



# NEWSLETTER

of the  
American Scientific Affiliation &  
Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation



Volume 44 Number 6

NOV/DEC 2002

## Retrospective from the ASA President

**Dorothy F. Chappell** is our outgoing president. She has served with distinction over a very special year for ASA. During the ASA Annual Meeting at Pepperdine U., editor **Margaret Towne** enjoyed interviewing her and received some insights from and information about this remarkable lady.

### Educational Background

Dorothy earned the B.S. in biology from Longwood C. (VA), the M.S. in biology at U. of Virginia, and the Ph.D. at Miami U. (OH). Her dissertation was on the ultrastructure and biochemistry of three green algae, *Dunaliella* (the only alga in the Dead Sea), *Cephaleurus*, and *Helicodictyon*. She studied the mechanisms of cell division, structure of flagella used for motility (flagellar apparatus), and the biochemistry of peroxysomes. Her continued efforts over several decades in this research on green algae impacted study of the phylogeny of land plants since the origin of land plants is placed among the green algae. Dorothy conducted postdoctoral research at The Ohio State U. She notes that patterns of phylogeny established by studies of structure and biochemistry in the green algae in the 1970s and 1980s are now being verified by gene sequencing, something very gratifying and exciting to watch. She conducted some of the original gene sequencing of certain green algae in the mid-1980s and forward.

### Work Experience

Dorothy joined the biology faculty at Wheaton C. (IL) in 1977. She became Chair of the Dept. of Biology early in her career there, serving in that role until 1994. Then she assumed responsibilities as Academic Dean at Gordon C. until January 2000, when she returned to Wheaton as Dean of Natural and So-

cial Sciences. In June, Dorothy presented a session "College Teaching with Christian Perspectives" for early career faculty at the regional workshop of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities at Bethel C. in St. Paul, MN. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Psychological Society of America for ten years. She is a consultant/evaluator for accreditation in the North Central Association (NCA) and served in the same role for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and on Wheaton's Board of Trustees while she lived in New England.

Her work has been recognized in teaching and research awards. She received the Wheaton C. Junior Teacher of the Year Award (1981-82) and Outstanding Educator of the Chicago Region Award (1994). She has been the recipient of numerous research grants from graduate school forward, and also received a Fulbright Scholar's Research Award for a year of research in New Zealand, Australia, and Fiji (1989-90).

### ASA Membership

Dorothy became a member of ASA when she was in graduate school. She has appreciated the friendship and fellowship of members whom she has met over the years. She feels there is an affirming camaraderie in ASA that is unique among organizations. The bond that is felt with Jesus Christ makes friendships within ASA very special. She sees ASA as a medium for discussion. Science is always changing and this is a place where open discussion is encouraged.

### This Year's ASA Highlights

When asked what stood out for her in the past year while she was president of ASA, Dorothy mentioned the large



ASA President **Dorothy F. Chappell**

number of nationally and internationally renowned plenary speakers at the annual meeting. This was the first time five plenary speakers of world renown have addressed the scientists at an annual meeting. She also related how much she enjoyed working with **Don Munro** and his energetic staff. The students and early career scientists participating in the annual conference were also very significant. Her dream for them is that they will be faithful to their Lord, contribute in some way to the knowledge base of science, and give testimony to the legitimacy of being Christians who are scientists.

### Her Vision for ASA

Dorothy's vision for the future of ASA is to create more connections between the members, reach more potential members, especially among the early career scientists, to raise more money which could facilitate new ideas and activities, and to increase the momentum of the organization. She gratefully recognizes **Don Munro's** accomplishment in

*Continued on p. 5, ASA President*

## The Executive Director's Corner

by Donald W. Munro

The end of another year is near and I want to wish all of you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas, and a most happy New Year. Since none of our family can make it home for Thanksgiving this year, my wife and I decided to make reservations at Plymouth (it used to be Plimouth), MA, to eat Thanksgiving dinner where the Pilgrims originally had their dinner and then to visit the plantation. We are anticipating a very meaningful day.

For those of you attending the IVCF sponsored "Following Christ 2002" conference in Atlanta, GA, at the end of December, ASA expects to host an evening reception at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Look for the location of the hospitality suite and the date and time. Come and meet other ASA members. Invite nonmembers to join you for some food. Brochures and other ASA materials will be available to help you acquaint them with ASA.

