

NEWSLETTER

of the
American Scientific Affiliation &
Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation



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JUL/AUG 2007

Centrella Wins Top NASA Recognition

NASA has awarded **Joan Centrella** its Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal. As head of the Gravitational Astrophysics Laboratory at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, she did "ground-breaking work in the simulation of gravitational wave signals from merging black holes." Merging black holes are the strongest sources for both space-based and ground-based gravitational wave detectors.



Joan Centrella and her research team

A press release last year explained, "According to Einstein's math, when two massive black holes merge, all of space jiggles like a bowl of Jell-O as gravitational waves race out from the collision at light speed." Joan added, "These mergers are by far the most powerful events occurring in the universe, with each one generating more energy than all of the stars in the universe combined." She told ASA, "Calculating the gravitational waves emitted when black holes merge is a problem that scientists have been working on for more than 30 years ... Our breakthroughs were made by a team of outstanding scientists that I have the privilege of leading. I am both honored and thrilled that our work has been recognized by this award."

Continued on p. 7, Centrella

Behind the Scenes

In every organization, the folk behind the scenes are so important. One of ASA's significant support staff in the Ipswich office is Carol Aiken, Executive Assistant. Carol graduated from Burdett College, a business school. She worked for a law firm and then took six years off to raise her three children, Heather, Heath, and Arun. She is married to Charles, and they have three grandchildren. Carol developed a drapery and slipcover business and supervised it for fourteen years. She became the executive assistant to the ASA Director in 1991. She loves to cook, sew, and knit and has a huge flower and herb garden. She says, "I love the work at ASA. I love the challenge of putting everything together for the Annual Meeting. ASA is a wonderful organization to work for. The people are very understanding, gracious, and patient."

Lyn Berg, managing editor of our newsletter and journal is Carol's next-door neighbor, and they carpool to work. She has worked with ASA since 1994 and says "I love my job!" Lyn is from Pawtucket, RI, earned a degree in elementary education from Gordon College and taught in the public schools for eight years. She married Earl in 1972 and they moved to Massachusetts. They have three children, Josh, Naomi, and Jeremy, and two grandchildren. Lyn stopped teaching to parent and then worked as a church secretary for six years. Earl is a retired high school biology teacher and now is an adjunct prof. at Gordon College.

We are so fortunate to have Carol and Lyn in our Ipswich office. They do so many things, answer questions, plan, organize, and facilitate. We look forward to seeing them in Edinburgh



Lyn Berg and Carol Aiken at the ASA registration desk of the 2006 Annual Meeting at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.

and thank them for arranging so many aspects of this overseas Annual Meeting. The co-editors of the newsletter are so dependant on them and appreciative of their wonderful gifts and support.

Ecumenical Roundtable 2007

The annual meeting of the Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology and the Church was held April 19-22 at Joseph Retreat House in Manchester, NH. Participating denominational working groups included the Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, Episcopalians, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and United Methodists. This mutually enriching time together has helped everyone learn from one another for over 15 years. The Lutherans were the hosts this year, and the Episcopalians were in charge of the program. As always, the working groups met separately in conjunction with the Roundtable meetings for planning future work. Then the various groups' problems and possibilities concerning interrelating

Continued on p. 3, Roundtable

The Executive Director's Corner

Randall D. Isaac

The ASA maintains a policy of neutrality in areas of honest disagreement among those who affirm our statement of faith and who are committed to integrity in science. This enables us to be an effective forum for dialogue and open exchange of ideas. The challenge for us is not whether this policy is appropriate but how to apply the policy in specific situations.

One difficulty is in determining whether a particular issue is an area of honest disagreement. In principle, the disagreement is "honest" when both sides conform to a rational and plausible interpretation of the statement of faith and when both sides reflect integrity in science. In practice, the ASA has been very tolerant of diverse and creative views, encouraging innovative perspectives. The peer-review process for our journal is designed to ensure quality and to screen those submissions that simply cannot be reconciled with our principles.

This raises the question of whether the ASA stands for anything at all. Have we widened the net so far that we are reluctant to take a stand on anything, other than rejecting some submissions to the journal?

