

# Newsletter of the **ASA & CSCA** volume 54 number 1

## Don't Forget:

~Registration for the ASA Annual Meeting is NOW OPEN! Visit [ASA3.org](http://ASA3.org) for details and to sign up.

~ASA's new online magazine, *God and Nature*, is now live. Featuring essays, stories, cartoons, and other reflections on the intersection of science and faith, it's a great resource for anyone who's ever been confused, conflicted, intrigued, or inspired by the intersection of science and faith.

Check it out:

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



## Making Great Strides

*Dear Members,*

Registration is now open for the 2012 ASA Annual Meeting! This year's meeting features the theme of "Science, Faith, and the Media: Communicating beyond books," and will be held from July 20-23 at Point Loma Nazarene University, in sunny San Diego, California.

Registration must be completed online from the annual meeting webpage or from event's official calendar entry. On the website, you can also view

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www.asa3.org  
The ASA Annual Meeting  
San Diego  
July 20-23, 2012  
Science, Faith, & the Media:  
communicating beyond books



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Scientific  
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ASA Executive Council

## The Director's Corner

In its seventh decade as an organization, the ASA has opportunities for communications and networking that could not have been imagined when it was founded. Virtually all of our communications are now occurring electronically except for the print copy of the journal to all members and the newsletter to the 7% of members who have not provided us with an email address. The rapid dissemination of information is easy enough for anyone to use. The result is a barrage of words from which it is difficult for the average reader to extract the trustworthy insights.

The ASA has a tremendous opportunity to help set the pace in providing quality materials that are helpful to Christians in the sciences. In this context, our council meeting in Ipswich on March 17 was a great opportunity to discuss the future direction of the organization.

The ASA council meets twice a year, keeping in touch and occasionally conducting business by email. One meeting occurs the day before the annual meeting and the other is in March, just before the end of the fiscal year on March 31. One key objective of this meeting is approval of a budget for the coming fiscal year. Like last year, this budget utilizes the money from the 2010 anonymous donation to fund our new position of associate director of

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our list of renowned plenary speakers and workshop presenters, or view our informational slideshow and brochure from the webpage.

With all of the turbulence between mainstream science and Christianity that headlines the news and fans flames in the blogosphere, we feel this meeting's theme comes at an especially apt moment for Christians in science everywhere.

Join us in San Diego to learn how you, too, can take advantage of new avenues for global communication while learning from fellow Christians about the complexity and extravagance of the natural world.

If you've been to an ASA meeting before, you know that it is a rich, intellectually and spiritually stimulating weekend. We hope to see you there.

In other news, the ASA has made outstanding progress in the strength of our web presence and in the robustness of all our online communications since our last newsletter. Our new website went up on schedule and has already been attracting a new stream of online "followers" and student members! In addition, the "God and Nature" blog has expanded to become a full-fledged online magazine, with excellent feedback from our early readers. We are currently working on grant proposals to help make *God and Nature* available for print distribution by the end of next year.

With all these projects in the works, we have had to place our newsletter redesign on the backburner for a few months. Having moved into a quarterly distribution schedule, the newsletter will now be published in mid-April, mid-June, mid-September, and mid-January, rather than every two months. We hope you will continue to send us updates on your accomplishments, and feedback on our many projects as we continue to make strides toward a more "engaged" ASA and CSCA.

—Emily Ruppel



### ASA Student Writing Contest

WINNING ENTRIES NOW ONLINE

**Poetry Winner:**  
Kendall Vanderslice

**Fiction Winner:**  
Ben Drum

**Grand Prize:**  
J. Kyle Hughes

view all winning entries at [godandnature.asa3.org](http://godandnature.asa3.org)

## The Director's Corner

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communications and to launch our new publication, *God and Nature*. Our challenge will be to find other funding sources to be able to sustain this position and to continue the work.

All council members (**Jennifer Wiseman, Susan Daniels, Bob Kaita, Hal Poe, Keith Miller, and Ashley Zauderer**) were present. In addition to budget and audit considerations, the council considered Fellow nominations and planning for future annual meetings. Two ASA policies were adopted. One was a sexual harassment policy to meet legal requirements and the other was a new copyright agreement for journal authors. Patterned after the agreement used by the American Institute of Physics, this new agreement must be signed by all authors of future articles printed in our journal.

The council also reviewed data indicating the fluctuation of ASA membership. The 2010 membership drive led to an increase of 5% but during the past year membership dropped back to its previous level. Our new membership management system is now in place but required much learning to implement. It is working well and will enable more effective communications. With all the changes in our website, traffic has dropped while the search engines recalibrate our pages. We hope to rebuild those links and continue to offer quality resources in science and Christian faith.

