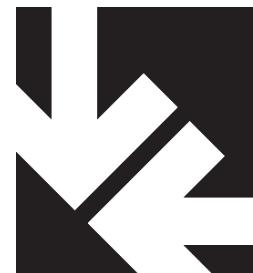


NEWSLETTER

of the
American Scientific Affiliation &
Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation



Volume 48, Number 2

MAR/APR 2006

Calvin College Gears Up for Annual Meeting

From July 28–31, 2006, the 61st ASA Annual Meeting will be held at Calvin C., Grand Rapids, MI, on the conference theme, “Embedding Christian Values in Science and Technology.” In the last issue, we featured two of our four plenary speakers: Celia Deane-Drummond, University College Chester, UK; and US Representative **Vernon J. Ehlers**. In this issue, we introduce the other two plenary speakers.

Rudolf Jaenisch is a member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Sciences and a professor of biology at MIT, Cambridge, MA. His research career began with bacterial viruses, progressed to mammalian viruses, and led to his becoming one of the world’s foremost experts in creating transgenic mice and cloned mice and in experimenting with

mouse embryonic stem cells. One of his most recent works published in *Nature* utilized altered nuclear transfer (ANT) in mice to turn off a gene in the donor nucleus before transferring it to an egg. The inactivated gene renders an embryo incapable of implanting. If done in humans, would such an embryo have a different moral status than an embryo capable of implantation, and might such embryos be utilized as sources for embryonic stem cells?



Rudolf Jaenisch

Continued on p. 3, 2006 Annual Meeting

Report from the Executive Council

Marilyne Flora

The ASA Executive Council met at the national headquarters in Ipswich, MA, the first weekend in December. We were impressed with the improvements made in the office. It is now a more efficient, pleasant place to work.

Summary of Some Agenda Items

We spent a full day meeting and discussing ASA business. What follows is a brief description of some actions taken:

- Refined the Fellow nomination process to obtain more input from all of the Fellows. The goal is to select the candidates with the best potential for future leadership of the ASA.
- Asked the executive director to recommend guidelines for the creation and support of local sections and campus based chapters of the ASA.
- Voted to restructure the commissions of the ASA and will consider specific proposals at our next meeting. The number of commissions will be reduced and the goals and objectives will be clarified.
- Will seek the most effective way of publishing *Knowing Creation*, the manuscript that has been put together by the Lay Education Commission. Commercial publishers are reluctant to publish the work. We will seek ways to make the material suitable for publishing by ASA Press.

Continued on p. 3, Executive Council Report

Newly Elected Member of Executive Council

Edward “Ted” Davis has been elected to the ASA Executive Council. Ted became acquainted with the ASA in the mid-1970s through



Frank Roberts, a longtime ASAer who taught geology and Bible at a Christian school in Philadelphia near where Ted also taught at a Christian school. Ted has been a member since 1977. A historian of science, he has been on the faculty at Messiah C. for 21 years. He teaches courses in the history of science and science/religion specializing in the history of Christianity and science.

Ted got his B.S. in physics from Drexel U., and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Indiana U. in History/Philosophy of Science. He has been married to Kathryn since 1978 and they have two daughters, one studying mathematics in college and the other a grad student in flute performance. Ted’s hobbies include cycling/running, classical music, watching sports and rooting for the national champion Messiah C. soccer teams!

When asked what he hopes for the ASA’s future, Ted said:

We need to grow the organization from the ground up, through the revitalization of existing local sections and the establishment of new local sections oriented toward

Continued on p. 3, Ted Davis

Late breaking news!
Hear Francis Collins at the 2006 ASA Annual Meeting.

The Executive Director's Corner

Randall D. Isaac

The first few months of a new year are usually times when people gather the financial records of the previous year, fill out the annual tax forms, and plan the budget for the coming year. The ASA is doing the same, and in this column I'd like to share with you a brief overview of how our organization is doing financially.

Basic operations of the ASA cost over \$300,000 a year. This covers costs of the annual meeting, publishing and mailing *PSCF* and the newsletter, maintaining the website, and personnel costs. In addition, there is separate funding for various specific designated projects such as the Student Scholarship Fund and the Lay Education Project. The ASA also has an endowment fund of \$115,000. Proceeds from the endowment fund can be used only after the principal exceeds \$200,000.