Let's take a positive approach and focus on what we stand for rather than

emphasizing the negative. First and foremost, we stand for the reality of the Christian faith. Our statement of faith, with references to the Apostles' and the Nicene creeds, is clearly centered on the classical affirmations of Christianity. We can confidently proclaim our belief in the existence of God, his creation of all things, and his plan of redemption through the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This puts us in sharp contrast to vocal advocates of atheism and agnosticism in today's society.

Secondly, we stand for the integration of Christianity and science. We neither separate the two realms nor find them to be in warfare or in contradiction. This puts us in opposition to the view widely circulated in the last two centuries that science and religion are antithetical. It also puts us in opposition to the attempt to resolve issues between science and Christian faith by placing them in non-interacting realms.

Thirdly, we stand for integrity in science. Ideas in science are neither created equal nor endowed with inalienable rights. The art of scientific methodology has developed over the last few centuries to test ideas and evaluate the degree to which they accurately reflect our natural world. Integrity in science relates to the extent to which such methodology is followed and the honesty with which such results are reported. There is no single well-defined rule book for carrying out a scientific endeavor, leaving much room for discussion. Nevertheless, science proceeds through a process whereby scientists with expertise in a given field persuade each other as peers of the validity of a scientific idea. When consensus prevails and the idea is uniquely supported by data, the results are most likely accurate.

Skepticism is a healthy part of the scientific process. Ideas are constantly challenged and questioned. Such skepticism must also be subjected to the rigors of scientific methodology. In our Christian community, we have a tendency to be skeptical whenever a sci-

entific position differs from our perception of what would be most consistent with our faith. Such an approach is appropriate provided we do not let our subjective preference influence our diligent application of scientific methodology.

Consensus, as determined by the peer-reviewed publications in the relevant technical journals, is often attained among the experts actively working in a particular field while controversy continues to swirl outside this group. The consensus opinion may change in time due to the self-correcting nature of science. Integrity in science means acknowledging such a consensus, though not necessarily agreeing, and ensuring that any differences of opinion are subjected to the tests of scientific methodology. It also means taking a stand against inappropriate extrapolations from these ideas to philosophical naturalism.

Our stand for integrity in science puts us in contrast to those who modify scientific understanding to conform to their theological preferences. Although we may not understand all things, we should not yield to the temptation to misrepresent scientific results to make it easier to integrate science with our faith.

Let us not permit our policy of neutrality to lure us into a mode of reluctance to take a stand on any particular issue. Rather, let us do the hard work of testing ideas against the standards of our creeds and of our integrity in science and then let us share these perspectives in an atmosphere of love and respect.

Congratulations, Long-time ASAers!

Celebrating 35 years of membership

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Kenneth B. Aring | Joe Narracci, Jr. |
| Russell R. Camp | Donald G. Ring |
| Gordon E. Fish | William D. Sinsterson |
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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

Roundtable, from p. 1.

science and faith in their constituencies were shared through all participants.

The keynote speaker was David Sloan Wilson from Binghamton University in New York. His presentation showed how an atheistic evolutionist who disagrees with Dawkins, Dennett, etc. views religion. He applied what he called “natural selection thinking” to the adaptive behaviors of the entire gamut of organisms from bacteria to humans, from organic/genetic changes to social behavior. The main talk was “Evolution for Everyone,” based on his recent book of the same name. He showed how evolutionary thinking illuminates almost everything having to do with biological organisms and their interactions with each other as individuals or groups.

Also featured were panel discussions and workshops, plenaries for sharing of information, hopes and dreams, as well as liaison persons from the denominations. ASA members in attendance included **Randy Isaac, Barbara Pursey, Karl Evans, David Bailey, Paul Carr** and **Phina Borgeson**.

Negative Effects of Selection

Wilson spent a fair amount of time talking about group adaptations of all kinds (the good, the bad, the beautiful, and the ugly). A riveting illustration he shared was how selection practices for best laying hens in commercial egg operations may lead to negative adaptations. Hens are usually crowded 12 to a cage. Selecting the best laying hen of a cage of 12 to be the bearer of genes to the next generation of hens (and then repeating the process over several generations) was compared with selecting the best groups of 12 (with all their diversity) to do the same. The result surprised everyone. The individual best hens became increasingly aggressive and savaged their cage mates, and egg production went down. By contrast, the most productive cages of hens which got along with each other thrived in every possible way, and production went up. Adaptation to individualism carried a high price for the hens. Does it do it for people too?

