



NEWSLETTER

of the
American Scientific Affiliation &
Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation



Volume 49, Number 2

March/April 2007

Introducing the University of Edinburgh Site of the CiS/ASA Conference, August 2–5, 2007

The University of Edinburgh was founded in 1583 as a college under Presbyterian auspices. Bishop Robert Reid of St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, died in 1558 and left funds that provided its endowment. James VI, son of Mary Queen of Scots, granted a Royal Charter in 1582. A Royal Charter was unusual at the time because universities were established through Papal Charters. This made it the first civic university. It received university status in 1621 after a divinity school was added. In the 18th century, faculties of medicine and law were established. At that time, the city of Edinburgh was a center of the European Enlightenment.

Presently, the university has three “colleges”: Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Science and Engineering (SCE), and Medicine and Vet Medicine (MVM). There are approximately 18,300 undergraduates and 6,200 postgraduates. Its Institute of Evolutionary Biology is one of the largest groupings of evolutionary biologists in the world.

The University has had many famous attendees and alumni: inventor Alexander Graham Bell; authors Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Lewis Stevenson; historian Thomas Carlyle; Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; philosopher David Hume; Peter Mark Roget (of thesaurus fame); James Hutton, father of modern geology; Joseph Lister, who introduced antiseptics into surgery; botanist Robert Brown (Brownian movement); scientist Thomas Henry Huxley; and Charles Darwin, who briefly studied medicine.

The Gifford Lectures, established in 1887 to “promote and diffuse the study of Natural Theology in the widest



Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh

sense of the term—in other words, the knowledge of God,” are given at the University of Edinburgh as well as at the Universities of St. Andrews, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. Natural theology is defined as theology supported by science and not dependent on the miraculous.

The city of Edinburgh has been listed as a World Heritage Site, with Georgian and Victorian architecture and winding medieval streets. Edinburgh Castle dominates the skyline perched on the crags of an ancient volcano, right in the center of the city. Edinburgh is known for its arts festival, restaurants, and lively entertainment options. It has the unique qualities of being both ancient and modern.

CiS/ASA Sessions

Sessions will be held in Pollock Halls.

Keynote Speaker:

Alister McGrath: “New Frontiers in Science and Faith”

Plenary Sessions:

Session I: Environmental Stewardship

Sir John Houghton: “The Challenge of Global Warming”

Sir Ghillelan Prance: “Why Should a Christian Care about Biodiversity”

Bob White: “The Biblical Basis of Care for the Environment”

Calvin DeWitt: “Our Personal Response”

Continued on p. 3, CiS/ASA Sessions

New CSCA President

At the 2006 Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation (CSCA) fall annual meeting, **Robert Mann** shared with members that he will step down as president. Robert stressed that although he found his work as president very rewarding, he did believe it was time for a change after being in the position for over ten years. The CSCA Executive Council and membership would like to thank Robert for his outstanding leadership and vision for expanding their work in so many areas across Canada. Robert will remain very active at the local and national level. As chair of the Department of Physics at one of Canada’s leading research and technology universities, he remains in a position to speak with authority on science and faith issues on behalf of the CSCA to both the academic community and the general public.



Robert Mann

While Robert’s leadership as president will be greatly missed, the CSCA is pleased to announce that long-time executive council member **Thaddeus Trenn** has agreed to serve as the next president. Part of Thad’s mandate will be to work with the executive council to encourage new leadership within the CSCA and to work with Executive Director **Don McNally** to grow and broaden the membership. Robert will be working closely with Thad and the executive council over



Thaddeus Trenn

Continued on p. 2, New CSCA President

The Executive Director's Corner

Randall D. Isaac

In my last column I mentioned that several secular scientific organizations had contacted ASA for in-depth discussions on science/religion issues. One of them was the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The AAAS is the oldest and largest scientific organization. It publishes *Science* which has the largest paid subscription base of any peer-reviewed technical journal. The AAAS office oversees a program called Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER), directed by Connie Bertka. With the encouragement and support of Alan Leshner, AAAS executive director, and Al Teich, director of science and policy programs, Connie and her team have initiated a series of meetings with various groups of evangelicals.

The first meeting brought seven evangelicals to Washington, five of whom were ASA members. Alan and Connie pointed out that the mission of the AAAS is to "advance science and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people." They felt AAAS may not have done all it could have for the benefit of evangelicals, a rather large segment of the population. They sought to understand the evangelical community better and to determine how they could help meet its needs. The first step in November was

to learn about the ASA and its history and mission. A couple of weeks ago they also met with leaders of various theological seminaries. More meetings are being planned.

