to our home page. This translates to around a half a million pages visited, as people drill down to other pages or come in through external links or search engines.

Terry Gray wishes to acknowledge Jack Haas, **Don Munro**, **Randy Isaac**, **Paul Arveson**, **Johnny Lin**, **Craig Rusbult**, **Dennis Feucht**, Dave Fisher, **Margaret Towne**, Lyn Berg, Carol Aiken and many others who have contributed to the ASA website. Suggestions from our members are always welcome! ✉ **Terry M. Gray**

### New Newsletter Feature

For some articles, there will be supplemental content on the ASA website. Wherever you read [more], you will find the expanded version at [www.asa3.org/weblog/newsletter/](http://www.asa3.org/weblog/newsletter/)

## Congratulations, Long-time ASAers!

Celebrating 55 years of membership

<b>Richard H. Bube</b>	<b>O. Carroll Karkalits</b>
<b>Howard H. Claassen</b>	<b>J. Robert Martin</b>
<b>Walter R. Hearn</b>	<b>Kermit O. Ratzlaff</b>
<b>Truman V. Hershberger</b>	<b>Donald S. Robertson</b>
<b>Eldon T. Hitchcock</b>	<b>George E. Speake</b>
<b>Robert E. Jervis</b>	<b>Reuben B. Widmer</b>
	<b>Robert G. Ziegler</b>

## Ted Davis Is Elected to Council

More details in the next newsletter.

## 2006 Annual Meeting, from p. 1.

US Representative **Vernon J. Ehlers**, Michigan's Third District congressman, is currently serving his sixth term. His Ph.D. in nuclear physics is from U. of California, Berkeley, where he taught before returning to teach at Calvin C. He is co-author of *Earthkeeping: Christian Stewardship of Natural Resources* (Eerdmans, 1980) and *Earthkeeping in the '90s: Stewardship of Creation* (Eerdmans, 1991).



Vernon J. Ehlers

While teaching, Vernon began public service with eight years on the Kent County Board of Commissions. Following two years in the Michigan House of Representatives and nine years in the Michigan Senate, he was elected to Congress where he serves on the Science Committee, chairs the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, and has been instrumental in revising science policy and science education. A long-time ASA Fellow, Vernon brings formidable experience to our conference in thinking about Christian values in science, technology, and public policy.

The other two plenary speakers are Rudolf Jaenisch of MIT, one of the world's foremost researchers of transgenic mice and mouse embryonic stem cells, and Karen Lebacqz of Yale U., a theological ethicist with interests in bioethics, professional ethics, and justice. These speakers will be featured in the next issue of the *ASA Newsletter*.

### Symposia and Sessions

The conference will feature ample opportunity for ASA members to share their research and scholarship in general and poster sessions. Special symposia are being arranged on Human Stem Cells; Stewardship, Conservation, and Land Management; Science and Technology in Service to the Poor; Models for the Teaching of Origins;

Science in Context; "Putting Science in Its Place;" Christian Values in Biotechnology; and Christian Values in Engineering, Technology, and the Physical Sciences.

New this year will be a special poster session featuring research done by undergraduate students during the spring and summer of 2006.

### Scholarships and Call for Papers

Special scholarships are available to early career scientists, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The Call for Papers with instructions for submitting abstracts, deadlines, and scholarship applications can be accessed at [www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org).

#### Deadlines

##### Monday, Feb. 6, 2006

- all proposed abstracts (see exception below)

##### Monday, Feb. 28, 2006

- abstracts by early career scientists and students in the sciences and engineering
- scholarships for early career scientists and students in the sciences and engineering

## Association of Christian Geologists

The Association of Christian Geologists had a special event during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, held in October in Salt Lake City, UT. It was an open forum on the present global situation with regard to geological resources and how we as believers might be involved. Discussion among the 35 or so participants focused on energy and especially petroleum, industrial mineral supply and demand, other mineral exploitation, and on the stewardly role Christian geologists could/should be playing in the global context.