Wilson builds on a fairly long history of work in evolutionary sociological studies, though he says this line of research has not been well accepted in higher education. He cited two walls of resistance to evolution: the facts of the past (it’s hard to grasp long time spans of billions of years) and the impact on humans. Humans fear a threat from evolution in two ways: the loss of morality or a moral standard, and a limitation of human potential (genetic determinism). Wilson feels both threats are not real and he likes to stress two positives from evolution: a better understanding of human behavior and a benefit to realizing our future potential.

Next year the Roundtable will meet at Ghost Ranch Conference Center in Abiquiu, NM. ✉ **Barbara Pursey** and **Randy Isaac**

New ASA Local Chapter Forming

After a career as engineer/inventor/entrepreneur of Dynasonics Inc., designing and manufacturing ultrasonic sensing and specialized computers, **James Baird** was “looking for something meaningful to do” in retirement. After reading **Francis Collins’** book *The Language of God*, Baird joined ASA and, in his words,

became interested in more involvement with others who found themselves in somewhat similar circumstances, to learn how they were able to find harmony between faith and science. The results . . . , I hope, may lead to developing a local program to teach others the way to harmony and ASA. Such a beta type program could be tested in the fertile locale of the Naperville/Wheaton area, and if successful, provide ASA with members and methods that may be used on a more national basis.

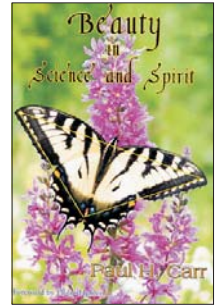
For more information, email James at drjamesdbaird@aol.com

ASAers in Print

• **Paul H. Carr** has had his book *Beauty in Science and Spirit* published by Beech River Books. With 37 illustrations including 16 color plates, the book traces the emergence of the mathe-

matical beauty of science from the mystical beauty of ancient stories, illumined by art. The big bang’s whisper emerged from the “music of the spheres,” as astronomy emerged from astrology.

Carr characterizes nature’s beauty, from snowflakes to the branching of plants and lungs, using Mandelbrot’s fractal geometry. Fractals, like evolution, are described by the interplay between randomness and law, chance and necessity. The interplay between science’s “how” and spirit’s “why” has complementary beauty and can lead to a new story that transcends national and cultural differences. The chapter “Complementary Beauty and Intelligent Design (ID)” includes an illustration and description of the ID session at the 2005 ASA Annual Meeting at Messiah College.

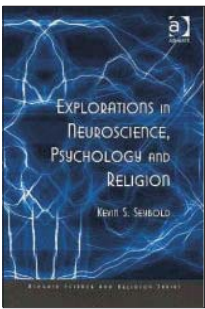


Paul earned his BS and MS from MIT and his PhD in physics from Brandeis University. From 1967 to 1995, he led the Component Technology Branch of the Air Force Research Laboratory, which did research and development on microwave ultrasound, surface acoustic waves, and superconductors. His 80 scientific papers and 10 patents have contributed to new components for radar, TV, and cell phones. The John Templeton Foundation awarded him a grant for his philosophy course “Science and Religion: Cosmos to Consciousness” at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

Carr attends the ASA, MIT-Lincoln Laboratory discussion group led by electrical engineer **Tim Wallace**. Paul is currently giving PowerPoint presentations, which include his nature photography and topics from his book. He can be contacted at paulcarr@alum.mit.edu or www.MirrorOfNature.org.

• *Explorations in Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion* by **Kevin S. Seybold** was recently published by Ashgate Publishing. Key points to this book include the discussion of current topics that are of interest to Christians such as: What happens to the brain during a

religious experience? What does it mean to say that the soul is a product of the brain? What effect do diseases



like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's have on a person's spirituality and relationship to God? It targets a wide audience consisting of educated Christians who want to know more about their own psychology, their own behavior, and how recent, publicized findings in neuroscience and psychology might impact their faith. It can be used as an ancillary text for general psychology or psychology of religion courses.

Kevin has taught in the Department of Psychology at Grove City College in PA, since 1985. He received a BA from Greenville College, MS from Marquette University and PhD in physiological psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He teaches physiological psychology, learning and cognition, history and systems of psychology, research methods, and sensation and perception as well as a course in science and religion. He first learned about ASA in graduate school, finding a copy of ASA's journal in the university library.

