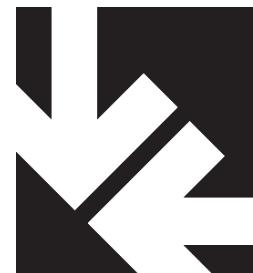


NEWSLETTER

of the
American Scientific Affiliation &
Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation



Volume 49, Number 1

JAN/FEB 2007

Keynote Speaker: Alister McGrath

The ASA's UK counterpart, Christians in Science, will be the primary host of this year's Annual Meeting—scheduled for August 2–5 at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Keynote speaker will be Prof. Alister McGrath. With doctorates in both molecular biology and theology, he is currently Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford University and Director of the Oxford Centre for Evangelism and Apologetics. He is hailed as one of the most widely-read and influential Christian writers in the world.



Alister McGrath

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, McGrath has co-directed The John Templeton Oxford Seminars on Science and Christianity. He is organizing a major international conference on Natural Theology to be held at Oxford in 2008, and is scheduled to give the 2009 Gifford Lectures at the University of Aberdeen.

Debunking Dawkins

A preview of what we might expect in Edinburgh is McGrath's lecture at the City Church of San Francisco, online at www.citychurchsf.org/openforum.htm in MP3 audio. In addition to convincingly countering Dawkins' criticisms of Christianity, he shares an incident in which an audience member came up to him after a lecture, angrily shouting, "You have destroyed my life! I based my life on Dawkins, and you have shown that his ideas are rubbish!"

That sounds like effectively fulfilling the Apostle Paul's aspiration to "tear down strongholds, and everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" (2 Cor. 10:5).

McGrath's 2005 book *Dawkins' God: Genes, Memes and the Meaning of Life* exposes the frailty of the arguments advanced by Richard Dawkins, the UK's very vocal proponent of scientism and atheism. In response to Dawkins' newest book, *The God Delusion*, McGrath's *The Dawkins Delusion* is scheduled for February release in the UK, followed by a May release by InterVarsity Press.

McGrath has issued a standing offer to debate Dawkins, but so far his offer has been declined.

Collins Debates Dawkins in *Time* Cover Story

One Christian that Dawkins did not decline is **Francis Collins**. *Time* magazine arranged for the two men to stage a 90-minute debate in its New York offices. An article based on it, titled "God vs. Science," was the cover feature of the Nov. 13, 2006 issue.

The published portion of their debate included the argument from design, the fine-tuned constants of physics, the Big Bang, miracles, whether evolutionary psychology or sociobiology could account for altruistic behavior, and stem cell research.

In one key exchange, Collins challenged Dawkins:

For you to argue that our noblest acts are a misfiring of Darwinian behavior does not do justice to the sense that we all have about the absolutes ... of good and evil ...

Continued on p. 3, Collins Debates

Wiseman Elected to Executive Council

Jennifer Wiseman has been elected to a five-year term on the ASA Executive Council effective January 2007.

With a BS in physics from MIT and an MA and a PhD in astronomy from Harvard, she has spent much of her professional career at NASA. She has also served as a Congressional Science Fellow and on several panels for the American Physical Society.



Jennifer Wiseman

After several years at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, she recently started a new position as Chief of the Laboratory for Exoplanet and Stellar Astrophysics at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. Scientists in her group are studying all aspects of stars (star formation, stellar lifetimes, stellar structure) and ways of finding and characterizing planets orbiting stars other than the Sun.

Jennifer's vision for ASA includes:

- Devoting substantial parts of our conferences and publications to practical issues facing younger, active scientists.

Continued on p. 3, Wiseman Elected

Post-Conference Trip: Discover Scotland

This tour will visit Edinburgh Castle, St. Andrews, Dunrobin Castle, Orkney Islands, Loch Ness, Isle of Skye, and Sterling Castle. Details at

[www.asa3.org/ASA/meetings/
Edinburgh2007/
Edinburgh_tourbrochure.pdf](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/meetings/Edinburgh2007/Edinburgh_tourbrochure.pdf).

Deposit required by **Feb. 20, 2007**.

The Executive Director's Corner

Randall D. Isaac

The November 2006 issue of *Wired* magazine featured a cover story on "The New Atheism." The primary article was "The Church of the Non-Believers" by Gary Wolf. Describing what he thinks is a new faction of militant atheists, Wolf reported:

They condemn not just belief in God but respect for belief in God. Religion is not only wrong; it's evil. Now that the battle has been joined, there's no excuse for shirking.