Income is derived from three primary sources. Membership dues and subscriptions account for approximately one-third of the income, donations cover another third, and the rest comes from the annual meeting registration and housing fees. In 2005, income was about 10% below the target level. Nevertheless, the absence of an executive director for much of the year helped us

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close the year in the black. For 2006 we need to find ways of increasing our income by at least 10%.

Increasing the number of members is an excellent way to grow the organization. A net increase of 150 members in 2006 would be a great help. Persuade your colleagues and students to join now! Or perhaps you could give an ASA membership as a gift for a special occasion such as graduation, birthday or Christmas.

In 2005 we received donations from 320 of our members. Those who contribute more than \$200 in a given year above their regular dues achieve the status of being a sustaining member. In 2005, we had 104 sustaining members. For next year, I'd like to see 200 members reach the sustainer level. Won't you consider becoming a sustainer this year?

Finally, don't miss the opportunity to come to the annual meeting at Calvin C. on July 28-31. You'll be able to meet face-to-face with many of the authors whose works you've been reading, and you'll help us financially as well.

Though we need finances to sustain our operations, the ASA's biggest need is not finances but members who are willing to contribute their time and talents. There is a broad awareness in our society of the issues of science and Christian faith. Opportunities abound for thoughtful discussions of the issues. The ASA is dedicated to providing such forums, and we can do that only through your help. If you see opportunities in your lab or on your campus, we will be more than happy to help you with organizational support and to provide resources for your use.

Local ASA sections have been a very effective means of providing fellowship for Christians in science. ASA chapters on campus are a great informal way of stimulating dialog among students and faculty. Your leadership makes all the difference. We are here to help you.

If you're daunted by thinking that starting a local section entails a prohibitive amount of work, here are some suggestions. The three most common

activities in small group meetings are speakers, video or audio presentations, and book or journal discussions. A speaker is a good way to generate discussions. We can help you identify and obtain someone who would be appropriate for your group. Video and audio presentations are also helpful. Our ASA office maintains a small inventory of presentations given at our meetings over the last five years. We are willing to lend them to you for your use. *PSCF* and books published by ASA members are also great starting points for discussion. We have all derived great insight from the publications and could gain even more from a thoughtful discussion.

During this coming year, pray for the ASA as we seek to carry out God's calling in this field. Pray for guidance as you seek to consider how you might contribute to the ASA this coming year, whether it be financial or your time or both. Let's have a very productive year in serving our God.



"I believe we are still here to help men and women to learn to live as each other's guests. We are guests of this life. We are guests of this planet, and we are almost destroying it ... People should learn a new language, a new way of life, learn to be guests and let others be their guest."

—George Steiner, literary critic; quoted in personal correspondence by humanitarian-aid executive Tom German.

Correction

The Jan/Feb issue had an article on CEST, and incorrectly gave the interpretation of that acronym. Thanks to **John M. Osepchuk**, Past Chairman, ASA Industrial Commission, and former officer of CEST, for bringing this to our attention. CEST, which was founded in 1999 as an outgrowth of the earlier ASA Industrial Commission stands for "Christian Engineers and Scientists in Technology."

Executive Council Report, from p. 1.

We also reviewed reports from **Bud Bouma**, 2006 annual meeting program chair (this meeting promises to be a must attend, so make your plans now, and invite someone to come with you); **Roman Miller**, *PSCF* editor; **Margaret Towne** and **Dave Fisher**, newsletter editors, and **Johnny Lin**, early career representative (some scholarship attendees come back for other annual meetings at their own expense).

Our web site is changing, and new links are added regularly. **Jack Haas** and **Terry Gray** have finished uploading all issues of *PSCF* and all issues of the newsletter. They are working on other improvements to the site.

We reviewed the constitution and bylaws to make sure the affiliation was following them and to see if any needed to be edited. We discussed some items, but decided not to request any changes at the current time.

2006 Officers Elected

We elected the following members as officers for 2006:

- President, **Hessel “Bud” Bouma**;
- Vice President, **Ruth Miller**; and
- Secretary/Treasurer, **Walter Bradley**.

Other Council members are **Edward “Ted” Davis**, our newly elected member, and I as Past President. Ex-officio members are Student and Early Career Representative **Johnny Lin** and Executive Director **Randy Isaac**.