- Sherman Kanagy, physicist in North Charleston, SC, published "Objections to Planetary Conjunction Hypothesis for the Identity of the Star of the Magi" in the Fall 2006 issue of *Southern Skies*, the journal of the Southeastern Planetarium Association. He disputes the often-cited interpretation that the wise men were led by a conjunction of either Jupiter and Saturn in 6/7 BC or of Jupiter and Venus in 2 BC.

He argues that the conjunction interpretations require astrology, and that this is problematic both theologically and scientifically. He also notes technical and linguistic considerations such as the frequency of conjunctions, their sky position, visibility from Jerusalem, the identity of the Magi, and the singularity of Matthew's word for "star."

Kanagy advocates the position that the Christmas "star" was God's Shekinah

Glory, "assumed equivalent to the Fiery/Cloudy Pillar" of Exodus. He elaborates:

The doctrine of a visible manifestation of God's "physical" presence in space and time saturates the scriptures throughout both the Old and New Testaments, from the fiery pillar, the light on the mount of transfiguration, and "the light above the brightness of the noonday sun" of Paul's conversion, causing physiological effects (scales later falling from Paul's eyes), whereas there is not a single mention of a planetary conjunction in the entire Bible.

ASAers in Action

- On May 7, 2007, the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia hosted a panel discussion on "Science and Religion in the 21st Century." This event was related to performances of Bertold Brecht's play, "The Life of Galileo." Panelists included **Ted Davis**, Messiah College historian of science; Harvard evolutionary psychologist Marc Hauser; **Owen Gingerich**, Senior Astronomer Emeritus, Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics; and Metanexus Institute founder William Grassie. For nearly two hours, panelists responded to questions on a wide range of topics posed by moderator John Timpane and the audience. The discussion was never heated, always lively, and very informative for the audience. Overall, what seemed to interest the audience most was the question of whether science and religion inherently conflict. No panelist supported the view of inevitable conflict, and various points of contact between science and religion were discussed.

- **Cal DeWitt** of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, gave two public lectures in February in Madison. These were sponsored by the Geneva Forum and the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation New College Madison InterVarsity Faculty and Graduate Ministries The Isthmus Society. His topics were: "John Muir's Spiritual Journey" and "Evangelicals and Scientists: A New Consensus on Caring for Creation."

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's 2007 Summer Theological

Institute (STI), "Faith and Faithfulness: Christianity in the Age of Scientific Discovery" will be held July 9-13 at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX. It is co-sponsored by the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, Texas Lutheran University, and the John Templeton-funded Baylor Society for Conversations in Religion, Ethics, and Science (BSCRES).

Speakers include **Gerald Cleaver**, Terence Fretheim, **Deborah Haarsma**, **Loren Haarsma**, **George Murphy**, and Mark Ward. Clergy and interested laypersons of all denominations are invited to attend. See

www.summertheologicalinstitute.org

✉ **Gerald Cleaver**

- On May 9, **Francis Collins** appeared on Anderson Cooper's CNN television program, "What is a Christian: God, Faith and Hard Science." He was interviewed by Tom Foreman. They dealt with some of the significant science and religion issues. Collins played his guitar and asserted that God was real, stating "Science should not be seen as a threat to Christianity."

He also spoke at the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowships Seminar on May 30 in Washington, DC. His topic was "The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief."

ASAers in Mission

- **Dorothy Woodside**, whose late husband, Ed, introduced her to ASA, is a nurse in Chitokoloki Zambezi, Zambia. Recently, she has done a lot of teaching and had a class for three days on the book of Acts in a region called Pungu. She also teaches literacy classes and has scheduled several teaching programs in the months ahead and asks for our prayers. Dorothy is a brave woman and when she travels she uses a truck but often the roads and bridges are not in good shape and it is quite stressful. She is also used to walking long distances. Dorothy went to Zambia after Ed's death and has been there for many years. She once gave a paper at the ASA annual meeting about her hospital work and the research which could be done. She is an amateur astronomer and bird watcher. She quotes Acts 1:8 "But

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ☒ **Walt Hearn**

• Wheaton College biologist **Pattle Pun** presented two papers during a December 15–30 trip to China. He and four other American professors and several from Hong Kong adopted the overall theme of “When Science Meets Faith: New Milestones in the 21st Century.” Pun spoke at the chapel of Hong Kong Baptist University on “Promises and Perils of Human Cloning and Stem Cell Research: Human Ingenuity vs. Human Dignity?” and at Chinese University of Hong Kong on “Three Domains of Life: A Challenge to the Concept of Universal Cellular Ancestor?” He also spoke on “Ethical Challenges of Human Cloning and Stem Cell Research” to a graduate class on Religious Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai.