The responses on the evaluation forms from the Pepperdine ASA meeting were tabulated, and they are good. Here are some of the ratings: plenary speakers, excellent (88%), good (12%); general sessions (papers and posters), excellent (36%), good (57%), fair or

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 and Margaret Towne, 8505 Copper Mountain Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129. E-mail: [asan@asa3.org](mailto:asan@asa3.org)

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poor (6%); facilities, excellent (60%), good (34%) fair (6%); and the meals, excellent (50%), good (39%) fair (11%). We hope to duplicate or even better those results for next year, so start making plans to attend ASA 2003 from July 25 to 28 at Colorado Christian Univ. in Lakewood, CO, near Denver. **Jennifer Wiseman** is working hard on the program that features astronomy and cosmology, and **David Oakley** is the local arrangements guru assisted by **Kenell Touryan**. At least three or four field trips are in the works which will precede or follow the meeting. Once again there will be student and early career scholarships available for new attendees. Look for more details on our website and bring your advanced undergraduate or graduate students with you.

Last time we met in Colorado, I was still a college teacher, and my wife and two children came with me. We had a great time traveling around the area seeing petrified wood, Rocky Mountain National Park, Leadville (10,200 ft. elevation), Aspen, Cripple Creek (old gold mine), Rainbow Bridge, Garden of the Gods, and many mountains including Pikes Peak (which one of us climbed while the rest drove up). That was a family trip that we will long remember. Plan now to come and vacation in the area before or after the meeting. We hope to have family programs during the meeting as well.

Here is some exciting news! In this newsletter, we feature those who joined ASA twenty-five years ago. There are forty-seven members celebrating this milestone. I think that says something really good about ASA. Perhaps they can all come to the CO meeting next summer and reminisce together at a special gathering. This is my longest list so far. Congratulations to all of you: **Stephen Bell, Allen H. Bilderback, Donald H. Bilderback, John A. Bloom, Elaine Boespflug, Richard L. Bowman, Timothy J. Burkholder, L. Rush Bush, Dallas E. Cain, Ronald S. Carson, Edward B. Davis, Dwight T. Davy, Kenneth J. Dormer, DeLyle M. Ellefson, Erastos Filos, J. Clare Fuller, John W. Haas III, Marsha D.**

**Jakobi, Victor S. Kennedy, J. Mailen Kootsey, John B. Laird, Howard L. Landis, Joseph H. Lechner, Keung L. Luke, A. Clair Mellinger, Marvin W. Meyer, E. Scott Middleton, David G. Myers, David B. Nichols, Lyle B. Peter, Gary Partlow, David C. Randall, Neal J. Redmond, Arnold E. Reif, Lawrence R. Reining, Richard J. Rommer, R. Jim Seibert, Joseph K. Sheldon, Lee M. Smith, Glenn L. Stahl, Gerrit D. Van Dyke, Phillip G. Wahlbeck, Charles E. White, James Wylie, Jr., William T. Yates, James E. Yoder and John W. Zwart.**

One helpful thing for all ASA members to remember is to give us any change of address at least a month or two in advance. We have to send the addresses to the printers of the journal about one month in advance. If we have your old address, the post office will rip off the front cover of your journal and send it back to us at our expense. Then we have to spend additional funds to ship you a new journal. The ASA newsletter is also sent back at our expense. Thanks for any of those funds you can save for the organization.

These last two months are critical for our 2002 budget and for expenses as we make our way into 2003. We have to depend on the many renewals and especially on donations. Although our budget is tight, we could not raise the dues in this period of economic downturn so we really are depending on those of you who can help us.

We are thankful for one large gift (\$11,000+) that helped us begin the overhaul of our computer network in the office. Another gift like that or several smaller ones will complete our computer needs for the foreseeable future except for software upgrades and maintenance costs. We really need your help now and greatly appreciate whatever you can do.





Students and Early Career Scientists at ASA Annual Meeting at Pepperdine U., Malibu, CA, August 3, 2002.