The GSA offered plenty of action for those wanting more information on the "war" between science and theology. Approximately 450 people attended a session on speaking out for evolution: rationale and resources for supporting the teaching of evolution. **Keith Miller** gave a presentation.

A group of ACGs took a field trip, visiting the biggest existing manmade hole in the ground, the Bingham Canyon copper mine. Then the group traveled east up Little Cottonwood Creek Canyon, nine miles to its end in the mountains. Features of interest were glacial moraine deposits down dropped by the Wasatch Fault, highly folded and thrust units of Paleozoic quartzites, carbonate rocks bearing signs of thermal metamorphism from the adjacent Alta granitic body, and starkly yellow aspens.

Several Wheaton C. students, with advisor Jeff Greenberg, delivered a presentation on "Littoral Zone Contamination and Integrated Waste-Water Abatement: Pellrus Township, Republic of South Africa." The session chair mentioned how well the study incorporated community development with science. ✉ *Jeff Greenberg*

## ASAer in Print

In a Letter to the Editor published in *Science* (1 July 2005) entitled "Evangelical Biologists and Evolution," **John C. Sutherland** reported on a survey of biology departments at Christian colleges. He addressed letters to "the Professor of Biology" at the 104 schools of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities website, asking how they deal with evolution and creation. Of the 67 schools responding, 25% affirmed a young Earth, 6-day creation model; 27% held a theistic evolution position, accepting common descent of all living things and God's action through natural laws. Sutherland states:

The remainder were either reluctant to take a specific stance or were what are called old Earth progressive creationist—Earth is billions of years old, but God acted creatively to bridge the gaps ...

Five merely sent printed statements of their school's positions, "affirming belief in a Creator God, but that there are multiple ways in which he might have done it."

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## Technology, from p. 1.

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Schuurman says, "If the captain desires to sail in the right direction once more, he will have to orient himself by using the stars." He discusses ethical guidelines by which to control the ship of technology.

An extended abstract of Schuurman's paper is on the ASA website, or request a full electronic copy of it from **Jack Swearingen** at [jcnlswear@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcnlswear@sbcglobal.net).

### **Technology: The Solution or the Problem?**

Program Chair **Ken Touryan** invited symposium chair Jack Swearingen to use some of Schuurman's Saturday time to offer his own views on the symposium theme.

Jack reminded the audience that the industrial revolution began when we started using technology to substitute fossil energy for human and animal power. The labor-saving and other benefits of that shift can hardly be overstated—but the finiteness of the supply and the environmental impacts of fossil energy use may be revealing serious constraints on industrial civilization as presently configured. Most Americans are unbridled technological optimists—as are nearly all engineers and scientists. Claims that this or that new technology "will change the world" are heard at regular intervals. Examples include the steam engine, nuclear energy, the Mac computer, and—most recently—nanotechnology.

### **Unintended Outcomes**

Some technologists, however, lose some of their optimism when they ponder unintended outcomes. J. Robert Oppenheimer accepted leadership of the Manhattan Project because it was "technically sweet." Afterward he was to say, "I have become death, the destroyer of worlds" and "The physicists have known sin." In 1925 Frank Howard of Ethyl Corporation testified, "Tetraethyl lead was a gift of God." That was before the neurological impacts of lead from automobile exhaust in the inner cities made necessary the banning of leaded gasoline.

Unlike many poets, philosophers, painters, and novelists, most engineers don't set out to change the world. They just hope to have an interesting career and perhaps improve the standard of living for some. However, technology may be having more impact than all these other disciplines combined—yet most engineers are untrained in sociology, philosophy, or ethics. And they are often surprised by the emergent and unintended outcomes of their work.

The impacts of technology can be grouped into four categories: physical-environmental, social, aesthetic, and spiritual. I believe that the culture mandate of Scripture calls for followers of the One True God to develop sustainable cultures; but the present course of Western civilization may not be sustainable in any of these four categories. Christian engineers have a high and urgent calling to show how industrial civilization can be redirected toward sustainable practices.