In addition, Pattle attended the Third Annual Academic Conference of Science and Faith, sponsored by the Research Center of Science and Faith in the Chinese Society for Dialectics of Nature, as well as the Center for Science and Humanities Studies of Beijing Normal University. Welcoming remarks at that event included comments by the superintendent of World Religion Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He states:

An interesting and encouraging paper was given by a philosopher at the cadet training university of the Chinese central government, affirming the positive role of Christian virtues as exemplified in the New Testament in modern civilization.

Pattle has translated Nancy Pearcey and **Charles Thaxton**’s *The Soul of Science*. It was off the press and ready for release at the conference.

• In January, **T. Timothy Chen** was involved in St. Louis University Institute of World Christianity Emerging Leaders conference and served on the consultation committee. The organizer invited about 40 young Christian leaders from different countries in the world to participate. Timothy was on a panel with a Greek Orthodox priest and Hispanic

and Korean pastors discussing “Trans-National Approaches to Christian Ministry.” Timothy says,

We continue to reach out to the Chinese students at Washington University. After meeting them at the Tuesday International Lunch, I invited them to come to a Bible study and discussion at an elder’s home near campus. Only some come to the Bible study twice every month, but some fruits have been borne. One visiting scholar accepted Jesus as his personal Savior before going back to Beijing. Some have come to attend our church worship services consistently. Our group even provided two singing programs in a church-wide celebration of the Chinese New Year in February.

• Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Richards lectured at Hong Kong University, May 26 and 27. Using PowerPoints in both English and Chinese, Richards spoke Saturday on “Is there Intelligent Design in the Universe?” and Gonzalez spoke Sunday on “The Privileged Home: Astronomical Evidences for Intelligent Design.” Each 3-hour session attracted over 300 attendees. Physics professor **Chris Beling** reports, “This was an amazing turnout, seeing that they had to pay (80 HK\$ = 10 US\$) and book prior to the event.” ☒ **Chris Beling**

“New Zeal” for Environmental Issues in New Zealand

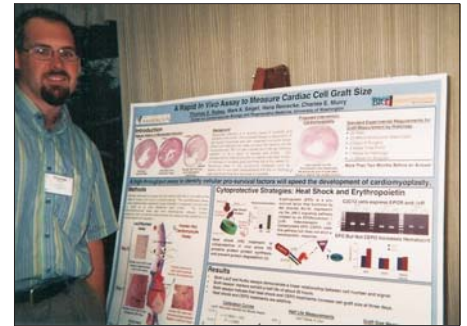
Assist News Service reports, “A number of initiatives are under way around the country to prompt churches and Christians to get actively involved, as well as to increase awareness about conservation issues.” As one example, last year the Anglican Church passed a motion committing itself to place particular emphasis on the first mark of its mission which is “to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the Earth.”

A Rocha New Zealand encourages churches to get involved in practical activities such as gardening, recycling, or conserving/rehabilitating a piece of nature close to the church. The group was scheduled to team up with the

Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Auckland for an environmental colloquium at the Bible College of New Zealand on May 22. Christian Ecology Network has established a website called “Greening the Church.”

Early Career Scientists

• **Thomas E. Robey** presented a poster titled “A Rapid *In Vivo* Assay to Measure Cardiac Cell Graft Size” at our 2006 Annual Meeting at Calvin College.



Thomas E. Robey at our 2006 Annual Meeting Poster Session at Calvin College.

He has a BSE in bioengineering, a BA in history and philosophy of science and a BS in biology, all earned from the University of Pittsburgh. Presently, he is an MD/PhD student at the University of Washington. He has finished 2 years of medical school and will defend his PhD dissertation, “Reducing Fibrosis and Cell Death in Transplanted Cardiomyocytes,” in September. He has started writing book reviews for *PSCF* and has been pondering where God will lead him after he finishes his medical training. Tom recently was awarded the University of Washington’s Graduate School Medal for students “whose academic expertise and social awareness are integrated in a way that demonstrates an exemplary commitment to the University and its larger community.” Thomas is the co-director of FOSEP (Forum on Science, Ethics and Policy, www.fossep.org) which promotes dialogue among scientists, policy experts, and the public. He is married to Susan, and we are so pleased to have this scholar as an ASA member!