## Students and Early Career Scientists

by Margaret Gray Towne

The Annual Meeting in Malibu, CA, had many dynamic facets, including five plenary speakers, several academic sessions, worship, good food, informal dialogues, and commission meetings. A major feature of this meeting was the presence of younger scientists, many of whom will be the pioneers of tomorrow. Some gave papers and presented posters. Most were working on masters degrees or doctorates or were in seminary. Some had just received their undergraduate degrees and were on their way to the next phase of life. Eleven of them were interviewed. The comments below give insight into their world, their thinking, and their relationship to ASA.

They were asked what part of the conference impressed them the most. They answered that the interesting speakers, the caring participants, the marvelous organization, and the beautiful setting were noteworthy. One said: "I met significant people in science who I've heard about, and that was really awesome!" Others said: "The people here make me feel that they are really interested in me and what I am doing. It's a real encouragement." "What I have seen here is wisdom and it gives me hope." One said that it was so important for young people to see adult Christians talking so cordially when they disagreed on significant issues.

It was insightful to them to see the integration of science and faith being fleshed out by scholarly Christians

who were the plenary speakers. They appreciated the emphasis on serving God in the workplace. There was much for which to be hopeful, as they witnessed this dynamic fusion of faith with vocation. They said they really enjoyed an environment where people could discuss any question and where others would be open to listening or suggesting. They felt no polarization which is often felt among Christians. Specific sessions were mentioned such as the one on bioethics, which they felt covered the issues well. Several mentioned the awesome field trip to the La Brea Tar Pits, seeing time rolled back as they witnessed geologists at work.

Of the eleven interviewed, only one withheld judgment when asked if this conference would be recommended to colleagues. The others were very affirmative and most voluntarily said that they would love to come again. Several expressed appreciation for being able to present scientific papers and how affirmed they felt by those who attended their sessions. They were impressed with the questions they received and the audience's sincere interest in their research.

When asked what they would change about the event, just a few suggestions were given. Perhaps a supper together at the beginning of the annual meeting or a coffee time apart from the main group, just once so that they could identify each other. They said

they appreciated being able to be integrated into the group and truly enjoyed the interchange between scientists of all ages and experience. One suggested that future poster sessions or presentations integrate science and religion more and not just concentrate on science.

They were asked what were their biggest problems or areas of concern at this point. The answers were intense and varied. One expressed frustration over why God had not made it easier to read the Bible and study science. Another said how difficult it was to balance the spiritual life with a busy research agenda. Several said that they were so sorry that they could not talk about their research at their churches for the people there could not understand why they would be supportive of evolution. They said that their church experience was limited to just worship and that they did not feel that they were a part of the particular institution for they had to avoid a large part of their lives. One said, "I don't bring my research topic up. It would start a conflict. People are really antagonistic to evolution in my church. They fear something new." Another said, "I haven't decided on everything myself and would like to discuss these issues with them but they do not want to entertain the idea that evolution might be true." Another said she felt more and more of a stranger at church as she studied in greater depth. She said she did not feel that way at the ASA conference.

It was very encouraging, rewarding, and stimulating to have the presence of the younger scientists at the conference. Everyone, including our Lord, seemed to win!

## Job Postings

For descriptions of job postings, visit the ASA web site. At press time, these included:

**Organic Chemistry / General Chemistry / Chemical Physics / Physical Chemistry / Biochemistry**, Baylor U.; **Physical Science and Physics or Engineering or Geology**, Biola U.; **Chemistry**, Gordon C.; **Ecology / Genetics / Organic Chemistry**, Messiah C.; **Biology**, Westmont C.

[www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org)

## Inquiring Minds Want To Know!

by Margaret Gray Towne

Science flourishes because we ask questions. A hypothesis is devised which is the beginning of a journey through the steps of the scientific method. It is rewarding and often exhilarating to come to conclusions which answer our questions. Scientific advancement is knowledge advancement and it is a delight to participate in this remarkable discipline which brings new understanding.

Yet we know that science has its limitations. Some questions will remain. Scripture says: "We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us ..." (1 Cor. 13:12, *The Message: The New Testament in Contemporary Language*, Eugene H. Peterson).