One message that the AAAS wishes to convey to evangelicals is that mainstream science is not inherently hostile to Christian faith. The vocal minority, like Dawkins and Harris, who advocate the abolition of religion under the guise of science, does not represent the thinking of most secular scientists, they assured us. The majority of scientists respect and honor the moral values that religion provides, even if they may not concur in theological details. They see the role of science to provide religious people such as evangelicals with a deeper understanding and appreciation of creation as an aid to our care of creation. They want to work with us to deploy science and technology in the aid of humankind.

As ASA members, we are all simultaneously members of the scientific community and of the Christian church. We may at times feel like beleaguered minorities of both groups, but by our very existence we demonstrate the coherence and connection between scientific endeavor and Christian faith. Part of our mission is to help scientists understand that most Christians are not anti-science and that our faith does not involve a repudiation of the scientific process. On the other hand, our mission to the church is to help them understand that most scientists are not seeking to undermine our faith and that we can work together constructively on many issues we share in common.

An article on the back page in this newsletter reports on another dialogue between evangelicals and scientists on the topic of our stewardship of God's creation. This is clearly stated in the fourth plank of the ASA statement of faith. As an organization, we are not advocates for a particular policy or course of action. Rather, we emphasize the need for us as Christians to understand the scientific data regarding the state of God's creation and to carry out our responsibility of stewardship accordingly.

Our organization is uniquely positioned to play a key role in the dialogue between scientists and Christians. Each of us is a testimony in our own community to the way in which science and Christianity relate to each other. Our mission as a fellowship of Christians in science is to encourage and support one another in this endeavor.

We hope to see you in Edinburgh this August. If not, please plan on attending the 2008 meeting in Oregon.

New CSCA President *from p. 1.*

the next couple of months to ensure a smooth transition in leadership.

Thad comes to the position of president with wide experience in fostering science and religion dialogue in a variety of academic and institutional settings. A native of Chicago, Thad has taught and worked in Canada for over twenty years. His background is in physics and in the history and philosophy of science. He is currently teaching a course in Science and Religion at King's University College at The University of Western Ontario. Thad was the director of the highly successful Toronto Summer Workshop on Science and Religion sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation in the late 1990s, and is currently very active in scholarly discussion on the Turin Shroud. (See Interview of Interest on page 3.)

For more information on the work of the CSCA, go to www.csc.ca

✉ **Don McNally**

Congratulations, Long-time ASAers!

Celebrating 45 years of membership

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Daniel Andersen | Edward Piers |
| Ronald L. Barndt | Eduard H. Schludermann |
| C. Henry Bradley | Jack N. Sparks |
| C. Daniel Geisler | C. Richard Terman |
| George Giacomakis Jr. | Kenneth J. Van Dellen |
| Kenneth B. Hoover | William H. Venable |
| Martin M. LaBar | Merville O. Vincent |
| John M. Miller | Leland H. Williams |
| Donald W. Munro | |

The *Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA* is published bimonthly for its membership by the American Scientific Affiliation. Send *Newsletter* information to the Editors: David Fisher, 285 Cane Garden Cir., Aurora, IL 60504-2064. E-mail: dfisherasa@comcast.net and Margaret Towne, 8505 Copper Mountain Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129. E-mail: TowneMG@aol.com. Both receive e-mail through asan@asa3.org

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

©2007 American Scientific Affiliation (except previously published material). All rights reserved.

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

CIS/ASA Sessions, from p. 1.

Session 2. Genes and Evolution

Simon Conway Morris: "Does Evolution Have a Deep Structure, and If So What Are the Theological Implications?"

Jeffrey Schloss: "Evolutionary Theory, Religious Belief, and Human Altruism"

Ernest Lucas: "Interpreting Genesis 1-3"

Denis Alexander: "Darwinian Evolution: The Really Hard Questions"

Session 3. Neuroscience

Peter Clarke: "Free-will and Determinism"

Bill Newsome: "Recent Developments in Brain and Mind"

Nancey Murphy: "Mind, Brain and the Evolution of Religion"

Session 4. Cosmology and the Anthropic Principle

Sir John Polkinghorne: "Space, Time and Eternity"

Christine Done: Title TBA

Joan Centrella: "Binary Black Holes and Gravitational Waves: Opening New Windows onto the Universe."

Session 5. Bioethics

Nigel M de S Cameron: "Emerging Technologies and Human Dignity"

D. Gareth Jones: "Designers of the Future"

Joe Perry: "Bio-Tech. Crops: Where Are the Frontiers?"