Three writers have sounded this call to arms. They are Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Daniel Dennett.

Wolf recounts their tirades against religion but ultimately rejects their call despite his own agnosticism.

There is very little, if anything, that is new in their books. Opposition to religion is as old as religion itself. The misuse of science as a weapon to attack religion is also hundreds of years old. Even the aggressive and vituperative lashing at theistic beliefs can hardly be considered a novelty. No substantive new arguments seem to be coming from their pens.

The latest surge of public venting against theism does serve to clarify the central issue at stake. The presumed model of warfare between science and Christian faith is not the real battleground. The conflict is between an

atheistic and a theistic worldview. The distinction is blurred by the supposed connection between science and atheism, an erroneous association made by both religious and scientific fundamentalists.

Wolf continued:

While frontline warriors against creationism are busy reassuring parents and legislators that teaching Darwin's theory does not undermine the possibility of religious devotion, Dawkins is openly agreeing with the most stubborn fundamentalists that evolution must lead to atheism. I tell Dawkins what he already knows: He is making life harder for his friends.

He barely shrugs. "Well, it's a cogent point, and I have to face that. My answer is that the big war is not between evolution and creationism, but between naturalism and supernaturalism."

For the ASA, this round of publicity is opening up many opportunities. Secular scientists throughout the community are responding with their own view that while they are atheists or agnostics, they do not see any conflict between science and religion. They respect people of faith and are reaching out to the evangelical community to assure them that science is not inherently hostile to them. In the last few weeks, several major secular science organizations have contacted the ASA, taking the initiative to engage our respective communities in dialog on science and religion. God is bringing us tremendous opportunities to share our views on the integration of science and Christian faith. Join with us in prayer as we seek God's guidance in these interactions.

Our 2007 annual meeting in Edinburgh, to be held jointly with our sister organization, Christians in Science, will feature Alister McGrath as the keynote speaker. We have mailed the call for papers to you and the information is available on our website. Please respond now to reserve your accommodations for the meeting. This meeting will have a high ratio of plenary talks to contributed papers and promises to be a most stimulating gathering.

Speaking of our website, be sure to visit our newly designed website at www.asa3.org. We'll be continuing to add new features with opportunities for dialog. If you haven't done so already, read the vision for ASA posted as "Expanding ASA's Reach." This web page is restricted to members or others who are interested in working with us. Please give us your comments by registering in the feedback forum.

Your continued membership and support are greatly appreciated. We depend on your contributions of finances and time to carry out our work of service to the Creator.

Congratulations, Long-time ASAers!

Celebrating 55 years of membership

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Raymond H. Brand | Donald E. McDowell |
| Dewey K. Carpenter | John M. Osepchuk |
| Paul D. Drechsel | Stanley M. Parmerter |
| Herbert L. Hergert | William D. Pletcher |
| Norman L. Lofgren | James G. Widmer |

Celebrating 50 years of membership

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Charles W. Crown | Glenn I. Kirkland |
| Robert L. Greenhow | John A. McIntyre |
| John W. Haas Jr. | Harold M. Spinka |
| Russell H. Heddendorf | Frank Walmsley |
| Robert L. Herrmann | Norman G. Wheeler |
| James F. Jekel | John W. Zimmerly |

Welcome, New Members! October–November 2006

- Azarkh, Eugene – Ft Collins, CO
- Bittinger, Marvin L. –Carmel, IN
- Bossemeyer Jr., Rob – Pierson, MI
- Burchfield, John C. –Sylvania, OH
- Casteel, Eric G. –Apex, NC
- Davenport, Michael R. –Vancouver, BC Canada
- Diehl, David W. –Yorktown Heights, NY
- Diehl, Barbara – Yorktown Heights, NY
- Evans, Clifford L. –Morrlilton, AR
- Faries, Jeremiah M. –Southampton, Bermuda
- Golovay, Shani L. –Wheaton, IL
- Huffman, Scott – Troy, OH
- Mah, Stephen T. –Toronto, ON Canada
- McSorley, Stephen J. –South St Paul, MN
- Miller, Jeffrey A. –McMurray, PA
- Montgomery, Brian – Newport, OR
- Romero, Leon A. –Santa Fe, NM
- Smitherman, John R. –Fort Worth, TX
- van den Berg, Rene –Papua New Guinea
- Weleski, Matthew J. –Fredericksburg, VA
- Woolfolk, Dedra R. –East Point, GA

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Please send Canadian matters to: CSCA, P.O. Box 40086, 75 King St. S., Waterloo, ON, Canada N2J 4V1.