State of the Affiliation

We have over 1,500 fellows and members. Our finances are still strained, and we are praying for a net gain of 150 members this year. Again, we need your help to tell others about the ASA and to introduce prospective members to the newsletter, journal, annual meeting, and local meetings. Our budget is balanced, but only because our new executive director is taking a voluntary cut in salary until the affiliation is on sound financial footing.

As outgoing Executive Council President, I want to state publicly how much the entire Executive Council

worked to locate a new executive director. It was apparent to all of us that Randy Isaac was the best fit for the position. We have worked with him for a year, and he continues to confirm our expectations. He dearly loves the ASA and is committed to seeing the affiliation thrive and develop. His style is innovative, and he is clearly a “people” person. Randy looks to the Council for leadership and guidance. Together we can grow and truly enter the twenty-first century.

Ted Davis, from p. 1.

graduate students and faculty at research universities. Locally, I have helped to re-establish the Eastern Pennsylvania section, which now meets semiannually and draws two to three dozen members (in addition to other people) to its meetings. I believe we should seek philanthropic support for a new, completely redesigned ASA lecture series that will bring ASA members to secular campuses, at the invitation of members located there, to help stimulate interest in the ASA among students, faculty, and local churches. At the same time, we need to adopt a new policy for the annual meeting, so that student members will pay no registration fees, a policy that has been in place for decades at some local sections.

Ted added:

It would be a wonderful thing if each member would remember the ASA in his or her will with a small portion of the estate. If we all did this, we will be able to leave our spiritual descendants a thriving and important organization that will be there for them, just as the ASA has been there for us.

Congratulations, Long-time ASAers!

Celebrating 45 years of membership

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jerry D. Albert | Joseph L. Spradley |
| Robert D. Anderson | Walter R. Thorson |
| Robert B. Griffiths | Andrew J. Wagner |
| Robert A. Hirschy | Richard T. Wright |
| Frederick D. Shannon | Edwin Yamauchi |

2006 Annual Meeting, from p. 1.

William Hurlbut, ASA member and a member of the President’s Council on Bioethics believes it would.

An accomplished and prolific researcher, Jaenisch has sought to address the ethical implications of transgenic work, cloning, and embryonic stem cells with humans. In this area, his recent publications include “Human Cloning—The Science and Ethics of Nuclear Transplantation” [*New England Journal of Medicine* 351, no. 27 (2005): 2787–91], and “Nuclear Transplantation, Embryonic Stem Cells, and the Potential for Cell Therapy” [*New England Journal of Medicine* 349, no. 3 (2003): 275–86]. In the midst of some extraordinary claims and counterclaims in the popular media about stem cells, Jaenisch will help us ascertain what currently is being done with them and what we can reasonably expect to be able to do in the foreseeable future.

Karen Lebacqz is a 2005–06 bioethicist-in-residence in the Yale U. Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics in New Haven, CT. She is the Robert Gordon Sproul Professor Emerita of Theological Ethics at Pacific School of Religion and Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA. An ordained minister in the United



Karen Lebacqz

Church of Christ, she has chaired the Ethics Advisory Board of Geron Corporation, served as President of the Society of Christian Ethics, and served on the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. Her scholarly work has focused on professional ethics, justice, and biomedical ethics. Among her most recent books are *Ethics and Spiritual Care: A Guide*

for Pastors, Chaplains, and Spiritual Directors (Abingdon Press, 2000) and *The Human Embryo Stem Cell Debate: Science, Ethics, and Public Policy* (MIT Press, 2001).

A promotional slide show about the conference and related field trips can be downloaded from www.asa3.org. As the registration brochure and form become available, they will be posted to our web site and mailed to all presenters and ASA members.

✉ **Hessel Bouma**



Hekman Library at Calvin College

About Calvin College

Calvin C. has a 390-acre campus. It was founded in 1876 and named after 16th-century reformer John Calvin. It is one of the largest Christian colleges in North America with over 4,300 students, 54% from Michigan, 38% from other states, and 8% from other countries. Calvin has 59 academic programs and 10 pre-professional programs. It is affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). A group of immigrants from the Netherlands organized CRC in 1857 after settling in western Michigan. The CRC stresses the sovereignty of God in every part of life—in the family, the church, the state; in world affairs; in economic, social, and political life; in business; and in learning and the arts.