Planned Symposia:

1. Science and Appropriate

Technology for the Developing World coordinated by **Ruth Douglas Miller** and **Walter Bradley**

2. Christianity and the History of Science

 coordinated by **Ted Davis**

Sir John Houghton spoke at Wheaton College, Jan. 23-24, 2007, giving samples of the solid scholarship we'll hear at Edinburgh. PDFs of his lectures, "Big Science, Big God" and "Global Warming, Climate Change and Sustainability" plus MP3 audio files of Environmental Politics (class lecture), Class Q & A, Sir John's Word to Pastors, and "Global Warming: A Challenge to Scientists and Christians" are available on www.wheaton.edu/CACE/

ASAer Honored

Leonard Bond, of Kennewick, WA, was recently elected by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) to be the Region 6 delegate-elect/director-elect for 2007-2008. Starting in January 2009, he will serve for two years as the Region Director and will be the delegate for IEEE's twelve western states region on the IEEE Board.

Calvin College Astronomer

After earning his Ph.D. in astronomy from Harvard in 1985, **Lawrence A. Molnar** spent three

years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. He was an assistant professor at the University of Iowa before going to Calvin in 1998. He also spent a year



Lawrence A. Molnar

in Germany. His research interests relate to radiointerferometry and to the dynamics of disks and of few-body systems. Specific projects include studying Saturn's rings and radio emissions from Saturn's atmosphere.

In 1990 Larry received the Bart J. Bok Prize, which is awarded in recognition of distinguished research by a Harvard graduate under age 35. In 1991 he received an award for teaching excellence at the University of Iowa, and in 1992-1994 he was an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow. Some of his work with collaborator Robert Mutel at Iowa regarding passage of stars near the Oort Comet Cloud and the corresponding implications for triggering a comet shower earned him mention in *Science News* (Jan. 31, 1998).

Calvin College astronomers remotely operate an observatory in New Mexico. Last summer, Larry served as the local arrangements chair for the 2006 Annual Meeting and enabled some attendees to look through the telescope on the campus. See www.calvin.edu/academic/phys/observatory/presentations/

Interview of Interest

Thaddeus Trenn teaches in the science and religion program of Victoria College, University of Toronto. He wrote an article, "The Shroud of Turin: A Parable for Modern Times," which appeared in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, Vol. IX, No. 1/2, 1997. Paul Allen informed a TV station in

Toronto and Thad was interviewed last December. He says:

Following the line of questions given me by Videotron TV on December 17, I had an opportunity to delve into the image formation problem which is certainly quite scientific in nature. No one can explain how a high-definition image could exist on a piece of linen cloth. Yet a pixel-type image is on the Turin Shroud. This high resolution image can be greatly enlarged without loss of detail. This would be impossible for normal light-photography. Yet the required pixels, albeit of unknown origin, are definitely present on the linen cloth. It is possible that release of this scientific information could generate renewed public interest in the Turin Shroud once so unceremoniously laid to rest in 1989 on the basis of a rather restricted standard interpretation of those radiocarbon results.

Further updated information is available on the website: www.shroud.com. Thad has learned that the interview will be aired all across Canada through Space TV and Court TV between the end of February and April on a series entitled "Missing Link." He was also interviewed last year by CBC radio on the same topic but the interview never was released.

Comments on Collins in Discover

David Ewing Duncan interviewed **Francis Collins** in the Feb. 2007 issue of *Discover* magazine. On page 4, the editor states that Duncan "met up with Human Genome Project leader Francis Collins to talk about God, politics, and Collins's own brand of born-again Christianity." He quotes Duncan saying:

Collins is one of the great characters in science. The guy wears flannel and drives a Harley ... He makes enormous and expensive scientific projects happen but has the demeanor like he walked right off the farm.

Intellectual humility is, indeed, one of the foremost qualities of a true scholar.

Archeology Alive!

Dead Sea Scrolls: Scientists are decoding the Dead Sea Scrolls with DNA and infrared digital photography on the parchment and papyrus and matching them with others containing the same DNA. It is believed that documents written on goat or calf hides from animals considered ritually pure by Judaic tradition have a higher ritual importance.

DNA analysis, infrared photography, high speed computers, and being featured in museums have enabled several of the scrolls to be displayed digitally online. For example, the Shrine of the Book display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem offers online visitors the chance to view a complete 2,000-yr-old scroll of the Book of Isaiah.

(*AAAS News*, Dec. 2006)

First Church?? Ark of the Covenant:

In December 2006, archaeologists claimed to have uncovered one of the world's first churches, built on a site believed to have once housed the Ark of the Covenant. Archaeologists are not sure it's the first church, but it dates to the 4th century. The site contained an unusual inscription referring to itself as Shiloh. The former mayor of modern Shiloh says, "We believe that if they continue to dig, they'll reach back to the time of the Tabernacle," referring to the portable place of worship where the Israelites housed the Ark.