Send address changes and other business items to the American Scientific Affiliation, P.O. Box 668, 55 Market St., Ipswich, MA 01938-0668. Phone: (978) 356-5656; FAX: (978) 356-4375; E-mail: asa@asa3.org; Web site: www.asa3.org

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Editors: David Fisher, Margaret Towne
Managing Editor: Lyn Berg

Wiseman Elected, from p. 1.

Examples include choosing a research field, sharing the gospel with colleagues, dealing with demands of tenure-track, and balancing work life, family life and church life

- Making the organization better known as an authoritative voice and resource for issues of Christian faith and science
- Reaching out to international scientists who have come to the U.S. to study or work, providing Christian fellowship and support
- Grounding all activities in prayer.

Collins Debates, from p. 1.

What you've said implies that outside of the human mind, tuned by evolutionary processes, good and evil have no meaning. Do you agree with that?

Dawkins replied:

Even the question you're asking has no meaning to me ... I don't believe that there is hanging out there, anywhere, something called good and something called evil. I think that there are good things that happen and bad things that happen.

Collins responded:

I think that is a fundamental difference between us. I'm glad we identified it.

Although Dawkins is generally known as an advocate of the type of scientism that the late Donald MacKay dubbed "nothing-buttery," he did acknowledge, "There could be something incredibly grand and incomprehensible and beyond our present understanding."

Collins replied, "That's God."

Dawkins demurred, "Yes. But it could be any of a billion Gods ... The chance of its being a particular God, Yahweh, the God of Jesus, is vanishingly small—at least, the onus is on you to demonstrate why you think that's the case."

Elsewhere, Collins stated, "Faith rests squarely upon reason, but with the added component of revelation."

In response to a follow-up e-mail asking which parts of the debate had not made it into print, Collins replied:

... [T]here was a lot that didn't get into the final version, including a discussion of the historicity of Christ, a discussion of Intelligent Design, and some attempts by me to convince Dawkins that his personal image of faith (as depicted in his book) is a caricature, not the real thing.

Redeeming Reason

The second Redemption of Reason conference was held at the University of Chicago, Nov. 9–11, concentrating on "redeeming" the scientific community from the impression that science and Christianity are in "warfare." Brief capsules can't adequately summarize 2½ days of full intellectual meals, but following are a few of the points made, plus links for further detail:

- After introducing himself as "an MIT nerd who married the homecoming queen," University of Georgia quantum chemist **Henry F. (Fritz) Schaefer III** spoke on "Scientists and Their Gods." Citing numerous scientists' affirmative and negative opinions of God, he noted that sustained scientific development has occurred only in Christian cultures and discussed possible reasons.
- Wheaton molecular biologist **Pattle Pun** presented "Integration and Confrontation of Contemporary Worldviews: Evolution and Intelligent Design." Among many memorable quotations was Bill Gates' observation, "Human DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any we've ever created." Pun explained why he believes ID is the best explanation of origins, based on the principle of "inference to the best explanation."
- Oxford physicist Ard Louis espoused a BioLogos alternative. In "Thinking Christianly about Biological Complexity," he quoted Billy Graham saying:
I believe that God created man, and whether it came by an evolutionary process and at a certain point he took this person or being and made him a living soul or not, does not change the fact that God did create man ... whichever way God did it makes no difference as to what man is and man's relationship to God.

Warfare, Wedlock and Weaving

- MIT plasma physicist **Ian Hutchinson** said warfare was not the dominant view until 1896, when Andrew Dickson White published *A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom*. Hutchinson described the book as propaganda, "complete with martyrs and heroes to make up a good story." Entitling his lecture "Warfare and Wedlock," he countered that the recipe for a compatible marriage and a harmonious science/faith liaison is the same: "Shared fundamental principles and complementary characters."
- University of Chicago astronomy professor Donald G. York used the imagery of a loom weaving diverse threads into a tapestry, illustrating that most scientific research discovers small facts, which scientists need to weave together to answer the Big Questions.
- University of Wisconsin Professor of Environmental Studies **Calvin DeWitt** pointed out the need for integrative study of nature. For example, molecular biology deals with molecules and possibly cells, but science needs to understand the interaction of these smaller units in the larger context of the organism and the ecosphere.
- John Suppe, Princeton structural geologist, spoke on "Christian and Scientific Knowledge Claims."
- Patricia Reiff, Rice University particle physicist, discussed ways to respect the sensitivities of students.
- Alvin Plantinga, Notre Dame philosopher, dealt with the question, "Science and Religion: Why Does the Debate Continue?" Part of the answer is that many confusedly equate methodological naturalism and ontological naturalism.
- Alan Padgett, Luther Seminary theologian, defined "redeeming reason" as re-orienting reason to its proper end/goal and grounding reason in reality. He quoted Abraham Kuyper:
No single piece of our mental world is to be hermetically sealed off from the rest, and there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: "Mine!" →