At ASA's Annual Meeting in August some scholars were asked: "If you had direct access to the omniscient, creator God of the universe for one hour, what questions would you ask?" This was asked of them serendipitously. It is a difficult, perhaps comical, question and probably unfair as well! They were given no time to consider their answers.

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"In science, an unanswered question is far more important than an unquestioned answer"  
—*Teaching Science in a Climate of Controversy*, (Committee for Integrity in Science Education, ASA, 1993), 37.

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We sought to get a glimpse of the enigmas which most puzzled these gifted, devout, mature, scientific minds. While brilliance is required to seek solutions to questions, it is also required to originate them. Here are the responses given by gracious folk, willing to play this game. (The reader might pause and contemplate possible responses. If you wish, send your questions to us!)

1. Can you hit a one iron?
2. How many times, and in how many places, has God been incarnate?
3. Do you think of yourself as an architect who specifically preplans or as the leader of a jazz improve who adapts to uncharted territory?
4. Why is there so much evil permitted on Earth and why do you delay in checking it?
5. Why do we have to pray so long and so hard and in such desperation for loved ones and they still are not healed?
6. We say that you always answer prayer as "yes, no, or later" but is that not just a manner of justifying your inaction?
7. Why is your wrath sometimes seen as more wonderful than your love?
8. Did you intend the incarnation from the beginning? Was it a part of the original creation purpose?
9. How do you put together quantum theory and general relativity? What is the correct quantum theory of gravity?
10. What is the proper direction for the development of the one, holy, apostolic church in the next century?
11. What is it that you think is the most important thing for me to know? What do you want most to tell me?
12. Is the ivory billed woodpecker extinct?
13. How is there free will?
14. What doors of opportunity will you open for me? What doors were opened for me in the past that I failed to walk through? What would have happened if I had?
15. Could I see all of creation if it were outside of time?
16. How did you maintain the immortality of Adam and Eve before they sinned?
17. What is your original blueprint of the genome of organisms and how much of it has been changed after the human fall?
18. What is the purpose of the universe?
19. Is it possible to have a timeless eternity?
20. What is breaking your heart right now?
21. Would you help me choose correct priorities?
22. Is there extraterrestrial intelligence? If so, are they part of the fallen species and did Jesus die for them?
23. Why did you create a world where not only humans, but also animals suffer?
24. Why is the gospel message so hard to share around the world?
25. What was it with that fig tree? What did it do to so irk you?
26. Where is Judas now?
27. What makes you laugh?

One of those questioned responded with "I wouldn't ask him anything. I have already asked him everything. I am happy that there are things I don't know and can't understand."

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"We live by faith, not by sight"  
—1 Cor. 5:7.

"Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen" —Ps. 77:19,  
(*The NIV Study Bible*).

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We thank the participants: **Stacey Ake, Susan Daniels, Owen Gingerich, Sara Miles, James B. Miller, George Murphy, Martin Price, Pattle Pun, Paul Seely, Kenell Touryan, and Jennifer Wiseman.**

## Coming Events

• The **Metanexus Institute** has been sponsoring a series of lectures at their offices at 3624 Market St., Ste. 301, in Philadelphia, PA. Contact Julia Loving at 215-789-2207 for details. Lectures to come include:

**Nov. 20:** John Polkinghorne, winner of the 2002 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion; title to be announced

**Dec. 4:** Paul Root Wolpe, Center for Bioethics, U. of Pennsylvania; title to be announced

**Dec. 11:** W. Mark Richardson, General Theological Seminary, New York; Title to be announced

- The **Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation** continues its national lecture series titled "Science & Faith in the New Millennium 2002–03." Lectures to come include:

**Nov. 2002**, Montreal: Anne Foerst

**Feb. 2003**, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Vancouver: George Ellis

**Feb. 12–16, 2003**, Vancouver/Victoria: Malcolm Jeeves

For more information, see [www.csc.ca](http://www.csc.ca) or email: [lectures@csc.ca](mailto:lectures@csc.ca)

- Dec. 28–Jan. 2, **InterVarsity Christian Fellowship**, Atlanta. "Following Christ" conference for graduate students, faculty, and professionals. **Ian Hutchinson** will be presenting a topic interfacing science and faith. Fifteen tracks will include Education, Engineering & Technology, Environmental Studies & Natural Resources, Natural Sciences & Math, Social Sciences and Theology and Religious Studies. Additional information at [www.ivcf.org/followingchrist/details](http://www.ivcf.org/followingchrist/details)