(*Telegraph.co.uk*, Dec. 2006)

Paul's Tomb Unearthed? After three years, Vatican archaeologists have unearthed a sarcophagus believed to contain the remains of the Apostle Paul that had been buried beneath Rome's second largest basilica. It dates to at least AD 390. The interior of the sarcophagus has not yet been explored.

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.

Two ancient churches were built successively over the spot where tradition said that Paul had been buried. The original inscription on the top reads: *Paulo Apostolo Mart*, Latin for "Paul Apostle Martyr." Paul is believed to have been beheaded in AD 65 by the Roman Emperor Nero.

Christian Engineers and Scientists in Technology

CEST is an ASA affiliation for engineers and others working in technology which includes technical methods, skills, processes, techniques, and tools that are used to solve engineering problems. Some of the more than 100 members develop technology and some apply it. They mainly communicate through a very informative and interesting newsletter. A few are able to attend annual meetings. They seek to be connected so they can increase their understanding of what it means to be a Christian in this profession, to improve their Christian witness, and to work together to further common objectives. **Ruth D. Miller** was the founding president of CEST. Current officers are **Bill Yoder**, president, and **Jack Swarengen**, secretary. This group welcomes new members and can be contacted at: jenlswear@sbcglobal.net, or lwnyder@ieee.org, or rdmiller@ksu.edu.

Evolution Debate in Kenya

As the 75-year-old National Museum of Kenya prepares to re-open this coming June in Nairobi, some Christians are demanding that the display of early hominid fossils be removed or at least moved to a less prominent location. The "Origins of Man" exhibit, comprised of prehistoric finds from around Africa's Great Rift Valley, considered to be the cradle of humanity, is offensive to some as they say it promotes Darwin's theory of evolution. Many of the fossils were discovered by paleontologists Louis and Mary Leakey around the Olduvai Gorge, Lake Victoria, and Lake Turkana. Their son, Richard, an

anthropologist and conservationist, feels this is a misguided attempt to reject sound science. (*Middle East Times*, International Edition, Sept. 2006)

ASAer on the Air

Owen Gingerich and University of Chicago professor of astronomy and astrophysics Edward ("Rocky") Kolb were guests for a two-hour discussion on Chicago radio station WGN November 27, 2006. The occasion was the publication of Gingerich's newest book, *God's Universe* (see "ASAers in Print" for details).

Kolb advocated a secularist approach to science, while Gingerich enunciated a theistic viewpoint quite similar to the cosmological argument to design. Kolb said theistic belief can hinder a scientist.

You don't have your mind open to explore the variety of questions that you might, if you did not bring into the laboratory ... some pre-conceived notion. At no time as a scientist should you stop and say, "Well, that's where God takes over."

Gingerich responded that he is psychologically incapable of believing that the universe is just one huge macabre joke ... I feel much more comfortable to suppose that the universe is meaningful, that there must be some reason for its existence, even if I don't understand that.

He frequently used the adjective "congenial" in reference to a universe in which life can thrive.

Gingerich differentiates "intelligent design" in lower-case letters from "Intelligent Design as a political movement." He espouses the position that God inserted the design from the beginning, not readjusting the dials as creation progressed. Citing Leibniz's response to a statement by Newton, Gingerich observes:

It was when Isaac Newton said that he supposed God had to keep touching up the planets to keep their perturbations, their mutual gravitational attractions, from getting the whole thing out of whack. Leibniz replied that it was a mean notion of the wisdom and power of God,

which would imply God could not have gotten the universe right in the first place. Leibniz answered, "I hold that when God works miracles, he does not do it in order to supply the wants of Nature, but those of grace."

ASAers in Print

• **Paul H. Carr** has recently written a book titled *Beauty in Science and Spirit* published by www.beechriverbooks.com, Center Ossipee, NH. There are 37 illustrations including 16 color plates. Paul's web page www.mirrorofnature.org has the introduction, an illustrated Chapter Outline, and the Foreword by theologian Philip Hefner. For a 3-minute video of interest, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM3c1ovNen4

• **Ken Van Dellen** has copies of the late **Daniel E. Wonderly's** book *Neglect of Geologic Data: Sedimentary Strata Compared with Young-Earth Creationist Writings*. Daniel was a long-time ASA member. The book is on the ASA website. Contact Ken at kenvandellen@comcast.net.

All proceeds go to Dan's wife, Edna. Look for another of his books, *God's Time-Records in Ancient Sediments: Evidences of Long Time Spans in Earth's History*, on the ASA website in the future.