### **Resources in Philosophy and Religion for the Evaluation of the Social Impact of Technology**

Monday's closing plenary speaker was **Robert Wauzzinski**, assistant professor of philosophy and religious studies, Ball State U., Muncie, IN. Wauzzinski began by defining philosophy as "the commitment to human reason" and religion as "control beliefs; the adjudication of right and wrong." He then outlined a taxonomy of worldviews that control the social impacts of technology. The most influential are pessimism and its derivative luddism; optimism and its derivatives technicism and the technological imperative; realism; and structuralism.

In the creation account, God tells us to be culture-formers; and a ministry mandate is added in the New Testament. Sin can damage creation but not finally eliminate its "very good"-ness. Technology should serve all creation—including "the least of these." But Western culture seeks autonomy—self-replicating, self-designing, self-diagnosing, and self-repairing. If—as

Lynn White charged—technology is the means to bring nature under our will, a seismic worldview shift has occurred. (White neglected the Enlightenment and the industrial revolution.) When technology becomes the means by which we define ourselves, it becomes idolatry—the worship of our own creation(s).

The automobile culture is the ultimate example of this. The freedom of salvation, community, and stewardship is replaced by a technologically-induced autonomy we call auto-mobility. And thus has the automobile become a culture-former. Our congested highways are literally a concrete example of the value we place on autonomous mobility. The automobile damages community, replacing it with fast-paced blurred images. It displaces other equally valid modes of transportation like bikes, foot, and more public transportation. Wauzzinski illustrated this point by describing the multi-faceted transportation system in Amsterdam, where frequent buses and streetcars to every part of the city expedite transportation with ease and economy.

### **A Panorama of Parallel Sessions**

A series of contributed papers supplemented the plenaries.

#### **Session 1:**

#### **Technology as a Gift of God**

- *Piezoelectricity: An Enabling Technology for Health and Welfare*—**Fred Hickernell**. Fred described the piezoelectric effect and discussed the myriad of technological applications that have been based on this property.

- *Energy Savings Achieved by the Use and Manufacture of Glass with Solar Reflective Coatings*—**Annabelle Pratt**. Annabelle's presentation was reviewed in the Sept/Oct 2005 Newsletter.

- *Appropriate Technology Now*—**Paul Arveson**. Paul described the benefits of solar cooking using metal polymer films.

- *Use of Autonomous Vehicles for Improved Stewardship of Natural Resources*—**Steven Hall**. Steven described the use of a "smart" self-guided boat used to keep pelicans off aquaculture lagoons.

**Session 2:**

**Limits and Emergent Properties (a)**

- *The End of the Age of Oil* –**Robert Sundell**. Robert examined some of the most highly touted new energy technologies available to replace petroleum in terms of net Energy Return on Energy Invested (EROEI).
- *The Hydrogen Energy Economy: Promise or Illusion?* –**Kenneth Piers**. Kenneth focused on chemical and electrochemical production of hydrogen.
- *Geothermal Energy: The Solution, a Contributor, a Diversion, or Part of the Problem?* –**Chip Mansure**. Proclaiming “I’m innocent; it is technology’s fault (or responsibility)” when discussing negative outcomes or energy deficits, or excusing our actions by saying, “I do not make policy” is like after eating the apple, Adam saying to God, “Technology made me do it.”
- *Making Personal Technology Work Appropriately* –**William Jordan & Bill Elmore**. William Jordan began with Eph. 6:7, “When we work, we must recognize that we are always working for God.” Steven VanderLeest once said: “Technology is neither good nor bad; it is both good *and* bad.”