- Feb. 13–18, 2003 the **American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting and Science Innovation Exposition** will be held in Denver. Theme tracks include: Science and Human Culture, Life of Science, Science and Technology of Life, Science and Uncertainty, The Science and Technology Loop, Evolution of Evolutionary Ideas, Challenging and Changing Nature, Public Health-Public Risk, How the World Works, Science, Calamity and Conflict and Beyond the Human Genome:What Next? **Edward B. Davis** of Messiah C. will be organizing a symposium on "New Light on the Scopes Trial" on Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m.–noon. More information at: [www.aaas.org/meetings/MPE\\_12.shtml](http://www.aaas.org/meetings/MPE_12.shtml)

- The second **Templeton/ASA lecture on science and religion** at Grove City C. (Grove City, PA) will be on April 8, 2003. Dr. Nancey Murphy, professor at Fuller Seminary will talk on "Whatever Happened to the Soul? Scientific and Religious Accounts of Human Nature." The lecture is free and open to all interested individuals.

- On April 9, at 7:30 p.m. the **Biology Department at Gonzaga U.**, Spokane,

WA, will sponsor a public lecture, "The Old and New Antievolutionism: Creationism Evolves" by Eugenie Scott, Director of the National Center for Science Education.

## Past Events

- The **C. S. Lewis Summer Institute** met in July with over 600 attending. The first week was in Oxford and the second week in Cambridge. This fifth triennial meeting took as its theme "Time and Eternity: The Cosmic Odyssey" and had a major focus on issues related to the dialogue between science and religion. **Harry L. Poe** of Union U., Jackson, TN was program director. The conference, sponsored by the C. S. Lewis Foundation, received a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation to support the speakers who dealt with science and religion. ASA members who participated as speakers or leaders were: William Lane Craig, **Hugh Ross**, Jim Buchholz, and **Harry L. Poe**. Tapes of the conference are available from the C. S. Lewis Foundation, Redlands, CA. [www.cslewis.org](http://www.cslewis.org).

- In September, top scientists, historians, and social scientists met at the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the purpose of bringing together scholars in Central Asia who share an interest in education, science, and religion. The program was titled "**Kazakhstan Colloquium: Science and Spirit Along the Silk Roads.**" It was presented by Science and the Spiritual Quest, a program of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, and the Universite Interdisciplinaire de Paris with generous support of the John Templeton Foundation. It explored issues relating to education and religion in the region, at all levels and opened up dialogue between different universities in order to develop joint science and religious programs. For more information, see [www.uip.edu](http://www.uip.edu) or [www.ssq.net](http://www.ssq.net)

- In September, Kathleen Duffy, professor of physics at Chestnut Hill C., opened the Fall 2002 Lecture Series of the Metanexus Institute with a talk titled "**The Fabric of Ultimate Reality and Teilhard's Evolutionary Tapestry.**"

*ASA President, continued from p. 1*

obtaining Templeton grants. Featuring ASA and CSCA members in the newsletter by sharing what they are publishing, the special research efforts they are making, the ways they are interfacing science and faith, and how they serve their respective churches would be significant contributions to members of ASA and CSCA. She sees the Newsletter in an important role of distributing information about the science and faith dialogue.

## Hobbies and Interests

In her spare time (!), Dorothy has several hobbies. Photography is the big one but she also likes hiking, reading, music, and travel. She co-hosted "Following the Footsteps of Paul," the Wheaton Alumni Association trip in July 2002 to Greece and Turkey. She is fascinated with the ethical questions in science relating to theological and biblical principles and is interested in the history of the Christian church. Regular participation as a teacher in Sunday School classes is part of her commitment to local congregations wherever she lives.

All of the members of ASA want to thank Dr. Dorothy Chappell for her leadership, ideas, enthusiasm, wisdom, and encouragement during 2002. We look forward to her insights and suggestions in the future.