• **Owen Gingerich** began a "love affair with the stars" at age 5. The temperature in his house was 100° at sunset, so the family slept in the back yard on cots. Looking at the darkening sky, Owen asked, "Mommy, what are those?" She replied, "Those are stars; you've seen them before." Owen reportedly responded, "But I never knew they stayed out all night!"

Decades later, as emeritus professor of astronomy and of the history of science at Harvard, he delivered the 2005 William Belden Noble Lectures. These have been published as *God's Universe* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006).

Are you looking for a job?

See our website: www.asa3.org. We encourage institutions to inform us of available positions.

Isaac Speaks at the CSCA Annual Meeting

Last October, ASA Executive Director **Randy Isaac** participated in the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation annual meeting at Huron University College, University of Western Ontario. The theme of the meeting was "Science: A Misused Weapon in a Religious War." Randy overviewed the science/faith controversy. While harmony is to be expected on general grounds of consistency between creation and revelation, human misinterpretation can make such harmony elusive, he maintained. He took many questions at the end of his presentation.

Passing of Arthur Peacocke

Rev. Canon Dr. Arthur Peacocke, physical biochemist and Anglican priest, died on Oct. 21, 2006, at age 81. He received a Ph.D. from Oxford University in 1948 for research into the kinetics of bacterial growth.

His spiritual journey as an adult began when he heard a sermon at Oxford's University Church by the then Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple. He began to conceive the possibility that Christianity might be intellectually defensible. This triggered a serious study of theology and he earned a diploma in theology and a bachelor of divinity from Birmingham University and was ordained as a priest in the Church of England. In the 1970s, he taught both biochemistry and theology at Cambridge and was dean of Clare College, Cambridge, for eleven years. In 1982 he received a doctor of divinity from Oxford and in 1985 he founded the Ian Ramsey Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religious Beliefs in Relation to the Sciences, including medicine, at Oxford. In 1986 he founded the Society of Ordained Scientists, an ecumenical, international organization.

After Watson and Crick announced their discovery of DNA in 1952, Peacocke and his colleagues at Birmingham went on to show that the chains in DNA are not branched, as

once thought, and that the double helix exists in a solution. He once said:

The search for intelligibility that characterizes science and the search for meaning that characterizes religion are two necessary intertwined strands of the human enterprise ... essential to each other, complementary yet distinct and strongly interacting, indeed, just like the two helical strands of DNA itself.

Peacocke published 12 books dealing with the science/religion interface including *Science and the Christian Experiment* in 1971 and his last, *Paths from Science Towards God: The End of All Our Exploring* in 2001. He gave the 1992–1993 Gifford Lectures. Queen Elizabeth II made him a member of the Order of the British Empire in 1993.

In 2001, Peacocke was given the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. At that ceremony, his colleague at Oxford, Prof. John Hedley Brooke, said:

Never has he underrated the seriousness of the challenge that scientific methods and conclusions pose for the practice of theology; nor has he capitulated to those who would have religious sensibilities expunged in the name of science.

Charles Harper of the John Templeton Foundation states:

Many will miss Arthur's insightful contributions and his luminous spirit. He was a model of a scholar-leader pursuing a valuable vision against the stream of the conventional and ordinary and safe.

Favorite Scripture

Recently, in the Affiliation of Christian Geologists emails, John Bratton, a geologist with the USGS Coastal and Marine Geology Program in Woods Hole on Cape Cod, brought this Scripture to our attention: "Man's hand assaults the flinty rock and lays bare the roots of the mountains. He tunnels through the rock; his eyes see all its treasures. He searches the sources of the rivers and brings hidden things to light. But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?" Job 28:9–12.

Changing the Planetary “Menu”

Martin Gaskell, prof. of physics at the University of Nebraska, shows how he solved the main problem caused by the demotion of Pluto: How do you remember the planets and their order? Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto. It’s “My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas.” But with Pluto gone, now it’s “My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Noodles.”

It is interesting that **Owen Gingerich** was chairman of the committee that recommended keeping Pluto as a planet. Someone recently said there is now a new word: “plutoed.” It means that you were eliminated, kicked out, voted against, downgraded, fired.