**Session 3:**

**Limits and Emergent Properties (b)**

- *Nanotechnology: Its Impact on Society and Our Christian Response* –**Randy Isaac**. Randy offered possible reasons for “all the excitement about nanotech.” And he also mentioned the risks.
- *The Moral Neutrality of Technology* –**Jack Swearingen**. Jack noted that ethical problems differ for “pure” science or basic research that tries to rid itself of human influence, and technology development that deliberately incorporates the values of sponsor, producer, marketer, and user.
- *Solar Power: The Next Generation of Personal Transportation?* –**Ruth Douglas Miller**. Ruth described recent solar-powered automobile projects by several undergraduate engineering teams.
- *Butterflies in the Machine (or “Renewable” Doesn’t Mean “Harmless”)* –**Sean Cordry**. Sean cautioned that enthusiasm for renewable energy technologies

can blind us to the negative impacts. He speculated on possible impacts of renewable energy systems on local and global climate.

**Session 4: Biblical Management of Technology**

- *Naming the Elephant: The Precautionary Principle, Science, and Uncertainty* –**John Wood**. The Precautionary Principle (PP) argues that it is better to be safe than sorry. John concluded that a place-based ethic would provide the most biblical approach to creation care.
- *What Would Jesus Drive? Biblical and Theological Reflections on Technology as Problem and Solution* –**Jim Ball**. Jim claims that efficiency and conservation seem to lie on the path we have not chosen.

✉ Jack Swearingen

[more]

**ASAers in Action**

- When the People’s Republic of China sent more than 100 of its university graduates for pilot training at an aeronautical school in Oklahoma, the trainees gave up their passports and had no access to cars. Several local Christians saw their situation of lots of spare time while waiting for scarce flight time, as an opportunity to befriend them and eventually lead at least 16 of them to salvation.

In an Annual Meeting parallel session entitled “Chinese Airline Pilot Trainees and Intelligent Design: Observations on Cross-Cultural Evangelism Using Science,” Oral Roberts U. (ORU) chemistry prof. **William B. Collier** summarized the techniques that led to the success. Three Chinese Christians on the ORU faculty suggested sharing materials that the local Reasons to Believe chapter had discussed. One ORU prof. recalled that he had once known nothing about Christianity except that

**Newsletter Disclaimer**

As a newsletter, this publication presents 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.

Christmas was a holiday, so they started with informational videos such as *The Privileged Planet* and *Understanding the Mystery of Life* and Michael Behe’s book *Darwin’s Black Box*. Q&A sessions discussed God’s existence, the Bible’s historicity and reliability and the need for Christ’s atonement.

In analyzing the cross-cultural interaction, Collier sees a symbiosis between Christians with American and Chinese backgrounds:

Westerners can be more bold and up-front about the role of God in their lives, but you are going to need your fellow Chinese Christians when it comes to deeper relational issues in your outreach.

He added, “Think long-term relationships with no strings attached”—accepting them as friends, not as “prospects” to be sold on salvation. The apologetic material fit into a context in which the keys are love, friendship, “relationship, relationship, relationship” and the Holy Spirit.

- “Helping Skeptics Doubt Their Doubts” is the way **Tom Woodward** describes his recent activities in Europe. As director of the C. S. Lewis Society in Trinity, FL, he led the “Cambridge Project,” presenting Intelligent Design-related apologetics materials during a 9-week trek through seven countries. The first major Intelligent Design conference in Europe was held in Prague in October. The “Darwin and Design” conference was organized by **Charles Thaxton**, who was visiting professor and Templeton scholar in the natural sciences department at Charles U. in Prague from 1992–1997.

The conference drew 700 participants, mostly skeptics, from 18 countries to hear **Stephen Meyer**, **Jonathan Wells**, Charles Thaxton and other scholars from England, France, and the Netherlands. The C. S. Lewis Society is responsible for the evangelistic follow-up to the conference, and requests prayer for that. The follow-up will include free copies of the DVDs *Unlocking the Mystery of Life* and *The Privileged Planet* with Czech subtitles,

plus "From Design to the Designer," a document developed specifically for this follow-up. Woodward's associate Rich Akin says this 6-page document "answers the so-what question" by identifying the "superintellect [who] designed the universe and a great variety of life forms on the earth, including mankind" as the God of the Bible.