Originally, Calvin C. existed for ministerial training. In 1894 nontheological students were admitted. In 1921 it awarded its first B.A. degree. It maintains a strong commitment to its liberal arts curriculum as a means of helping students understand God's world and their place in it. Its mission statement is:

Calvin College is a comprehensive liberal arts college in the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity. Through our learning, we seek to be agents of renewal in the academy, church, and society. We pledge fidelity to Jesus Christ, offering our hearts and lives to do God's work in God's world.

Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., President of Calvin Theological Seminary, says that Christian higher education is "for shalom. It's for peace in the sense of wholeness and harmony in the world. It's for restoring proper relationships with nature and other humans and God, and for teaching us to delight in the wonders of creation that remain."

We look forward to our annual meeting at Calvin C., and to learning more about the college and its significant mission.

Witness to a Nobel Laureate

Some Nobel laureates enjoy being applauded as geniuses. But the late Richard Smalley, who shared the 1996 chemistry prize, said the real genius was built into nature. To his mind, his groundbreaking discoveries were so obvious that, if he hadn't uncovered them, someone else would have done so in a year or two.

Smalley discovered that vaporizing carbon and letting it condense in helium produced a unique substance known as "fullerene" or "buckytubes." In his Nobel speech, he said:

Carbon has this genius of making a chemically stable two-dimensional, one-atom-thick membrane in a three-dimensional world.

Last year NASA awarded his Rice U. laboratory a contract to develop a continuous cable of buckytubes, expected to conduct electricity ten times better than copper yet have only one-sixth the weight and a tensile strength greater than steel.

Smalley died October 28 at age 62. One obituary said, "His heart-felt slogan was 'Be a scientist, save the world.'"

His surviving colleagues hope to fulfill his aspiration to "rewire the world ... permitting a vast increase in the capacity of the nation's electrical distribution network." He envisioned that "development of plug-in electric hybrid vehicles will enable us to wean ourselves away from gasoline for the bulk of our urban transportation needs ... and greatly improve the air quality in the cities around the world."

"Faith-Based Research"

Smalley attended Hope C. for two years. Declining health prevented him from returning to campus to accept the Distinguished Alumni Award in May 2005, so he sent a letter to be read at the alumni weekend banquet. In it he called his scientific effort a "faith-based research project," explaining:

It is based on the faith that when God made the universe he wired into the laws of physics and chemistry a path to make this ... wire, and do it with great cleanliness and efficiency. If so, then all I have to do is go find that path that God put there in the beginning.

He added:

Recently I have gone back to church regularly with a new focus to understand ... what ... makes Christianity so vital and powerful in the lives of billions of people today, even though almost 2,000 years have passed since the death and resurrection of Christ ... I now think the answer is very simple: It's true.

Hugh Ross Visits Smalley

Sixteen months before Smalley died, Houston pastor Ben Young asked **Hugh Ross** to visit Smalley to discuss a number of scientific and philosophical questions. They discussed string theory and general relativity and talked about the seven different purposes that God had when he created the universe. Ross recalls Dr. & Mrs. Smalley attending his lecture on "Dark Energy and the Destiny of Humanity," with "Rick furiously taking notes" and asking the evening's most insightful question. He later e-mailed Ross to say he had used

those notes as the basis of a talk to a thousand students at Tuskegee.

Invited to Houston again to speak at Smalley's memorial service, Ross said:

Most scientists I know allow peer pressure and their specialized research endeavors to divert them from exploring the most important issues of the cosmos and life. ... But Rick ... had the humility and courage to pursue the big truth questions regardless of personal cost to his reputation. ... In his words, he learned that "he need not throw his mind away when reading the Bible." The Bible made him an even better scientist and a more inspiring science educator.

✉ **Walt Hearn**

Of Interest

- The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) reports that between 1990 and 2004, enrollment at their institutions increased from 134,592 students to 229,649. This is significantly more than the increases during this time period in other institutions of higher learning.

- The American Museum of Natural History in New York City has an exhibit which traces Darwin's life and thinking. It includes beetles Darwin collected, fossils and ferns he studied, two live Galapagos tortoises, and many other artifacts relating to his life. It was three years in the making and some say it is the most in-depth exhibition on Darwin ever. The exhibit includes a video quoting **Francis Collins**. The show will be in New York until May 29 and then tour to Boston, Chicago, and Toronto, ending in London during Darwin's bicentennial year of 2009.