Of Interest

- According to a recent poll of 2,000 physicians representing a broad range of specialties, 91% of them think it is appropriate to discuss religion and spirituality with patients who broach the subject. Forty-five percent of the physicians said it is inappropriate for physicians to bring up the subject. One physician said that physician openness about matters of the spirit represents a huge change from the 1960s to the 1980s. It’s about communication, dialogue, respect, and hospitality in society among people of different cultures, faiths, and beliefs. (*Science and Spirit*, Sept/Oct 2006, p. 20)
- Paramount Pictures is planning a screenplay for “Dover,” based on the 2005 Intelligent Design trial in Dover, PA. (*Variety*, Nov. 16, 2006)
- Pope Benedict XVI and his former doctoral students plan to publish the proceedings of a recent seminar on evolution to promote a dialogue between faith and science on the origins of life. After the annual closed-door meeting ended in September, participants said that the overview will show how Catholic theologians see no contradiction between their belief in divine creation and the scientific theory of evolution. Benedict has been “concerned for a long time,

and especially now that he is Pope, about fostering a discussion between faith and reason,” said the Rev. Stephan Horn, a German theologian who organized the sessions. “He probably believes there is not enough public discussion about this, so that’s why he wants to revive it.”

(*USA Today*, Sept. 6, 2006)

- The Metanexus Institute, headquartered in Philadelphia, announced recently that organization Founder and Executive Director William Grassie has stepped aside as executive director, but will retain important responsibilities with the organization. Dr. Eric Weislogel, who has been with the organization for five years as director of the Institute’s Local Societies Initiative, is the new executive director. Grassie will continue to serve as executive editor of Metanexus’ online magazine, and Metanexus will launch a new publication called *The Global Spiral* soon.

- The exhibit of Dead Sea Scrolls will be at Union Station/Science City, Kansas City, MO, Feb. 8–May 13. From June 29 to Dec. 31, a different group of scrolls will be at the San Diego Natural History Museum. This exhibit will feature portions of the Copper Scroll, the only scroll written on metal.

Religion at the University

- A recent survey by UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute found that 79% of college freshmen believe in God, and 69% pray and find strength, support and guidance in their religious beliefs. The Rev. John Jenkins, president, and Thomas Burish, provost, of the University of Notre Dame, state that institutions should help equip students to integrate their faith with the knowledge and reasoning skills they acquire and help them engage in thoughtful, reasoned, and self-critical spiritual reflection. Recently, a curriculum committee at Harvard University recommended that every student be required to take one course in an area that the committee styled “Reason and Faith.” It would examine the interplay between religion and various aspects of national

and/or international culture and society. We will see if such a requirement occurs.

(*Washingtonpost.com*, Oct. 23, 2006)

- There were 35 religion majors in the Rutgers University class of 2006, three times more than a decade ago. A report from the American Academy of Religion said that the number of religion majors increased 26% from 1996 to 2000. Professors say that the increase was triggered by 9/11 and the desire for students to learn more about Islam and their own religions. Also, recent immigration has made Americans more curious about their new neighbors’ faiths, and Christian evangelical students seem more comfortable studying religion on campus. (*The Presbyterian Outlook*, Jan. 23, 2006)

Special Invitation

Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg, VA, will host Howard Van Till, who will present a seminar titled “Do We Live in an Evolving Creation? Perspectives from Traditional and Process Theologies” on March 26 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 106 of the Suter Science Center at EMU. Regional and local ASA members are invited to attend the seminar and the speaker supper which will follow at a local restaurant. For more information or to reserve a place at the supper table, contact **Roman Miller** at millerrj@emu.edu or (540) 432-4412.

Go Early to the UK!

The British Society for the History of Science is sponsoring a conference titled “Science and Religion: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives” from July 23–26, 2007, at Lancaster University. If you are planning to attend the CiS/ASA Meeting in Edinburgh, you could go early and take this in. More than two dozen well-known speakers will be present, including Wentzel van Huyssteen, Nancy Murphy, Simon Conway Morris, John Hedley Brooke, and Ronald Numbers. E-mail for more information at: history@lancaster.ac.uk Phone: 44-1524-592554; Fax: 44-1524-846102. See www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/Science&Religion.htm