PDFs, PowerPoints and MP3 audio of most sessions are available online at www.redeemingreason.org/2006/schedule.html. An earlier version of Schaefer's lecture is included in his book, *Science and Christianity: Conflict or Coherence*, available through Amazon. The conference was sponsored by IVCF, three area churches, the Penner Foundation, and the Mustard Seed Foundation.

Affiliation of Christian Geologists

Last October, the Geological Society of America had its conference in Philadelphia and several Affiliation of Christian Geologists (ACG) members got together. John Wagner, of Clemson University, led the group in a review of organizational functions, including meeting events, officer responsibilities, and refining use of the Internet in providing communication. ACG will stop publication of hard-copy newsletters and utilize e-news on a more frequent basis. Other business emphasized the need to offer position papers on important issues, such as a commitment to "orthodox" science as well as biblically-based faith. It was noted that the 2007 ASA Annual Meeting in Edinburgh will offer fantastic opportunities for geological activities. Some members took a tour of the geological wonders of the Philadelphia region, as well.

✉ Jeff Greenberg

Church Members Experience Geology Field Trip

Through membership in the ASA, **Margaret Towne**, biologist in Las Vegas, NV, learned that **Wayne Belcher**, hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, lived in a suburb of Las Vegas and had taken a group of geologists from ACG on a field trip of the area in 2000. He had compiled a book with diagrams and explanations of several significant features in the area. Margaret contacted Wayne and asked if he would be willing to lead a group from her church on such a trip. Wayne graciously agreed, and this past November



Wayne Belcher, hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, led a group from the Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas, NV, on a geological tour of Frenchman Mountain.

a group of very interested members of the Mountain View Presbyterian Church spent six hours with Wayne, viewing unconformities and faults and seeing a variety of other fascinating geological phenomena in the region. They saw Frenchman Mountain, which was tilted ~50° to the east about 10 million years ago. This mountain is a fault block of Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic sedimentary rock lying on Precambrian crystalline basement. At one point, the tour members could touch an area between sandstone and schist which represented 1.2 billion years of missing geological history. Wayne integrated faith with his presentations and encouraged questions. This was a very stimulating experience and the dialogue continued over a mid-afternoon lunch. The church members were amazed at this unique opportunity and have shared their experience with many others.

Interestingly, at the ACG get together last fall at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, an essay of Wayne's was featured, titled *The Parable of the Mountain*. This provides spiritual insight into his climb up Mt. St. Helens.

ASA has many distinguished scientists living throughout North America who would be willing to conduct such trips or give presentations if asked. Botanists, zoologists, astronomers, geologists, etc. could share so much information to groups from local churches. This is one very significant way in

which the laity can become informed on important issues. If you are willing to be involved in this way, either as a scientist or as a representative from your church, let the co-editors of the newsletter know. This is a unique form of ministry and can be very enjoyable and enriching for everyone involved.

Evolution Sunday

The Second Annual Evolution Sunday will occur on Feb. 11. It is being sponsored by The Clergy Letter Project, a collection of more than 10,400 members of the Christian clergy who have signed a letter asserting that Christianity and modern evolutionary science need not be at odds with one another. These clergy maintain:

The timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist. We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests.

They go on to urge that modern evolutionary theory rather than any form of creationism or intelligent design be taught in our country's public schools and conclude by requesting:

We ask that science remain science and that religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary, forms of truth.

Last year, in an attempt to further this message and to elevate the quality

of the national discussion on this topic, The Clergy Letter Project sponsored the First Annual Evolution Sunday event. On that day, 467 congregations from every state, the District of Columbia, and five countries participated by hearing sermons, having an adult or children's class, or joining in a lunch discussion group.

The Clergy Letter Project's web pages provide more than 50 sermons delivered by clergy last year, available at www.evolutionsunday.org. Churches can sign up for the Second Annual Evolution Sunday, or clergy can sign The Clergy Letter, by emailing Michael Zimmerman, (mz@butler.edu), Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Prof. of Biology, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN.