- Some of the world's foremost thinking in natural theology is now available in an easily accessible repository. The Gifford Lectures online database (www.giffordlectures.org) became available last year, formally launched by Templeton Foundation Press. The Gifford Lectures, established by bequest of the jurist Adam Lord Gifford (1820–1887),

have been delivered at the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and St. Andrews almost every year since 1888. They were established to address questions related to natural theology, i.e., understanding God by light of reason rather than revelation. They have been given by scholars, writers, and scientists with diverse perspectives and intellectual interests. Some who have presented are William James, John Dewey, Albert Schweitzer, Karl Barth, and Stanley Jaki.

✉ editor@Metanexus.net

- In December 2005, the American Association for the Advancement of Science Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion (DoSER) had a public lecture in Washington DC titled "The Assembly of Protocells." Steen Rasmussen, Team Leader of Self-Organizing Systems at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Peter Madsen, Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Applied Ethics and Political Philosophy at Carnegie Mellon U., were the presenters. The event covered the efforts to assemble minimal self-replicating nanomachines from nonliving organic and inorganic matter. This research centers on how nonliving matter can self-organize into living matter and can inform research about the origins of life on Earth or elsewhere. Although such living technology will not appear for many years, they're convinced it will come, and with it will be a number of societal, ethical, and religious issues.

- Colin Purrin, Dept. of Biology, Swarthmore C., started a group in October 2005 titled "Pennsylvania Citizens for Science." Their goal is to protect the ability of teachers to teach *exclusively* nonsupernatural explanations for the origin of the universe, the origin of life, and descent with modification (evolution) in science classes. The group does not oppose the discussion of supernatural phenomena in comparative religion/philosophy classes or in private schools. They hope to get parents, school board members, and teachers more involved in science education policy in the state. Purrin's goal is to make contact with at

least one member from each of the 501 school districts. These folk can be aware of all initiatives and can be voices for stronger, more engaging biology instruction in elementary and middle schools. He says:

We—individual scientists—need to start writing evolution-based lesson plans for elementary school pro-science lectures to local groups that might not normally give a hoot about DNA, the origin of species, or the difference between science and the supernatural.

See www.pacfs.org/wp

Special Opportunity

The Metanexus Local Societies Initiative (LSI) provides three-year grants (up to \$45,000) to fund organizational and program costs for locally-acting, globally-networked membership societies dedicated to the constructive engagement of science and religion. This is meant to support open and dynamic, transdisciplinary dialogue groups with the aim of discovering new scientific and spiritual insights. As of mid-2005, 200 societies have been founded on the campuses of major research universities, liberal arts colleges, for-profit institutions, seminaries, state universities, private religious schools, graduate academies, and faith communities in 36 nations.

The participation and leadership of ASA members has been significant in many LSI societies, including groups at Messiah C., Calvin C., and Eastern Mennonite U. The Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation (CSCA) has formed three new sections over the past year. Metanexus will continue to accept applications (deadlines: April 1 and July 1) and would welcome them from ASA members, their colleagues, and their home institutions. For more information, including application guidelines, or to find a society near you, visit www.metanexus.net/lsi or contact **Drew Rick-Miller** at rick-miller@metanexus.net or (215) 789-2200 or our Executive Director **Randy Isaac** at randy@asa3.org or (978) 356-5656.

ASAers in Action

• **Owen Gingerich**, Prof. Emeritus of Astronomy and the History of Science at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, was the William Belden Noble lecturer at Harvard Memorial Church in November. Owen's lectures were under the general title "God's Universe." They were followed by responses from distinguished scholars and questions from the audience. Harvard Press will be publishing these lectures this fall.

Owen is lead author of two successive models of the solar atmosphere. He is also an authority on the life and work of Nicholas Copernicus. Winner of the Harvard-Radcliffe Phi Beta Kappa Award for Excellence in Teaching, he is a former vice president of the American Philosophical Society and councilor of the American Astronomical Society. He has previously delivered the distinguished George Darwin Lecture at the Royal Astronomical Society and has twice been the Advent preacher in the Washington National Cathedral. An active Fellow of ASA, Owen has written *The Book Nobody Read*.