The dedicated support and guidance of the council are greatly appreciated. The spirit of unity and commitment in our meeting reflected a dynamic and effective passion to enhance our network of Christians in science.



### ASAer HONORED BY SURA

The Southeastern Universities Research Association announced that **Henry F. Schaefer III**, Graham Perdue Professor of Chemistry at the University of Georgia, will receive its 2012 SURA Distinguished Scientist Award.

The annual honor goes to a research scientist whose extraordinary work fulfills the SURA mission of "fostering excellence in scientific research." The award and its \$20,000 honorarium was presented to Schaefer on March 29, 2012 in conjunction with the SURA Board of Trustees meeting being held at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

"Not only is the University of Georgia fortunate to have a scientist of Dr. Schaefer's caliber on its campus, but the entire region and country benefit from his service as well," said Charles W. Steger, President of Virginia Tech and Chair of the SURA Council of Presidents. "His impact on chemistry and research has been felt far beyond his lab and classroom, bringing great distinction to himself, his university, and his field of study. It is an honor for SURA to be able to recognize Dr. Schaefer's years of outstanding achievements."

In over 30 years of academic service, Schaefer has focused his field of study on the cutting-edge theoretical and computational methods for calculating electronic structure in order to better understand the structure stability and reactivity of molecules. He applies the resulting insights to a broad set of interests ranging from

atmospheric and organic chemistry to combustion.

His list of publications number over 1,300, with the vast majority in the field's highest quality journals. In their letter of nomination of Schaefer, UGA President Michael F. Adams and Vice President for Research David Lee noted, "Collectively, his publications have been cited more than 50,000 times, making him one of the most high cited chemists (as well as scientists) in the world." He's also given plenary lectures at over 240 scientific conferences as well as named/endowed lectures at over 50 universities worldwide.

In their nomination letter of nominee, Adams and Lee added, "Fritz is always quick to credit a steady stream of brilliant trainees and colleagues over the past 30 years." As Preceptor and mentor, he's had 58 undergraduate research publish papers with him, 97 successful PhD students as well as 48 postdoctoral fellows.

The SURA Distinguished Scientist Award was established in 2007, commemorating the organization's 25th anniversary. Susan Wessler, another UGA professor at the time, received that inaugural award. SURA's Development & Relations Committee manages the solicitation, screening and selection of the recipient from a SURA member institution.

The president of each of SURA's 62-member research universities is eligible to make one nomination for the Distinguished Scientist Award.

## THE LOST FOUNDER OF BASEBALL VIDEO GAMES

A recent article about ASA member **John Burgeson** tells “a tale of obsession, punch cards, and a ‘60s computer the size of a hatchback.”

Read it at [www.grantland.com](http://www.grantland.com)

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASA CHAPTER HOSTS TALKS

Ten ASA members and approximately 12 non-ASA members met at St. David’s Church in North Hollywood for a short time of worship and presentations by ASA members **Jason Hine** and **Stephen Contakes**.

The meeting was preceded by an informal pot-luck dinner mixer in the Church fellowship room that was attended by nine ASA members and approximately ten non-ASA members. The formal program began at 6:30 when **Tom Ferko** gave a short introduction to the ASA and its Southern California Christians in Science local chapter. After this introduction we engaged in a short time of worship led by **Jason and Kathy Hine**.

At 7 PM Tom introduced Stephen Contakes of Westmont College who delivered a 35-minute talk entitled “Atomic-Molecular Theory: The Faith-Science Controversy that Never Was” that was followed by five minutes of questions.

At 7:45 PM Tom introduced Jason Hine of Esri who delivered a 20 minute talk entitled “The Fractal Nature of the Spiritual Journey: A Metaphor” that was followed by five minutes of questions. After the formal program, Stephen and Jason stuck around for further discussions

with members of the audience.

- **Stephen Contakes**

## DoSER Program: CAN SCIENCE EXPLAIN EVERYTHING?

This Washington DC meeting, at AAAS on Dec. 6, 2011, was exciting because of the prominence of the speakers and also the large attendance by ASA members, NSF advisors, and a lot of the Catholic science/faith community. **Jennifer Wiseman** is hitting her stride at DoSER, and there was an overflow crowd. Kudos also go to **Tom Burnett**, Peyton West and the rest of the staff at AAAS.