Collins Learns about Life and God in West Africa

As part of the "Science and Technology in Service to the Poor" symposium at the annual meeting, **Francis Collins** spoke of the two occasions when he volunteered as a medical missionary in Nigeria. He concluded his "Learning about Life and God in West Africa" presentation by recalling an incident that profoundly affected him in realizing "what our time here is all about."

A Nigerian family brought a young farmer into the clinic with major swelling of his lower extremities and so weak that he could barely stand up. Taking his vital signs, Collins discovered that every time the man inhaled, his pulse disappeared.

He remembered his physical diagnosis professor mentioning something like this, called a "paradoxical pulse," most likely caused by fluid collecting in the pericardial sac around the heart. But there were no facilities to verify that; the x-ray machine was broken that week and there was certainly no echocardiogram available to document that fluid was there. But in this part of Nigeria in a farmer in his twenties, the most likely diagnosis was a pericardial effusion caused by tuberculosis. Without prompt intervention, this young man

was unlikely to survive more than a day or two. Tuberculosis drugs wouldn't work quickly enough. The only real possibility of saving him was to try to take that fluid off. Collins recalled:

That's a very scary procedure because it has to be done by inserting a large needle right next to the heart. In the US, you would have a Cardiology Fellow do this after many years of training. A real-time echocardiogram would be available so you could watch as you inserted the needle, to make sure you were in the right place. None of that was available. So, remembering that my weakness is made perfect in God's strength (2 Cor. 12:9), I figured, "God, you're probably calling me ... I guess this is something I'd better try to do."

Collins told the young man what he thought was wrong, admitting he was not sure. The Nigerian courageously said if that's what it takes to save him, go ahead. Collins continued:

I found the appropriate equipment. With my heart in my mouth—and with my Washington manual, which is the Bible equivalent for the hospital intern, reminding me of the landmarks as to how to proceed—I started the procedure ... But then I suddenly got fluid back in my syringe which was dark red, and I thought, "I have made a mistake, I've made the wrong diagnosis. I've entered his heart; I've probably killed this guy."

But after putting some of the fluid into a pan and allowing time for coagulation, it didn't clot. That indicated to Collins that it wasn't blood but an effusion which tuberculosis often makes blood-red. With great relief he removed as much of the fluid as he could. Almost immediately the farmer's unusual pulse went away, and Collins finally felt as if he had made a difference.

Farmer Philosophizes about Futility

But the next morning a sense of futility plagued the young MD. Sure, he had prevented an imminent death, but what about the long-term outcome? He could give a dose of TB drugs, but he doubted

that the man could afford them for a full year to achieve a cure. And a farmer in this part of Nigeria was likely to get some other lethal illness. A sense of "what's the point" settled in.

Collins visited the young farmer, sitting on the bed reading his Bible. The man looked up and said, "I get the feeling that you're new around here." In spite of trying to portray himself as an experienced physician who was going to take care of him, Collins ruefully admitted having been there for only a few days. The man continued, "I also get the feeling that you're wondering why you came here." Stunned at such discernment and frankness, he still recalls the man diagnosing, "I've an answer for you. You came here for one reason. You came here for me." Collins recalled:

And all of a sudden I realized that I had made this terrible mistake. I had thought of myself as the great healer who was coming to this part of Africa to do wonderful things, to save hundreds, if not thousands of lives. And I had forgotten that what God calls us to do is to reach out to one person at a time (Matt. 25:40). This simple but wise black farmer, about as different from me in culture and geography as you could imagine, reminded me of that in a way that I will never forget. That is a lesson we all should remember ...

Of Interest

- The University of Wisconsin-Superior chapter of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) filed suit in federal court on October 2 against the leadership of the University of Wisconsin system. IVCF wants UW-Superior to reinstate the chapter and to allow the group to choose leaders according to its religious criteria. Earlier this year, the

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.

university said IVCF violated antidiscrimination policies by denying leadership roles to practicing homosexuals, and it derecognized the organization.

✉ *Christianity Today* online, 12/01/06

• Richard Cizik, Vice President for Governmental Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), has been a strong advocate for environmental causes (i.e. "Creation Care"). He has recently appeared on PBS (interviewed by Bill Moyers) in a discussion about global warming. NAE has released a short DVD with a strong Christian message about the importance of this issue. Richard spoke in **Paul Arveson's** church recently, and he is clearly passionate about global warming as a moral issue that is relevant to Christians. See www.revision.org.