✉ **Randy Isaac**

• At the Oct. 13, 2005 meeting of the Interdisciplinary Biblical Research Institute (IBRI), held at Biblical Theological Seminary near Philadelphia, **Bob Newman**, Prof. of New Testament at the seminary, presented a PowerPoint lecture entitled "Rumors of Angels: Intelligent Design and the Detection of Malevolent Spiritual Agents." An audio of the lecture is available on the IBRI web site at www.ibri.org.

Bob first sketched the biblical data on angels, demons, and Satan, noting that these beings are clearly pictured as having and exercising the ability to produce physical effects in our world. If this is so, then the question arises whether or not their activity could be detected scientifically. Using the sort of tests devised by **William Dembski** and Michael Behe, it appears that we might well be able to detect long-lasting physical effects of such activity, most likely in historical sciences such as history and biology.

After several cautions regarding the interpretation of such effects, Newman proposed that Darwin's example of the cruel actions of the ichneumon wasp might be an example of malevolent genetic engineering, and Gould's example of the panda's thumb might be a benevolent one. Other proposed results of malevolent engineering might be the AIDS virus and that which causes Ebola hemorrhagic fever. Perhaps this would be a partial solution to the philosophic problem of evil.

• **Stephen Meyers** interviewed several attendees at the last ASA annual meeting. See www.bibleandscience.com/science/asa2005.htm for interviews with **Dick Fischer**, President of Genesis Proclaimed Association, and authors **Darrel Falk** (biologist), **Glen Morton** (biblical scholar), and **Margaret Towne** (biologist). Stephen also includes materials from some members of the panel "Models of Creation: Intelligent Design and Evolution": mathematician **William Dembski**, geologist **Keith Miller**, biochemist Michael Behe, and biologist **David Wilcox**.

• **Francis Collins**, director of the Human Genome Project, was quoted in *Newsweek*, Nov. 28, 2005 in the article titled "Charles Darwin: Evolution of a Scientist." On page 57, he says:

Science's proper role is to explore natural explanations for the material world. Science provides no answers to the question "Why are we here, anyway?" That is the role of philosophy and theology.

• In 2004, **Davis Young** and his wife moved from Grand Rapids, MI to Tucson, AZ. Interestingly, at church they met another couple from Grand Rapids. Both of these couples are interested in developing a ministry

to encourage the believers to learn about and develop a rich appreciation for the created world, i.e., to take delight in God's handiwork, and to give him glory for the world in which they live, and maybe even to learn a little science; and to promote an attitude of stewardship of

God's creation and to show how the attitude of creation care might tie into missions.

Dave asks ASAers to pray about this effort. This "focus" group could plan talks, field trips, form a newsletter, purchase books, etc. The ministerial staff of their church is supportive.

ASAer Retires; Phase Two!

Dick Humphrey retired in December from Harvard-Westlake prep school (Los Angeles area), having taught there since 1968. His areas included the physical sciences, AP chemistry, electronics, and computer science. He is credited with establishing the school's computer department. The headmaster, Tom Hudnut, states:

There is no question that we simply wouldn't be where we are as a school were it not for his hard work and inspiration—dare I use the word "genius"?—that showed us the way.

Former newsletter editor **Walt Hearn** tells us that he and his wife Ginny introduced Dick and his wife Kathy to each other at an ASA annual meeting at Bethel C. in the 1960s. Walt says that this can be an extra benefit from attending ASA meetings.

ASAers in China

On Dec. 13–16, 2005, **Deborah** and **Loren Haarsma**, both professors of physics and astronomy at Calvin C., each gave three lectures on science and Christianity at the Dept. of Philosophy and Dept. of Religious Studies, Wuhan U. in Wuhan, China. This event was funded by the Templeton Foundation. Deborah's lectures were titled: "Science and Religion in Harmony," "How Christians Reconcile Ancient Texts with Modern Science," and "Christian and Atheist Responses to Big Bang Cosmology." Loren's lectures were "Scientific Knowledge Does Not Replace Religious Knowledge," "God, Evolution and Design," and "Human Evolution and Objective Morality." The lectures were arranged by Bethel U.

emeritus philosophy professor Melville Stewart, who taught a course on the philosophy of religion as a visiting prof. at Wuhan U. last fall. He plans to publish the Haarsmas' talks in China.