She summarized Teilhard's thought and gave a short history of the search for the "Theory of Everything." She drew parallels between the fabric of Teilhard's cosmic tapestry and the fabric of the cosmos that modern theorists are exploring and showed how the Superstring Theory, the so-called Theory of Everything, would enhance Teilhard's synthesis.

- In November 2002, a conference entitled "**Biology and Purpose: Altruism, Morality, and Human Nature in Evolutionary Theory**" was held at Calvin C. **Jeffrey Schloss** of Westmont C. was one of the co-directors. It focused on the relationship between Christian theological and emerging biological understandings of human nature, with particular emphasis on evolutionary and

sociobiological theories of human altruism and morality. The conference was funded by the John Templeton Foundation. For more information, see [www.calvin.edu/fss/biology.htm](http://www.calvin.edu/fss/biology.htm)

## Call for Papers

• The **Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology** will hold its first independent meeting at Villanova U. on April 4–5, 2003. The topic will be “The Phenomenology of Prayer.” Papers of no more than 3,500 words are called for, accompanied by a 75-word abstract. The deadline for submission is **Jan. 15, 2003**. For more details, contact: SCPT, c/o Prof. John D. Caputo, Dept. of Philosophy, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova, PA 19087

• **Toward a Culture of Life: Restoring Human Felicity** sponsored by the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, an International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Interfaith Dialogue. Manuscript deadline: **Jan. 1, 2003**. Details were published in the Sept/Oct issue, p. 7 (available online on the ASA web site). Complete details at [www.JIS3.org](http://www.JIS3.org)

• Proposals for papers and poster presentations are welcome for the **ASA Annual Meeting**, July 25–28, 2003, at Colorado Christian U. in Lakewood, CO. The meeting will feature astronomy and cosmology though all topics related to science and Christianity are welcome. Papers also will be considered for four symposia: (1) Your Science and Faith at Work and Church; (2) Bioethics and Stewardship: Human Over-Population and Global Climate Change; (3) Technology Developments and Applications from a Christian Perspective; and (4) Divine Action in Nature. Abstracts of 200–250 words must be received by

**Jan. 31, 2003**. Students and early career scientists or engineers are encouraged to submit an abstract and apply for a scholarship. Applications are due by **March 3, 2003**. Submissions can be made online <[http://129.82.76.41:591/asa\\_presentations/application.html](http://129.82.76.41:591/asa_presentations/application.html)> or by mail: ASA, PO Box 668, Ipswich, MA 01938. For more information, contact Jennifer Wiseman, program chair: [jwiseman@pha.jhu.edu](mailto:jwiseman@pha.jhu.edu)

## New Program in Science and Religion

Desiring to explore the growing dialogue between science and spirituality, the Union Institute and University and the Oxford Institute for Science and Spirit have teamed up to offer an exciting graduate level certificate program in Science and Spirituality. It will include online learning, experiential travel and interaction with faculty and other learners. It is aimed at educators, writers, scientists, clergy, inquirers, and any others who are interested. This will be the first graduate level Science and Spirituality program in existence and no doubt will open up many new doors. It will include a six week, summer experience in Oxford, England. Then there will be two online courses and travel opportunities to study such areas as prehistoric France, New Zealand, Olduvai Gorge, and early Greece. There is ample opportunity for the participants to self design their course of study. The program director is Kevin Sharpe, a member of the faculty of the Graduate C. of Union Institute and University, as well as at Manchester C. of Oxford U., and a founding editor of *Science and Spirit Magazine*. For more information, visit [www.ksharpe.com](http://www.ksharpe.com)

or email [kevin.sharpe@tui.edu](mailto:kevin.sharpe@tui.edu) The program web site is: [www.oisciencespirit.com/](http://www.oisciencespirit.com/)

## Tapping the Reservoir, Expanding the Plumbing

ASA is a valuable reservoir of knowledge and expertise. For more than six decades, it has marshaled mighty minds to discuss a wide range of issues at the interface between biblical belief and scientific investigation, welcoming diverse viewpoints and enabling us to expand and fine tune our understanding.

However, much of this treasure seems to be confined behind a dam, circulating intramurally to our membership and a relatively small segment to the public. An impressive amount of it is available online at [www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF.html](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF.html) and [www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org) but not enough people know about it.