• Jaeyul Kwon, a post doc observer at our last Annual Meeting, is involved with immunology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. He said his experience at the

meeting was “very challenging and stimulating. I’ve got lots of ideas as to how I can serve the world as a scientist.” He has been involved with a group called Korean Christians in Science (KCIS) in Rockville, MD. He said there are many visiting Korean post docs at the National Institute of Health and this organization reaches out to them. This group invited **Walt Hearn**, of Berkeley, CA, to be the plenary speaker at their annual meeting on August 10–11. **Randy Isaac** was their speaker last year. To learn more about the Korean group see: <http://noonprayermission.org/kcis/>

Of Interest

- When *Time* magazine chose Richard Dawkins as one of its “100 Most Influential People of the Year,” it invited Michael Behe to write the Dawkins portion of the article. The edited version concluded:

I believe his new book follows much less from his data than from his premises, and yet I admire his determination. Concerning the big questions, the Bible advises us to be hot or cold but not lukewarm. Whatever the merit of his ideas, Richard Dawkins is not lukewarm.

- *Atheist Manifesto* is a best-seller in France, Italy and Spain, according to a front-page article in the April 12 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*. Headlined “The New Crusaders: As Religious Strife Grows, Europe’s Atheists Seize Pulpit,” the article reports that Michael Onfray is “France’s high priest of militant atheism.”

Onfray argues that atheism faces a “final battle” against “theological hocus-pocus” and must rally its troops. “We can no longer tolerate neutrality and benevolence. The turbulent time we live in suggests that change is at hand and the time has come for a new order.”

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.

In London, a sold-out crowd of 2,000 attended a public debate on the motion, “We’d be better off without religion.” Terry Sanderson, president of Britain’s National Secular Society, says its membership has doubled in the past four years. The society’s website, www.secularism.org.uk, urges “Make it official!” and offers converts from Christianity a certificate of “de-baptism.”

- The Exploratorium, housed within the walls of San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts, is a collage of hundreds of science, art, and human perception exhibits (see www.exploratorium.edu). Over 500,000 visitors from around the world visit it annually. There are exhibits at 58 international and 66 U.S. science centers reaching ~20 million people per year. The Exploratorium was founded in 1969 by noted physicist Frank Oppenheimer. In April, at their 30th Annual Awards dinner, two leaders in the science and faith world received the Outstanding Educator’s Award. Eugenie Scott, Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education, who is very active in improving the teaching of evolution and in advancing science as a way of knowing, was one recipient. Kenneth Miller, biology professor at Brown University, an expert in cell membrane structure and function and author of *Finding Darwin’s God: A Scientist’s Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution* was the other recipient. Both of these winners were key witnesses in the 2006 Dover, PA trial.

- Connie Bertka of the American Association for the Advancement of Science program of Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion (DoSER) recently gave a presentation titled “Evolution, Scientists and Religious Communities.” It centered on efforts by DoSER to proactively engage religious communities around the issue of teaching evolution. The event was on May 3 at the Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, DC. Bertka has been the director of DoSER for five years.

- Wentzel van Huyssteen, James I. McCord Professor of Theology and Science at Princeton Theological Seminary, was awarded the Andrew Murray-Desmond Tutu Prize for the Best Chris-

tian and Theological Book by a South African on May 31 in Wellington, South Africa. This is the first year that this award has been given. His book, *Alone in the World? Human Uniqueness in Science and Theology*, is an edited version of his Gifford Lectures given in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2004. He explores the interdisciplinary dialogue between theology and paleoanthropology, and specifically, questions of human uniqueness, by focusing on the meaning of prehistoric European cave paintings as some of the oldest surviving expressions of human symbolic activity. His conclusion is that theology and paleoanthropology converge on the fact that humans, with *inter alia* their ability to create symbolically, are unique and therefore “alone in the world.” Among other books, Wentzel wrote *Duet or Duel? Theology and Science in a Postmodern World*.