In "Scientific Knowledge Does Not Replace Religious Knowledge," Loren noted that science usually explains natural events—such as the orbit of planets or the growth of trees—in terms of mechanistic, impersonal natural processes; and religious knowledge usually explains these same events in terms of divine action and intention. These two levels of explanation might seem at first to conflict. However, they can be harmonized through the religious idea of a God who created and designed the laws of nature, and who typically governs creation through those natural laws. Religious beliefs and scientific reason do not need to conflict. In fact, making reasoned decisions as a scientist and making reasonable faith commitments in a religion, while not exactly the same thing, share many of the same characteristics.

Deborah's lecture, "Science and Religion in Harmony," noted how some religious beliefs appear to conflict with some discoveries of modern science, including the Big Bang, the great age of the Earth, common descent of species, and human evolution. Some people claim that science and religion are fundamentally at war, but this is only one way to model the relationship between science and religion. Other models include independence (science and religion each deal with separate questions), interaction (science and religion can speak to the same questions and influence each other positively), and foundational (religious beliefs can provide a philosophical foundation and context for doing science). She described each

type of relationship, using examples from Christianity, including the conflict between Galileo and the Catholic church in the early 17th century. The foundational model demonstrates that adherents of different religions can collaborate on science successfully without denying their own religious beliefs.

✉ Loren Haarsma

Coming Events

- Mar. 6.** "American Adolescent Religion: National Patterns of Practice and Belief," Messiah C., Grantham, PA, 7:30 p.m., Hostetter Chapel. Speaker: Christian Smith.
- Mar. 7.** "The Science of the Brain: Implications for Theology." St. Paul, MN, Luther Seminary. Speaker: Gregory Peterson. E-mail Alan G. Padgett: apadgett@luthersem.edu
- Mar. 9.** 4th Annual David B. Larson Memorial Lecture, Durham, NC. Speaker: Paul Meier, who is interested in the connection between the genetic, psychological, and spiritual aspects of humanity. E-mail Harold G. Koenig: koenig@geri.duke.edu; (919) 681-6633
- Mar. 16.** "Plurality of Worlds and Extraterrestrial Life: The Historical Development of an Ancient Idea." What would the discovery of life on other planets mean for Christian theology and belief in the incarnation of Christ? Grand Canyon Institute, Phoenix, AZ. Speaker: Charles Roberts. E-mail Jim Armstrong: cias@gcu.edu
- Mar. 16.** "The Stones Cry Out: How Early Christian Geologists Enlarged Their Understanding of the Creation Account," Hatfield, PA, Biblical Theological Seminary Lecture Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: **David C. Bossard**. E-mail **Robert Newman**: rcnewman@erols.com; www.ibri.org
- Mar. 30.** "Origin of Life Research and Intelligent Design: A Critique," Franklin and Marshall C., Lancaster, PA. Speaker: Iris Fry. E-mail Roger Thomas: Roger.Thomas@fandm.edu; (717) 291-4135
- Apr. 4.** "Eugenics and Religion," Messiah C., Grantham, PA, 7:00 p.m., Hostetter Chapel. Speaker: Christine Rosen.
- Apr. 5.** "Artificial Intelligence, Cybertheology, and the Human Prospect," Bethlehem, PA. Speakers: Anne Foerst, Mary Doria Russell. Contact Millie Roman-Buday: (610) 861-1519.
- June 3–7.** Seventh Annual Metanexus Conference on the campus of the U. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. International (35 countries), interdisciplinary, interfaith gathering. Altruism, neurotheology, mathematics and theology, positive psychology, evolution and cultural values are some of the topics. See www.metanexus.net/conference2006