The Council and the newsletter editors have discussed ways to provide better water mains and plumbing, ways to distribute this knowledge and vision, and ways to make it “on tap” to a wider public. How? One idea is to alert the media when ASA or one of its members achieves something newsworthy. For example, in June, Chuck Colson’s “BreakPoint” broadcast a script that **Dave Fisher** wrote, promoting the Malibu annual meeting on 1,000 Christian radio stations. Daily listenership amounts to one million plus 70,000 listserv subscribers.

We welcome additional suggestions and submissions. Both editors will receive them if you email them to [asan@asa3.org](mailto:asan@asa3.org). If this link is down, contact them directly at [TowneMG@aol.com](mailto:TowneMG@aol.com) or [dfisher@twr.org](mailto:dfisher@twr.org)

## New Society Formed

In August, while meeting in Granada, Spain, scientists and religious scholars from the Islamic, Christian, and Jewish traditions voted to form the International Society for Science and Religion. The Rev. Dr. John Polkinghorne of Cambridge U. will be its first president. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1997, is ordained in the Church

## Welcome, New Members! August–September 2002

Austriaco, D.P., Nicanor –Washington, DC

Batt, Rick –North Tonawanda, NY

Burnett, Thomas M. –Berkeley, CA

Burton Olson, Remelle E. –Ranchester, WY

Clements, David R. –Langley, BC Canada

Foulks, Jr, William S. –Chagrin Falls, OH

Foulks, Eileen –Chagrin Falls, OH

Gustafson, Terry L. –Columbus, OH

Isihara, Paul A. –Wheaton, IL

Jasperse, Jeffrey L. –Malibu, CA

Kirchhofer, Daniel K. –Los Altos, CA

Knight, Jennifer –Piscataway, NJ

Lehman, Brad –Boston, MA

Rusthoven, James J. –Ancaster, ON Canada

Tenneson, Michael G. –Springfield, MO

Vezey, Edward L. –Norman, OK

Virkler, Mary B. –Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Warila, Paul T. –Loveland, CO

Woolley, Thomas W. –Birmingham, AL

of England, and is distinguished for his work in mathematics and physics.

The Science and The Spiritual Quest Symposium in Granada was titled "Science and the Three Monotheisms: A New Partnership?" Seventeen distinguished researchers called for cultural dialogue and inter-religious understanding. The formation of the new society was one of their accomplishments. The society's ninety-seven charter members include Nobel laureates and members of the national academies of science from several nations. Many expressed the hope that the society would bridge longstanding divisions between religion and science and help overcome conflicts among religions themselves. This is a very significant event. It will be most exciting to follow its progress!

## A Geographical Revelation?

**Gordon R. Lewthwaite**, professor emeritus in historical geography from The California State U., Northridge, gave an interesting paper at the Annual Meeting in August. His interests in recent years have centered on the relationship between history and geography in the Holy Land and how Scripture is interpreted in light of these insights. He summarized his presentation for us as follows:

Involved in our various secular disciplines, and simultaneously trying to gain increased biblical understanding, ASA members are likely to find themselves encountering unexpected issues which almost inevitably call for approach from both sides of the Science/Faith equation, and make an impact on our personal, academic, and theological understanding.

In my case, increasing awareness of church history fed youthful doubts about the validity of the "Dispensational" approach to the Bible, which was the only one known to most of my immediate Christian acquaintances during my boyhood. Following the Scofield Reference Bible (Oxford University Press, 1909), Christians thought that the Seven

Churches of Revelation 2 and 3 were "a foreview covering the Church Age" during that particular dispensation, which would end with the Rapture of true Christians and with the rest left behind to face The Great Tribulation and, optimistically, reach the Millennium to follow.

Experience and reading, however, opened up alternative approaches, with an appeal reinforced by interest in the historical geography of the Middle East—Asia Minor included—during the biblical era. I became aware of Sir William Ramsay's *Letters to the Seven Churches* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1904) which, contrary to the historic-prophetic sequence presumed by Scofield and followers such as Hal Lindsey (*The Late Great Planet Earth*, Zondervan, 1970), perceived them as real churches located in geographical order along a postal route through the Greco-Roman Province, with church characteristics reflecting the city characteristics of their historical-geographical setting.