Woodward's organization is completing the Spanish translation of the video *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*, with sound tracks in both Latin American and Castilian Spanish plus Catalan. For additional information, or to receive an e-mail copy of From Design to the Designer, contact [info@apologetics.org](mailto:info@apologetics.org) or phone (727) 376-6911. ✉ *Tom Woodward* and *Charles Thaxton*

### Of Interest

• CTNS, the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, has a new \$2.8 million, 4-yr program entitled "Science and Transcendence: Advanced Research Program (STARS). Grants will support stellar interdisciplinary teams consisting of at least one scientist and at least one humanities scholar (philosopher, theologian or specialist in religious studies, etc.). Conferences to help candidates apply for planning and research grants will be at a resort in the Caribbean in January 2007. The conferences will be led by distinguished scientists and will showcase foundational discoveries and theories in physics, cosmology and biology. Details at [www.ctns.org/stars/grants.html](http://www.ctns.org/stars/grants.html)

### Coming Events

- Jan. 8.** Larry Witham, speaking on his new book *The Measure of God: Our Century-Long Struggle to Reconcile Science & Religion*. 7 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg, MD. E-mail Rick Barr: [Vikingtoo@aol.com](mailto:Vikingtoo@aol.com)
- Jan. 19.** **Tom Woodward** debating Michael Ruse, Orlando, FL. Details at [info@apologetics.org](mailto:info@apologetics.org)
- Jan. 26–29.** The Amazing Meeting: Science in Politics & the Politics of Science, Las Vegas, NV, James Randi Educational Foundation. Speakers: Murray Gell-Mann, Daniel Dennett, Michael Shermer; magicians Penn & Teller. Details at [www.tam4.com](http://www.tam4.com).
- Feb. 12.** Wrestlers' Class in the Agencies Building at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, 9:30 a.m. **Ted Davis** will explain some of the



Susan Daniels, NIH microbiologist with her friend Jennifer Wiseman, an astronomer at NASA Headquarters at a dinner meeting of the Washington-Baltimore local section on Nov. 11, 2005.

main ideas associated with intelligent design, discuss political & educational goals & strategies of the ID movement, and comment briefly on the Dover School District trial. Audience Q&A.

✉ **Paul Arveson**

- Feb. 16.** Beyond Conflict of Science & Religion: The Case of Judaism, Phoenix, AZ, Canyon Institute. Speaker: Hava Tirosh-Samuelson explores Jewish philosophers and scientists Maimonides and Gersonides as role models for contemporary discussion. Details at [www.canyoninstitute.org](http://www.canyoninstitute.org)
- Feb. 16–20.** AAAS Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO. Details at [www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/](http://www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual_Meeting/)
- Feb. 16–20.** Grand Challenges, Great Opportunities, St. Louis, MO. This conference will explore the greatest challenges in science and their potential global benefits. E-mail Melissa Rosenthal, [mrosenth@aaas.org](mailto:mrosenth@aaas.org); [www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)
- Feb. 24–25.** Science & Theology Research Conference, Berkeley, CA: Graduate Theological Union Boardroom. Speakers: Scholars from CTNS and Korean Institute for Advanced Theological Studies. Followed by public reception at Bade Museum, Pacific School of Religion. Information at (510) 848-2350.
- Mar. 2.** Love: Investigating Its Meaning, History and Expressions, Kansas City, MO. This conference will explore aspects of love, such as the philosophy of God, theoretical and applied ethics, aesthetics, and metaphysics. E-mail Thomas Jay Oord: [tjoord@nnu.edu](mailto:tjoord@nnu.edu); <http://david.snu.edu/~brint.fs/wpsjnl>
- Mar. 2.** Psychological Perspectives on Wesleyan Spiritual Formation, Kansas

City, MO. Details at [www.ptloma.edu/wesleyan/SSPWT](http://www.ptloma.edu/wesleyan/SSPWT)

**Mar. 9.** Fourth Annual David B. Larson Memorial Lecture, Durham, NC. Speaker: Paul Meier. E-mail [Koenig@geri.duke.edu](mailto:Koenig@geri.duke.edu).