Richard was recently nominated as one of 12 candidates for the "Most Inspiring Person of the Year" on BeliefNet.com. You can read more about him and cast your vote at www.beliefnet.com/story/203/story_20387.html.

✉ **Paul Arveson**

ASAers in Print

• **Ken Touryan** has written a compact 47-page booklet entitled *A Cord of Multiple Strands: An Evidence-Based Assessment of Christian Truth Claims*. Originally designed for readers in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) who had been exposed only to "scientific atheism," a 70-page version in Russian and Armenian was distributed by the thousands. It often led to personal discussions of foundational biblical truths, achieving a new appreciation of Christianity being intellectually respectable.

Based on the statement in Eccles. 4:12, "A cord of many strands is not easily

Are You Interested?

Would anyone reading this newsletter or the journal *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* be interested in translating various articles into another language? If so, contact the ASA office. A condition of translation is that we receive an electronic copy for our archives and for posting on our website.

broken," Touryan weaves five strands of evidence into a powerful apologetic argument. They are evidences from

1. the physical world: origins of the universe and of life, fine tuning, the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematical modeling, Gödel's theorem of incompleteness, irreducible complexity and specified complexity;
2. human nature: explores options of humans being garbage, an information-processing machine, a naked ape, or in the image of God;
3. history and archaeology;
4. Scripture and the person of Jesus Christ, concentrating especially on the Resurrection; and
5. self (Intuitive Knowledge).

Touryan understands the mindset that can be called the "collegiate kindergarten"—the person with a university-level understanding of the secular world and science, but a kindergarten-level knowledge of the Bible. He deals succinctly with the questions relevant to that individual. The booklet is available for \$5 postpaid from Ken Touryan, PO Box 713, Indian Hills, CO 80454.

• **Jerry Bergman** has published "A Creator God and Creationism in State Constitutions." It begins by stating, "Judeo-Christian theism involving a creator God from whom come our freedoms and rights is written into all state constitutions, either directly or indirectly," and then documents that claim with citations from the constitution of each U.S. state. It's accessible at www.rae.org/creator.html

ASAers in Transition

• **Robert C. Newman** retired from Biblical Seminary, Hatfield, PA, and has moved to Virginia to be near family and to concentrate on his speaking engagements. After Bob had earned a PhD in astrophysics from Cornell, God used the trauma of seeing a child trampled by an elephant at a zoo to motivate him to move "from one heavenly subject to another" and study theology. He became a founding faculty member of the seminary and also taught math and physics at Shelton College, Cape May, NJ.

Bob is an ASA Fellow, a member of the Evangelical Theological Society, and is listed in *Who's Who in Religion* and *Who's Who in Theology and Science*. His publications have included *Science Speaks* (with Peter Stoner), *Genesis One and the Origin of the Earth* (with Herman J. Eckelmann) and *What's Darwin Got to Do with It?* (with **John Wiester**). Biographical details and some of his articles and lectures are available at www.arn.org/authors/newman.html, and several of his instructional PowerPoints are at www.ibri.org/NewmanPpt/abstracts.html.

• Long-time Academic Dean at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, **L. Russ Bush** has taken a new position at Southeastern as Director of the L. Russ Bush Center for Faith and Culture. The center will focus on science and other issues in the culture, in an effort to defend the historic Christian faith by providing resources to individuals and churches throughout the evangelical world. A website will soon be online for the Center. Until then, look for updates at www.sebts.edu. Bush says the Center will engage the culture and defend the faith. Bush has taught masters-level courses on science and faith, popular culture, the arts, apologetics, and other topics in the history of ideas and western thought.

Coming Events

- Jan. 10.** "What's Going on in the Universe? A Christian Perspective," presented by John Haught, Landegger Distinguished Prof. of Theology, Georgetown U., at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA, 7:30 p.m. For directions visit: www.bmpc.org/ This is a series of lectures, free and open to the public, sponsored by Metanexus Institute, www.metanexus.net. (See additional lectures below). For further information about the series contact: Julia Loving, (215) 789-2200, ext. 107, or e-mail: loving@metanexus.net
- Jan 13.** Reasons to Believe, Chicago chapter, 2:00–3:30, Room 138, Billy Graham Center of Wheaton C. Speaker: **William Wharton**, Wheaton physics prof., dealing with quantum physics and faith. Further information from bobclapper@yahoo.com.
- Jan. 18.** "Stem Cells, Embryos and Ethics: Is There a Way Forward?" Speaker: William B. Hurlbut, MD, Neuroscience Institute at Stanford U. Medical Center, will speak at the Canyon Institute for Advanced Studies, Phoenix, AZ. Visit: www.CanyonInstitute.org or call (602) 639-6206