- ECO College Challenge, sponsored by MTV-U and General Electric, is a competition among colleges for ideas on how to successfully green campuses. The top ten submissions are selected and aired on MTV television so that the entire country can vote on the most promising submission. The winning campus receives a \$25,000 EPA campus greening grant to implement the plan and MTV-U hosts a concert on that campus on Earth Day.

- **Marilyne Flora**, past president of ASA, is living in Switzerland for the next couple of years. Her husband, Bob, is with the Fermi National Accelerator Lab in Batavia, IL. He is helping with the commissioning (turning on) of the LHC (large hadron collider). It is the largest (27 km in circumference), most expensive, and coldest research machine in the universe. She lives near her daughter and is enjoying her grandchildren. She lives two blocks from an English-speaking evangelical church.

Opportunity

The Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University provides opportunities for scholarly transdisciplinary conversation and the development of research initiatives. Co-directors Harold G. Koenig and Keith

G. Meador seek to understand spirituality, health, and human flourishing and, among other things, explore the role of faith communities in forming the health of the broader community. They have summer workshops July 16–20 and August 13–17 and award seven two-year grants for research in spirituality and health. Information about these can be found at their website (www.dukespiritualityandhealth.org). Persons interested in submitting proposals should send a Letter of Intent by July 15. Questions? Contact Catherine Craver at (919) 660-7556. Winners will be notified by January 1, 2008 and research will begin on February 1, 2008.

Coming Events

- July 8–14.** “Excavating the Word of the New Testament; Understanding the World of the Old Testament,” seminar of the Biblical Archaeology Society at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. 800-221-4644
- July 9–13.** Summer Theological Institute of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. “Faith and Faithfulness: Christianity in an Age of Scientific Discovery.” Texas Lutheran U. in Seguin, TX. More details and online registration at: www.summertheologicalinstitute.org (see article under ASAers in Action)
- July 12–14.** “Bioethics Nexus: The Future of Healthcare, Science, and Humanity.” Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity, Trinity International U., Deerfield, IL. Details at www.cbhd.org/conferences/2007/index.html
- July 22–28.** Biblical Archaeology Society, “The Stuff of Life: What Texts and Archaeology Tell Us about the Everyday World of the Earliest Christians,” U. of North Carolina at Asheville. Call 1-800-221-4644 for more information.
- July 23–26.** The British Society for the History of Science is sponsoring a conference, “Science and Religion: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives” at Lancaster U., England. E-mail: history@lancaster.ac.uk See www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/Science&Religion.htm
- July 28–Aug. 4.** Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS) conference. “Emergence: Nature’s Mode of Creativity,” Star Island, NH.
- July 29–Aug. 3.** The Biological Science Curriculum Study will feature an intensive content experience “Evolution Across the Sciences” in Colorado Springs, CO. www.bsccs.org/page.asp?pageid=O/124/335/339/632&id=O/keys_evolution, or (719) 531-5550 or info@bsccs.org
- Aug. 2–5.** Symposium “Globalization and Its Discontents: Modernization, Culture and Religion,” U. of San Francisco, co-sponsored by *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*. E-mail **Oskar Gruenwald**: info@JIS3.org or see www.JIS3.org/symposium2007.htm

- Aug. 2–5.** ASA/CiS Joint Meeting. U. of Edinburgh, Scotland. Information and registration forms at www.asa3.org
- Aug. 3.** “Consultation on Evolutionary Biology in College Courses,” Biola U., La Mirada, CA. 1:00–4:00 p.m., with optional sessions before and after. This uses the text and PowerPoint *Explore Evolution: The Arguments for and against Neo-Darwinism*. Speakers: **John Bloom**, Jonathan Wells, and **Michael Keas**. Details and registration: mike.keas@biola.edu
- Aug. 3–5.** “Rediscovering the Dead Sea Scrolls,” Biblical Archaeology Society, Kona Kai Resort and Spa, San Diego, CA. Contact: 1-800-221-4644.
- Aug. 10–11.** Annual Conference of Korean Christians in Science, Rockville, MD. Plenary speaker: **Walt Hearn**. See: <http://noonprayermission.org/kcis/>

With the Lord

Wilbur Lewis Bullock, age 85, of Dover, NH, went to be with the Lord on April 22. He taught zoology at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) for 39 years, retiring in 1987. He was born in New York City and was the husband of Cecilia Broenewold Bullock for 63 years. He is survived by his wife, four children, eight grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

He graduated from Queens College and attended New York University before entering the Army where he served in Europe during WW II with the U.S. Army Medical Detachment of the Combat Engineers. When the war in Europe ended, he taught at the U.S. Army University in France. Upon returning home, he earned his MS and PhD at the University of Illinois. He then joined the faculty at the UNH, where he remained his entire career. He was an internationally respected fish parasitologist and published one book, *People, Parasites, and Pestilence: An Introduction to the Natural History of Infectious Disease*. While at UNH he was a faculty advisor to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Throughout his career he maintained an avid interest in the relationship between science and Christian faith and Christian attitudes toward stewardship of the environment.