### With the Lord

- **Joe T. Ator** died March 1, 2005. His 42-yr career in research and engineering included 25 at The Aerospace Corp. in Los Angeles, primarily in the design of space systems involving optics and astronomy. He was a senior trustee of Abilene Christian U., an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a member of the Church of Christ. He wrote two books: *The Return of Credibility: Scientific Discoveries Support Belief in the Bible's Creation Account* and *Darwinism and the "Creation Science" Movement*.
- **Roger Voskuyl** died Nov. 9 in Santa Barbara at the age of 95. After graduating from Hope C. and obtaining his doctorate in chemistry from Harvard, he taught at Wheaton C., participated in the Manhattan Project during WW II, then served as president of Westmont C., 1950–1968. During his tenure, the college gained accreditation, added 8 major buildings and increased enrollment from 218 to 700. The number of faculty with doctorates increased from 19 to 52 percent. He helped to found the Council for the Advancement of Small Colleges, and became its executive director in 1968, retiring from that position in 1974.

### Are You Attending the AAAS Meeting?

ASA will have a booth there, and **Randy Isaac** is looking for ASA members who are interested in:

- Helping to man the booth, and/or
- Getting together during the meeting.

To explore either possibility, contact him at [randy@asa3.org](mailto:randy@asa3.org).

## CCCU Partners with InterVarsity

The Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) recently announced a new partnership. The two organizations will join efforts in the following three areas: spiritual formation and the practice of spiritual disciplines; faith and learning in higher education; and mentoring through the Emerging Scholars Network ([www.emergingscholars.org](http://www.emergingscholars.org)) and the CCCU Virtual Center for Faculty Development ([www.cccu.org/virtualcenter/](http://www.cccu.org/virtualcenter/)).

Commenting on this new partnership, CCCU President Bob Andringa says:

From a Kingdom perspective, this partnership makes so much sense. The CCCU and IVCF share a common commitment to developing Christ-centered leaders in higher education. ... This new partnership will impact faculty, administrators and students across the higher edu-

cation landscape—both in Christian higher education and in state and private higher education where IVCF has a strong presence.

IVCF currently serves more than 40,000 students and faculty on 560 campuses nationwide.

The partnership is intended to equip and encourage Christian faculty in the integration of their professional roles and their personal walks of faith. Joint conferences and workshops, sharing of resources such as the IVCF Emerging Scholars Network (ESN) which is called to identify, encourage, and support the next generation of Christian scholars and the CCCU Virtual Center for Faculty Development that provides selected resources designed to encourage teaching, learning, scholarship and service that transforms lives.

For additional information, contact Dr. Ronald P. Mahurin, VP, Professional

Development & Research, CCCU at [rmahurin@cccu.org](mailto:rmahurin@cccu.org) or Stan Wallace, Director of InterVarsity's Faculty Ministry at [swallace@facultyministry.org](mailto:swallace@facultyministry.org)

✉ [CCCU Website](http://www.cccu.org)

### Welcome New Members! October–November 2005

Carlson, Ronald E. –Naperville, IL  
Carroll, William –Herndon, VA  
Childs, Peter E. –Limerick, Ireland  
Everley, Robert A. –Richmond, VA  
Gabriel, Scott –Ithaca, NY  
Harnish, Stephen N. –Tulsa, OK  
Jewitt, Thomas L. –Ft Meade, SD  
Kliewer, Christopher –Concord, CA  
Maddox, Randy L. –Durham, NC  
Martin, Steven D. –Brampton, ON Canada  
McKearin, James –Litchfield, NH  
Morledge, Clarke H. –Williamsburg, VA  
Nelson, Lawrence M. –Burke, VA  
Opderbeck, David W. –Midland Park, NJ  
Reed, Sharon E. –Augusta, GA  
Snodgrass, Kristen –Beaverton, OR  
Thro, Ann Marie –Washington, DC  
Voth, Greg A. –Rocky Hill, CT  
Winterstein, Donald F. –Brea, CA

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