Coming Events

- Feb. 28.** "The Evolution of Creationism," Eugenie Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education, 100 Academy Dr., Irvine, CA, 7:00 p.m. This is part of the National Academy winter program.
- March 1.** "Themes in Wesleyan and Catholic Thought," Conference: Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Bourbonnais, IL. Contact **Thomas Jay Oord** at tjoord@nnu.edu
- 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 6.** The Rivendell Seminar: "Integrating Christianity with Scholarship," Yale University, New Haven, CT. E-mail: gregory.ganssle@yale.edu
- March 10.** Reasons to Believe Chicago Chapter, 2:00-3:30 p.m., Room 138, Graham Center at Wheaton College. Showing Lee Strobel's DVD, "The Case for a Creator." Additional information at bobclapper@yahoo.com
- March 15.** Annual C. S. Lewis Society Banquet, Trinity, FL, 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Bill Anderson. Details at www.apologetics.org or (727) 376-6911, ext. 336.
- March 16-17.** "Evolution and Intelligent Design: Defining Terms, Clarifying the Conflict, and Charting a Way Forward," symposium sponsored by Iowans for Religion and Science Dialogue; the First Presbyterian Church, LaPorte City, IA; and Wartburg College, Waverly, IA. See the church website: www.eastercommunity.org or go directly to the symposium website: www.iowa-rsd.org
- March 16-18.** Ted Peters will be the speaker at the 7th Annual Goshen College Conference on Religion and Science, Goshen, IN.
- March 26.** "Do We Live in an Evolving Creation? Perspectives from Traditional and Process Technologies." Speaker: Howard Van Till. Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA. (See "Special Invitation" on page 6.)
- April 13.** "Moving Beyond Darwin: The New Evolution," 22nd Regional Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Colorado at Boulder. Speakers: John Dupre, "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 14.** Reasons to Believe Chicago Chapter, 2:00-3:30 p.m., Room 138, Graham Center of Wheaton College. Speaker: Kathy Clapper on death and suffering. Additional information available at bobclapper@yahoo.com
- April 25.** "Darwin and Christ: Toward a Theology of Evolution," John Haught, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. 7:30 p.m. For directions visit: www.bmpc.org/ This is one of a series of lectures, free and open to the public, sponsored by Metanexus Institute, www.metanexus.net For further information, contact Julia Loving, (215) 789-2200, ext. 107 or loving@metanexus.net
- April 27.** The MacLaurin Institute (founded by **Bill Monsma**) is celebrating its 25th anniversary at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Mounds View, MN, 7 p.m. Speaker: Os Guinness. Information at <http://maclaurin.org/25thanniversary.php>
- May 11.** The Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University is hosting a symposium "What is Prayer?" at 3 p.m. E-mail: csrelig@princeton.edu or visit www.metanexus.net/metanexus_online/show_article2.asp?id=9579
- May 23.** "Science, Death and Resurrection," John Haught, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. 7:30 p.m. (See April 25 for more details.)
- July 23-26.** The British Society for the History of Science, "Science and Religion: Contemporary Perspectives," Lancaster, UK. (See "Go Early to the UK" on page 6.)
- Aug. 2-5.** ASA/CiS Joint Meeting. University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Information and registration forms at www.asa3.org

With the Lord

David Dye of Mercer Island, WA, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 1, 2006, at age 80. He earned his undergraduate degree as well as his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He was a Boeing scientist all his life as Chief of the Radiation Effects Dept. He spent three years (1955-1958) in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, as head of the physics dept. at a Presbyterian school called Gordon College, and two years at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque (1967-1970) as a radiation physicist. David wrote one of the first books on science and faith titled *Faith and the Physical World: A Comprehensive View* (Eerdmans, 1966). He was very active with International Students and InterVarsity and was a member of ASA for over fifty years. David introduced **Kenell Touryan** to ASA and Ken says he "helped me sharpen my budding ideas on issues of science and faith." Ken also says that Dave had "a sharp and searching mind which made conversations with him both a pleasure and a real learning experience." David is survived by his wife Bernice.

Russell Mixter died Jan. 16, 2007, five months after his 100th birthday. A memorial service at the Windsor Park Manor retirement facility celebrated the many ways he had influenced

lives during his 50 years of teaching biology at Wheaton and in personal interaction. Themes that came up repeatedly in the tributes were his humor, the buoyant encouragement that he provided at decisive moments of students' lives, and the seamless way he integrated his scientific knowledge with his faith. Additional biographical details are in the Nov/Dec 2006 *Newsletter* and in **Dot Chappell's PSCF** article, "Christian, Teacher, Scientist, Mentor: Dr. Russell L. Mixter, Visionary for the Role of Science in Christian Higher Education," archived at www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/1992/PSCF3-92Chappell.html. In a final act of generosity, he directed that his body be donated to the Anatomical Gift Society for the training of future physicians and scientists.