Even scientists who don’t care much about faith are concerned about the political impacts on science budgets, so many were in attendance. Of course **Ian Hutchinson’s** presentation was much more sophisticated than that of a typical American evangelical Christian; so the two sides of the dialogue really were not much different. Both were practicing particle physicists who had no issues with modern science as such. Their philosophical/theological views on physical reductionism, “levels” etc. were different, although there was not much time to wrestle with these ideas.

(It would be interesting to have a leading young-earth creationist speaker at an event like this, so that people could see a real contrast in views, and realize the depth of the science/faith conflict out in middle America. I doubt that this will happen; but it might be interesting for some social scientists to describe their views and why they hold them).

I had an opportunity to “witness” to Lisa Randall briefly. My name tag said “American Scientific Affiliation,”

## Welcome New Members!

OCT/NOV/DEC 2011

Steven Schultz, Ave Maria, FL

Ann Gauger, Issaquah, WA

Stephen Cornell,  
Naperville, IL

Michael Davis, Wheaton, IL

Shawn Whatley,  
Mount Albert, ON

Yoojin Choi, Riverside, CA

Debra Shepherd,  
Socorro, NM

Gregg Davidson, Oxford, MS

Bruce Behrman,  
Fair Oaks, CA

Michael Pahlow,  
Enumclaw, WA

William Norman,  
Grantham, PA

Frank Papatheofanis,  
Ranch Santa Fe, CA

Sara Tolsma, Orange City, IA

Benjamin Werling, Grand  
Rapids, MI

Charles Poole, Columbia, SC

David Magers, Clinton, MS

## Welcome New Members, cont:

Adam Johnson, Valparaiso, IN

Haiying He, Darien, IL

David Roemer, Brooklyn, NY

Adam Wagner, Tucson, AZ

William Morse,  
E Patchogue, NY

Herman Smith, Medford, MA

Paul Rosenblum,  
Charleston, SC

Ka Wai Lau, Halifax, NS

A. Rhema Zachariah  
MD, Urbana, IL

Michael Pare, North York, ON

Henry Pfeffer, Mercerville, NJ

Janet Warren, Guelph, ON

Godfrey Erimona, Saskatoon,  
SK

Dennis Brinkman, Marion, IN

Melissa Antonio, Perris, CA

Lorenzo Crowell,  
Brooklyn, NY

Michael Lubbers,  
Prairie Village, KS

Keri McFarlane, Edmonton,  
AB

so I mentioned that this is a group of 2,000 evangelical Christians in the sciences around the US; that we are supportive of modern science and trying to build bridges of understanding. She liked that.

- **Paul Arveson**

### GLOBAL WARMING DEBATE

ASA member **Paul H. Carr** debated with Prof Laurence I. Gould on Saturday, Nov 19, 2011, at the New England section of the American Physical Society Meeting at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Carr's PowerPoint talk was entitled, "Data Supporting Anthropogenic Global Warming: Balancing Economics and Ecology." It is available on his web page at <http://mirrorofnature.org/GlobalWarmingDebateNESAPS.pdf>. (It might take 15 seconds to download.)

Gould's talk was "Anthropogenic Global Warming — Illuminating some of its Scientific and Methodological Flaws." His web page, at <http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/lgould/> includes "GOULD presentation," and is almost the same PowerPoint he used for the debate.

- **Paul H. Carr**

### ISSR LIBRARIES AWARDED WORLDWIDE

The International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR) is proud to announce the awarding of complete sets of the volumes comprising the ISSR Library to 150 institutions worldwide. Recipients include

institutions of higher learning and research centers in 47 countries and six continents.

The ISSR Library is the essential reference collection for scholars, students, and interested lay readers, spanning books directly focusing on science and religion and also important foundational works in related and underlying subjects. Selected from over two thousand candidate volumes by a rigorous process of nomination and peer review, the Library consists of 225 titles. An introductory essay on each title along with full listings of all selections and categorized sublistings is available on the website [www.issrlibrary.org](http://www.issrlibrary.org).

Supported by a one million pound grant from the John Templeton Foundation, the ISSR Library Project is based at St. Edmund's College, Cambridge University. Its executive editor is Pranab Das, professor of physics at Elon University. The Editorial Board consists of Philip Clayton, John Hedley Brooke, Wesley Wildman, V.V. Raman and Ron Cole-Turner as ISSR Executive Liaison and Christopher Knight as Secretary. The Program Assistant is Sharon Mellul.