Wilbur was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and ASA. He served as Vice President of ASA and Editor of *Perspectives on Science and Christian*

Faith. He was active in the Dover Baptist Church and was a major contributor to the establishment of the Durham Evangelical Church, serving both churches in various capacities.

Richard P. Aulie of Chicago, IL, was active in science education issues especially as they dealt with diluting the teaching of evolution. In 2001 he was on a panel discussing “Evolution and Creationism in Illinois Public Schools,” that aired on Urbana PBS TV. That same year he presented a paper titled “Intelligent Design, High School Biology, and the Lessons of History” at Haverford College at a conference of the Philadelphia Center for Religion and Science sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation. Richard had a doctorate in history of science and taught in the Chicago community college system. He was active in the Chicago area Committees of Correspondence and the local ASA chapter and attended annual meetings where he contributed papers relating to his passion. He organized a major symposium on AIDS for the Chicago National Association of Biology Teachers in the 1990s.

George H. Fielding, chemist, Fort Belvoir, VA. George retired from the U.S. Naval Research Lab in the early 1980s. He received his BA (1931) and MA (1936) in chemistry from UCLA and was honored as a 50-year member of the American Chemical Society. George was voted a Fellow of ASA in 1959. He was active in arranging local ASA section meetings in the Washington, DC/Baltimore area.

New member **Phil Mundt** of Lago Vista, TX, died May 6, 2007, of a massive stroke. He was a geologist, who learned about the ASA while doing online research.

Centrella, from p. 1.

Additional information is available at www.nasa.gov/vision/universe/starsgalaxies/gwave.html.

At this summer’s Annual Meeting, Centrella will speak on “Binary Black Holes and Gravitational Waves: Opening New Windows into the Universe.”

Changes in ASA Bylaws

Three changes are proposed for the ASA bylaws, and the polls will be open until July 15.

Fiscal year. Change the fiscal year from the current January 1 to December 31 to April 1 to March 31. The primary reason is to provide a more accurate budget and tracking process. Three-fourths of the ASA income is received in November, December, and January. The council has been meeting to approve the budget for the subsequent year in November/December, just prior to that surge of income. Without an accurate knowledge of the income received, the budget cannot be determined properly. With the proposed fiscal year, the executive council meeting will be moved to the February/March time frame when the income amount is known.

ASA Chapters. We propose to officially sanction the formation of small ASA chapters. They are intended to serve a smaller geographic region than our local sections, which have greater requirements for establishment. These changes will help to specify what criteria a chapter must meet to be connected with ASA.

Newsletter. Currently the bylaws require a bimonthly newsletter publication. Although there are no current plans to change the present policy, the opportunity of delivering more information electronically in the future may lead to a change in how the newsletter is published. This change would give more flexibility for such changes.

Welcome, New Members! April–May 2007

- Baird, James D. –Naperville, IL
- Baker, Bert –Cincinnati, OH
- Dawson, Kevin L. –Richmond, VA
- Golter II, D. Andrew –Wasilla, AK
- Hwang, James –Houston, TX
- Kihlstrom, Karen J. –Santa Barbara, CA
- Lai, Hon Wai –London, UK
- Lee, Maurice –Medford, MA
- McAbee, Douglas D. –Mission Viejo, CA
- Mundt, Phil –Lago Vista, TX
- Neff, Ray G. –Soap Lake, WA
- Parrish, Jr., David L. –Fort Worth, TX
- Peters, Bethany A. –Edmonton, AB Canada
- Pohl, John –Belton, TX
- Prok, Gary R. –Rush, NY
- Roeske, Victor –Ypsilanti, MI
- Smedley, C. Donald –New Haven, CT
- Smith, Christine –Webster, TX

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