Welcome, New Members! December 2006-January 2007

Belanger, Thomas V. -Melbourne, FL
Bjugstad, Kimberly B. -Aurora, CO
Bowman, Richard S. -Parrish, FL
Condie, Kent C. -Albuquerque, NM
Craig, Darren J. -Wheaton, IL
DeShaw, Glen -Artesia, NM
DeVries, Mark E. -London, ON Canada
Dombrowski, Edmund T. -Redlands, CA
Drummond, Phyllida -Qualicum Beach, BC Canada
Dwyer, Robert P. -Kenner, LA
Egan, John J. -Fort Mill, SC
Gale, Jonathan B. -West Townsend, MA
Haber, Randy -Menlo Park, CA
Horridge, Blake L. -Berkeley, CA
Hoskins, Justin T. -Kansas City, KS
Hunt, Geoffrey R. -High Wycombe, UK
Johnson, Larissa K. -Peakhurst, NSW Australia
Joo, Daniel A. -Calgary, AB CANADA
Kidd, Maurice W. -Houston, TX
Kim, Sung J. -Goldriver, CA
Komray, Raymond R. -Spring Lake, MI
Levy, Irvin J. -S Hamilton, MA
McConnell, William B. -Charlottesville, VA
McKee, David C. -Duluth, MN
Neely, Marcus D. -Gulfport, MS
Nelson, Craig -Albuquerque, NM
Newell, Paul R. -Tecumseh, ON Canada
Nowka, Kevin J. -Georgetown, TX
Pendergraft, Curtis A. -Thermopolis, WY
Pennington, Deana D. -Albuquerque, NM
Potgeter, Renee M. -Allendale, MI
Quay, Mark A. -Roland, AR
Rupert, M Kimberly -Shippensburg, PA
Sams, Richard H. -Atlanta, GA
Spears, Glen W. -Third Lake, IL
Vader, David T. -Grantham, PA
Warners, David P. -Grand Rapids, MI
Wertz, John T. -Dewitt, MI
Wouters, Bela M. -San Diego, CA

Evangelical Leaders Join Global Warming Discussion

From Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, 2006, our executive director, **Randy Isaac**, and an international group of evangelical Christian leaders, among them **Cal DeWitt** and **Joe Sheldon**, participated in a dialogue with some leading scientists (including Harvard biologist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Edward O. Wilson). The meeting, held at the Melhana Plantation in Thomasville, GA, was referred to as the "Evangelicals-Scientists Retreat."

A key motivation for the meeting was responding to Wilson's *The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth* (Scranton, PA: W. W. Norton, 2006). They agreed on the need for urgent action with respect to global warming.

At a press conference on Jan. 17, 2007, in Washington, DC, Eric Chivian, director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School, announced:

Scientists and evangelicals have discovered that we share a deeply

felt common concern and sense of urgency about threats to life on Earth and that we must speak with one voice to protect it.

Randy, in an interview, said that the "Urgent Call to Action," signed by twenty-eight researchers and evangelical leaders reflects a successful common ground. Conceding that the two groups "traditionally have been a little wary of each other," he stressed that the effort recognizes a shared goal and a very powerful synergy.

One of the main reasons that these two groups have not been unified is the conflict over biblical literalism and Darwin's theory of evolution. Vice President of Government Relations for the National Association of Evangelicals Rich Cizik said:

Whether God created the Earth in a millisecond or whether it evolved over billions of years, the issue we agree on is that it needs to be cared for today.

In February 2006, eighty-six evangelical leaders signed a statement to fight global warming, saying that human-induced climate change is real, that its consequences will influence the poor the hardest, and that Christian moral convictions demand an urgent response. No doubt this is just a beginning.

Randy also was interviewed live by KKLA, Christian radio of Los Angeles, on Jan. 23, 2007, where he discussed ASA and what we think about global warming. (Newsday.com, Jan. 17, 2007 and *Houston Chronicle*, Jan. 18, 2007)

Are You Interested?

Would anyone reading this newsletter or *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* be interested in translating various articles into another language? If so, contact the ASA office, asa@asa3.org. A condition of translation is that we receive an electronic copy for our archives and for posting on our website.

American Scientific Affiliation
PO Box 668
Ipswich, MA 01938-0668

Address Service Requested

In This Issue

Introducing the University of Edinburgh.....	1
CiS/ASA Sessions	1
New CSCA President	1
The Executive Director's Corner.....	2
ASAer Honored.....	3
Calvin College Astronomer	3
Interview of Interest	3
Comments on Collins in <i>Discover</i>	3
Archeology Alive!	4
Christian Engineers and Scientists in Technology	4
Evolution Debate in Kenya	4
ASAer on the Air.....	4
ASAers in Print	5
Isaac Speaks at the CSCA Annual Meeting.....	5
Passing of Arthur Peacocke	5
Favorite Scripture	5
Changing the Planetary "Menu".....	6
Of Interest.....	6
Religion at the University	6
Special Invitation.....	6
Go Early to the UK!	6
Coming Events	7
With the Lord	7
Evangelical Leaders Join Global Warming Discussion	8

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Ipswich, MA
Permit No. 46