For further information please contact [editor@issrlibrary.org](mailto:editor@issrlibrary.org)

### MEETING ON THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE

On Saturday Nov. 12, 2011, the Washington Theological Union, a Catholic seminary in Takoma Park, near DC, hosted a meeting on the origin of the universe. Four presentations were featured. Stephen Barr is a theoretical physicist, and he was capable of responding to some

of the challenges coming from atheists such as Stephen Hawking. **Robert Miller** discussed the interpretation of Genesis 1-2. Both of these men, one a physicist and the other a Bible scholar, emphasized the distinction between a physical origin and an ontological origin. In this respect I think their views are harmonious with those of many in the ASA.

This all-day conference was well publicized, supported by Templeton money, and registration filled up. Plenty of food was provided. Unfortunately, WTU will be closing in 2013 due to a lack of students and donations. We will lose one of the venerable institutions in the DC area that has hosted a monthly science-religion discussion group for many years, through the efforts of Bill Durbin, Fr. Joe Wimmer and Fr. John Crossin.

Also of note: This meeting was one of a series that will continue next year. The full description is on a special website: <http://atompluseve.com/>. After the meeting, registrants received an opinion survey asking their agreement with about a dozen key points made at the meeting. This is one of the few times I have seen opinion polls of such an audience.

- **Paul Arveson**

### BURNETT PUBLISHES BOOK REVIEW IN SCIENCE

ASA member **Thomas Burnett**, a web editor for the Biologos Foundation, has a book review in the March 23, 2012 issue of *Science* magazine.

The heading for the review is "New Light on a Continuing Clash."

The book he reviewed may be of interest to ASAers: *American Genesis: The Antievolution Controversies from Scopes to Creation Science* (Oxford University Press, 2012), by historian Jeffrey P. Moran of the University of Kansas. Tom could give you more scoop, but the citation for his review is *Science*, vol. 335 (no. 6075), pp. 1443-4.

- **Walt Hearn**

### BOOK PUBLISHED BY AN ASAer

#### SONG OF A SCIENTIST

Scientist **Cal DeWitt** probes God's Word and God's world, nudging us toward grateful stewardship and praise, joining the doxology of all creation.

Purchasing info:  
\$14.99 / \$15.44CDN

<http://www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/156025/song-of-a-scientist.aspx>

### WINTER 2011-12 ISSUE of the ASA CEST NEWSLETTER

The winter Christian Engineers and Scientists in Technology newsletter is online at <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/cest/CEStwinter2012.pdf>

- **Bill Yoder**

### DC METRO ASA HOLDS MEETING WITH DR. ROY CLOUSER

Philosopher **Roy Clouser** gave a presentation on "Grounds for Belief in God According to the New Testament." It was an insightful critique of historical philosophical positions and an alternative Christian view. The

talk can be viewed online at: [http://www.christianmind.org/resources/video/20120318\\_ClouserASA.html](http://www.christianmind.org/resources/video/20120318_ClouserASA.html)

### BIOLOGOS ANNOUNCES GRANTS PROGRAM FOR SCHOLARS AND CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

The BioLogos Foundation is pleased to announce a \$3.5 million grants program sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation. This program is designed for scholars, church leaders, and parachurch organizations to explore and address theological and philosophical concerns commonly voiced by Christians about theistic evolution. We also invite proposals which explore how evolution as God's tool, enriches Christian faith. Pre-proposals will be submitted through a grant portal beginning April 16, 2012, and are due June 15, 2012. For more information we invite you to visit: [EvolutionChristianFaith.org](http://EvolutionChristianFaith.org).

The BioLogos Foundation, 6549 Mission Gorge Road #251, San Diego, CA 92120

### HALSMER PRESENTS ON BRINGING SCIENCE INTO THEOLOGY at AAAS MEETING

At the AAAS SWARM Division 86th Annual Meeting at the University of Tulsa, OK, March 31 to April 4, 2012, **Dominic Halsmer**, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at Oral Roberts University presented "Bringing Science into Theology to Facilitate Healing and Reconciliation" at the opening day Symposium on Science and Religion.

Professor **Jeff Lamp** of the ORU

## MEMBERS IN GLORY

**Robert Miller**, 79, of Pismo Beach, CA, passed away at a local hospital, Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011. ASA received notice upon member renewal. This clip was published in *San Luis Obispo Tribune* on October 29, 2011.

**Norman Lowell Lofgren**, 89, died on December 10, 2011, in his home in



Chico, CA. After obtaining his BS in chemistry, he was invited by Professor Wendell Latimer to work on the Manhattan Project. He was a professor in the Department of Chemistry at Chico State Col-

lege from 1949 until 1982. He received honors for his teaching and made many contributions to campus life.