- June 15–18.** Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS) will be holding its 30th conference at Covenant C., Lookout Mountain, GA. The theme: "Christian Sociology as a Calling: Past, Present, & Future." E-mail Program Chair, **Russell Heddendorf**: r.heddendorf@att.net; see www.actsoc.org
- June 22–25.** "The Two Tasks: Redeeming the Soul, Redeeming the Mind," National Faculty Leadership Conference, Alexandria, VA. Speakers include **Habib Malik, Walter Bradley, Francis Collins, Owen Gingerich**, Peter Kreeft, and many others. Details at www.twotasks.com.
- July 16–20.** American Association for Artificial Intelligence conference, Boston. E-mail Ted Metzler: tmetzler@okcu.edu; (405) 208-5511. See: www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2006/aaai06.html
- July 17–21.** "Faith in the Classroom: Christian Perspectives on Teaching and Learning," Grand Rapids, MI. Designed for Christian educators and includes the teachings of 17th century Moravian thinker John Amos Comenius, as well as modern insights. E-mail: seminars@calvin.edu
- July 29–Aug. 5.** "Emergence: Nature's Mode of Creativity," Religious implications of Emergence in Cosmic and Biological Evolution, Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, Star Island, NH. See www.starisland.org or www.iras.org

With the Lord

• **Dave Price** went to be with the Lord last August, near Bakersfield, CA. He was fatally injured on his ranch when his wagon rolled over on a steep hill. Dave is survived by his wife, Mary Beth, four sons and one daughter, and 14 grandchildren. He and his wife served for two years in Yemen. Dave, an ASA Fellow, chaired the ASA Committee for Integrity in Science Education which wrote *Teaching Science in a Climate of Controversy*.

• **John I. Deckard** of Grand Rapids, MI, passed away in December. Both he, an engineer, and his wife, Anne, a chemist, were longtime members of ASA. John's patents on electronic fuel injection produced many jobs in a new industry. Because of his diminished hearing and vision, in recent years they have not been able to attend the ASA annual meetings, but Anne will be present at the 2006 event. She attended her first ASA meeting in 1948 at Calvin C.

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.

Calling All ASAers

from the co-editors

We are very interested in what you are doing and thinking. What seminars have you attended, what events have you hosted, what papers have you written, what new courses are you offering, where have you moved? What degree did you earn and what was the title of your dissertation? This is a NEWSletter and we would really like to print *your* news. If you attend a conference or seminar, we would love to include a summary of the main points. If you have given a presentation, send us an overview. We all can't get to everything and the newsletter would give us a chance to benefit from some of these events. We would appreciate hearing your opinion on a particular science/faith/ethics/morals issue. Maybe we could get a dialogue or triologue (!) going in the newsletter.

As you know, in recent years we have seen the proliferation of a lot of web pages, regular emails, journals, and other mailings which center on science and religion. This is a wonderful movement. Many of you are in the circle, receiving these materials. So that we are not too redundant, we would

like to feature *your* news and insights. That can make us unique. Furthermore, when we know where your area of research is, what events you have planned, etc., we can pray for you. We are most interested in the activities of local groups as well. E-mail your news to us at asan@asa3.org.

Welcome New Members! Dec. 2005–Jan. 2006

Adams, Charles C. –Sioux Center, IA
Adams, Matthew –Toronto, ON Canada
Beams, Ryan –Rochester, NY
Bishop, John E. –Sebastian, FL
Brower, Shane C. –Grove City, PA
Carlson, Stephen M. –White Salmon, WA
Clark, Timothy T. –Albuquerque, NM
D'Angelo, Christopher –Toronto, ON Canada
DeSoto, Stewart –Wheaton, IL
Flowers, Robert K. –Seattle, WA
Foster, Jr, Charles S. –Murray, KY
Glenn, Irene M. –Gainesville, FL
Hanigan, Christin L. –Baltimore, MD
Hatfield, Scott A. –Clovis, CA
Hill, James W. –Moultonborough, NH
Jaeger, Lydia –Nogent-sur-Marne, France
Jones, Bradley A. –Trinity, FL

Jones, David H. –Grove City, PA
Kastelein, Daniel –Acton, MA
Lawrence, Charles G. –Niles, MI
MacKay, Kevin G. –Grove City, PA
Marsch, Glenn A. –Grove City, PA
McCabe, Richard D. –Erie, PA
McNabb, Rosemary A. –Thunder Bay, ON Canada
Mohr, Timothy A. –Grove City, PA
Oord, Thomas J. –Nampa, ID
Silvius, John E. –Cedarville, OH
Simmons, James K. –Waynesburg, PA
Small, Barbara –Phoenix, AZ
Smith, Aaron M. –State College, PA
Tisher, Gordon –Vancouver, BC Canada
van der Kamp, Bart J. –Delta, BC Canada
Williams, Jack –Avondale Estates, GA

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