- Jan 19–20.** United for Life Conference, Bethlehem Baptist Church north site, Mounds View, MN. This conference will explore the newest and most insightful thinking about abstinence, abortion, adoption, stem cell research and end-of-life issues. Details at www.unitedforlifeconference.org
- Jan. 26.** "Physics, Philosophy and Physiology: Three Paths, One Spiritual Product," U. of Chicago Divinity School conference. Free and open to public. Space limited. For more information see: <http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/conferences/ph3/index.shtml> or www.metanexus.net/metanexus_online/show_article2.asp?id=9681
- Jan. 26–27.** Reasons to Believe Regional Conference, Ft. Myers, FL, "Cosmic Fingerprints: Evidence for Design." Friday at 7, bring your skeptic friend. Saturday 9–5, day-long conference featuring **Hugh Ross, Fuz Rana**, Jeff Zweerink & Ken Samples. Details at www.reasons.org/events/index.shtml
- Feb. 7.** "Creatively Seeking a Creation Story: Evolution and Intelligent Design in America." Grove City C., Grove City, PA. Speakers: Howard Van Till, **Jeff Schloss**, Ron Numbers, **William Dembski**. Contact: **Kevin Seybold** at ksseybold@gcc.edu
- Feb 10.** Reasons to Believe, Chicago chapter, 2:00–3:30, Room 18, Billy Graham Center, Wheaton C. Speaker: **Roger Kennett**, Wheaton biology prof. Further information from bobclapper@yahoo.com
- Feb. 11.** Second Annual Evolution Sunday. Congregations sponsor some event designed to improve the understanding between religion and science. Organized by The Clergy Letter Project. Visit: www.evolutionsunday.org or contact Michael Zimmerman at Butler U. in Indianapolis, IN, at mz@butler.edu
- Feb. 15–19.** "Science and Technology for Sustainable Well-Being," Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, San Francisco. See: www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual_Meeting/
- Feb. 19.** "Scientific Truth and Christian Faith," John Haught, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA, 7:30 p.m. (See Jan. 10 for more details.)
- Feb. 22.** "Beyond the 'Evolution vs. Creation Debate,'" **Denis Lamoureux**, Canyon Institute for Advanced Studies, Phoenix, AZ. Visit: www.CanyonInstitute.org or call (602) 639-6026
- Feb. 23–24.** Reasons to Believe Regional Conference, Houston, TX, "Cosmic Fingerprints: Evidence for Design." Friday at 7, bring your skeptic friend. Saturday 9–4 day-long conference featuring **Hugh Ross, Fuz Rana**, Jeff Zweerink & Ken Samples. Details at www.reasons.org/events/index.shtml
- Feb. 24.** ASA Rocky Mountain Section Conference, Boulder, CO, 9:30–3:30 (Registration 8:30–9:15). Theme: Science and Technology with a Human Face, including renewable energy, clean water and micro-enterprise for developing/poor countries. Speakers include Bernard Amadei and **Walter Bradley**. Contact **Ken Touryan** at Kenell@comcast.net

March 1–3. "Suffering and the Holy Life," Bourbonnais, IL. This is the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society and will address our understanding of suffering and the problem of evil. Contact **Thomas Jay Oord** at tjoord@nnu.edu

March 15. Annual C.S. Lewis Society Banquet, Trinity, FL, 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Bill Anderson. Details at www.apologetics.org or (727) 376-6911, ext. 336

April 13. "Moving Beyond Darwin: The New Evolution," 22nd Regional Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, U. of Colorado at Boulder. Speakers: John Dupré, "The Friendly Germ Meets the Selfish Gene," John Sapp, "The Microbial Evolution Revolution," Norm Pace, "Sequence-Based Perspective on the Organization and History of Life." Details from RCHPS@colorado.edu

April 25. "Darwin and Christ: Toward a Theology of Evolution," John Haught, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA, 7:30 p.m. (See Jan. 10 for details.)

This space is reserved for **your** Coming Event. In the past, we learned of many activities through indirect channels, including *Science & Theology News*. Since that periodical is no longer being published, we rely on you to inform us directly. **Deadline** for the Mar/Apr issue is January 20; for the May/June issue, March 20; with similar lead-time for other issues.