This interpretation has been generally confirmed and enhanced by Colin J. Hemer, who, with F. F. Bruce as his academic mentor, retraced Ramsay's steps in *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in Their Local Setting* (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001). He re-examined the evidence—recent archaeology included—which hopefully gives us a better understanding of the Apocalypse.

The continuing conflict between premillennial dispensationalism and those who follow the research of historical geography underlies much of the dispute involving social, political, and eschatological approaches that determines our understanding of the book of Revelation and the Cosmos.

Judging by the popular acceptance of books, films, and sermons on the stark dilemma of imminent rapture or great tribulation that now faces the world, we might as well forget about long-term research and earth-keeping. But second thoughts sug-

*Meet the New Editors, continued from p. 8*

to be the snowiest winter in decades. He writes *Truth in the Test Tube*, a weekly broadcast of science-and-Bible topics, transmitted by TWR in Russian since 1980. In addition, it is scheduled for a November start in Mandarin, supplemented by Mandarin RealAudio, with sponsorship by the John Templeton Foundation.

A spin-off of the broadcast, co-authored with E. C. Barrett of England, has been *Scientists Who Believe* (Chicago: Moody, 1984), which includes chapters on ASAers **Bob Newman** and **Bob Herrmann**.

Regular Annual Meeting attendees may be more familiar with the back of his head than with his face. He has attended most of them since 1979, usually sitting near the front to audiotape the presentations.

Dave and his wife, Doris, live in Aurora, IL. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

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gest we should go back to the historical-geographical past to avoid misreading the signs of the times.

## Christian Medical and Dental Associations Celebrate 70th Anniversary

"You don't have to see the whole staircase; just take the first step." With those words, executive director David Stevens summarized the way God has multiplied Christian Medical and Dental Associations (CMDA) from one student's efforts in 1932, to a membership of 16,000 and worldwide influence.

The organization held its 70th anniversary annual meeting in June in Oak Brook, IL, a few miles from where founder Kenneth Gieser had organized the original Christian Medical Society.

ASA Fellow **Francis Collins** delivered CMDA's opening message. Other speakers included Joni Eareckson Tada and Wheaton C. president Duane Litfin. More details about the organization, plus information on ordering tapes of the meetings are available at: [cmdahome.org](http://cmdahome.org)

# Meet the New Editors of *The Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA*



Editor Margaret Gray Towne

**Margaret Gray Towne** has taught biology for over twenty-five years at several institutions, from a community college to an Ivy League university.

Presently she teaches at the U. of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has always felt called to being a Christian biology teacher and took a leave of absence early in her career to attend Princeton Seminary in order to become more grounded in that ministry.

She earned her B.S. and M.S. in biology from the U. of Michigan. Her doctoral dissertation at Montana State U. was titled, "The Influence of Critical Thinking on Christians' Belief and

Belief Change with Reference to the Polarities of Creationism and Organic Evolution." The world famous paleontologist of *Jurassic Park* and *The Lost World* fame, Jack Horner, was on her doctoral committee.

Margaret has participated in the Science and Religion Course Program through the Center for Theology and Natural Science in Berkeley, CA. She and Jack Horner won an award with their course titled "Bridging Science and Religion: A Critical Approach."

From January 1999 to May 2001, she was a "Distinguished Visiting Professor in Science and Religion" at Juniata C. in Huntingdon, PA. She has been involved with bridging science and faith in Adult Education programs in churches at the local and national levels. Margaret also is interested in calligraphy and has taught courses that relate writing with the Christian faith.

Margaret's husband, Vernon, is a Presbyterian pastor. They have two adult daughters, Cheyan and Jannay.

**David Fisher** is a Trans World Radio missionary, having served overseas in Monaco, Swaziland, and Guam from 1963 through 1978. His responsibilities included coordination of shortwave frequencies to compensate for seasonal changes in the ionosphere, studio operations, and an occasional trip to record material in what were then "closed" countries in Eastern Europe.



Editor David Fisher

When Dave, his wife Doris, and children left tropical Guam, they arrived in Wheaton just in time for the first snowflake. That winter turned out

*Continued on p. 7, Meet the New Editors*

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