Call for Papers

"Moving Beyond Darwin: The New Evolution," 22nd Regional Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, U. of Colorado at Boulder. Deadline for submissions is March 6. Details in April 13 Coming Events.

With the Lord

• **Albin Litty** died on February 7, 2006, in Morristown, NJ, at age 82. After emigrating from his native Germany, he served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He was employed as a chemical engineer at several companies, including 27 years at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, NJ, from which he retired in 1993. He was honored in 2004 as a 50-year member of the American Chemical Society.

His interests included music, opera, the outdoors, animals, and good food. He supported many causes, including consumer rights, the environment, science, public broadcasting, and his *alma mater*, City College, New York.

✉ *Ritva Litty*

• **L. Gaunce Lewis, Jr.**, died May 17, 2006, at age 56 in Oswego, NY. After graduating from Harvard, he obtained his PhD from the University of Chicago. He taught mathematics at Syracuse University from 1981 until shortly before his death, with the exception of a year at Gottingen, 1989–1990.

In an obituary, a colleague said, "Gaunce ... was never interested in things that were easy, and a full appreciation of the calculational side of his work is still to come." A 500-page-plus manuscript entitled *An Introduction to Mackey functors* was nearly complete at his death, and friends intend to see it through to publication.

In addition to ASA, he was a member of the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences and other professional mathematical societies. He served First United Methodist Church in Oswego as adult Sunday school teacher and occasional substitute preacher. His wife, Kathy, is also a mathematician and an ASA member.

✉ *Kathy Lewis*

• **J. Laurence Kulp** passed away on Sept. 25, 2006 at age 85, as the result of a logging accident. At various times, Larry had been professor of geochemistry at Columbia University, vice president for research and development at Weyerhaeuser Company, director of research of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program, affiliate professor at the University of Washington, a consultant in environmental and energy affairs, and owner of Teledyne Isotopes.

Kulp had a strong influence during the formative years of the ASA. **Tim Deibler** says, "My understanding is he was a giant in his influence, highly respected by both Christian and non-Christian scientists, irenic, and at least as influential as Bernard Ramm, since Kulp was a trained and working scientist, and highly respected at that." **Walt Hearn** recalls Kulp's reaction when someone presented a paper on a position with which he disagreed: "Instead of shredding him, Larry took him aside and gently tried to change his views."

✉ *Tim Deibler and Walt Hearn*

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ASA Executive Council Meets

The ASA Executive Council met on November 18, in the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. **Hessel “Bud” Bouma III** presided with **Ruth Douglas Miller** (Vice President), **Walter Bradley** (Secretary-Treasurer), **Ted Davis**, **Randy Isaac**, **Gwen Schmidt** (Students and Early Career Scientists Representative), and **Don McNally** (CSCA Executive Director) present, and joined via “I-Chat” by **Marilyne Flora** (Past President) from Geneva, Switzerland.

Council began and concluded its day-long meeting with devotions and prayers. Our review of ASA’s financial situation was sober yet encouraging. Aided by revenues from the 2006 Annual Meeting, a large special gift, and in anticipation of both good year-end giving and renewal of memberships, there is optimism we will meet our fiscal year budget. Council gratefully received the auditors’ approval of our accounting and approved a budget



2007 ASA Executive Council officers (l-r): **Walter Bradley** (Vice President), **Ruth Douglas Miller** (President), **Ted Davis** (Secretary-Treasurer), and **Randy Isaac** (Executive Director)

for 2007. ASA membership is growing slightly; a real challenge is to retain a greater percentage of new members.

Council voiced appreciation for the 2006 Annual Meeting held at Calvin College. Plans are well underway for the joint CiS/ASA 2007 Annual Meeting in Edinburgh. Via a conference call with the program co-chairs, **John Van Zytveld** (Murdock Trust) and **Arnold Sikkema** (Trinity Western University), plans were discussed for the 2008 Annual Meeting at George Fox University. A proposal was accepted to hold the 2009 Annual Meeting at Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Council ratified the election of **Jennifer Wiseman** to the Council for 2007–2011. We welcome ASA members’ nomination of future candidates for Executive Council and ASA Fellows.

Considerable time was spent reviewing strategies for ASA’s future. Foremost among changes already occurring is the ASA website. Council is reviewing several candidates for the position of journal editor to begin work in mid-2007. Don McNally reported on the work of the CSCA. Finally, Council elected officers for 2007.

✉ **Hessel Bouma III**

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