**James Glen Widmer** of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, 93, left his earthly body on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011. In 1946, he opened a general medical practice at Wayland, where he cared for the community until 1992. Before his death, he was active in volunteerism for many community and Christian organizations. He is survived by his wife Helen and their six children.

**William Eugene Hamilton, Jr.**, was born September 14, 1942, and entered into heaven on January 16, 2012, in Austin, Texas. Bill grew up in Wheaton, Illinois, and attended Iowa State University before continuing his education at Purdue University where he received a master's and doctorate degree in electrical engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the U. S. Army Signal Corps



and served one tour in the Vietnam War. He achieved the rank of Captain and was honorably discharged.

Upon leaving the army, Bill accepted a position with General Motors Research Laboratories in Detroit, Michigan. He and his family relocated to Rochester Hills, Michigan. Bill retired from General Motors after 25 years of service. During this career, he received many distinctions including the McCune Award.

Bill and his wife helped to start Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Rochester, Michigan. This new church met in rented facilities. Bill faithfully arrived early every other Sunday to set up the church for ten years. He served also as an elder.

In 2008, Bill and Linda relocated to Austin, Texas to live near their adult children and grandchildren.

**John William Van Dyk** died peacefully at his home in Wilmington, DE, on January 10, 2010. Born May 2, 1928 in Paterson, NJ, he was the only child of Andrew and Ida Van Dyk.

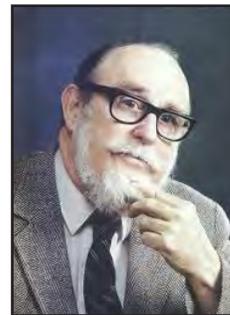
He received a Christian education graduating from Eastern Academy in 1946. He furthered his studies at Calvin College and Rutgers University and earned a PhD in Physical Chemistry from Columbia University in 1954.

John had a 35-year career with the DuPont Company, initially at the DuPont Experimental Station and ending at the Marshall Laboratory in Philadelphia. After his retirement in 1985, he served with the International Service Corps in Seoul Korea and established a consultant company, Van Dyk Associates. He held multiple patents and focused much of his energy on developing several scientific computer programs.

John was a long-time member of Emmanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church. He served as an elder and Sunday School teacher. He served on the board of directors of the Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto, Canada, and the Delaware Justice Fellowship Prison Ministry. He was also active in local political and civic organizations. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Audrey; sons Mark (fiancée Mary

Granville), Drew (Tina) and Dirk; and grandchildren Peter, Lisa, Shaina and Lilly.

**Dr. Rex Vernon Blumhagen**, age 92, a resident of West Chicago, IL, died peacefully at home on Friday, February 24, 2011. He was born on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Polson, Montana, the second of five children of Cecile Mary Nunnely and



Albert Emil Blumhagen on February 8, 1920. He married his college sweetheart Jeanne Bourland on December 23, 1943. He attended Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, and graduated from Northwestern University Medical School. He served in the military during World War II.

Rex spent his life bringing medical care and cheer to people around the world. He is best known recently for his work at Central DuPage Hospital Emergency Room where he was one of two founding doctors. He also started the Stratford Urgent Care Center with his wife Jeanne.

His heart was in Afghanistan. He felt called to that country in his teenage years and spent his early adult years trying to get there. In 1960 he finally was able to take his young family there, and he spent the next 35 years going in and out of Afghanistan. The centerpiece of his work was a hospital and outpatient clinics in the central highlands. He would go off on horseback to deliver babies and hold clinics in obscure tiny villages. Later he would start medical works in Nepal and Bangladesh and work out of Cyprus.

For most of his life, he traveled around the world. He visited every continent except Australia and Antarctica, and sailed on every major world river from the Yellow River in China, the Amazon in Ecuador and the Nile in Egypt. He hiked in the Andes and Himalayas. His last years were spent in his beloved garden.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne, and their four children.

College of Theology and Ministry, and ORU Theology student Joshua Beck also contributed to the presentation. Four other presenters from Oklahoma universities also shared their views, followed by a panel discussion, and the dialogue was very productive.

The topic for the symposium, "Science and Religion—Building Bridges, Dismantling Misconceptions" was very appropriate, because although there were some differences of opinion expressed, relationships were established, and groundwork was laid to move forward in a productive manner in the area of science and faith issues. For a more detailed account of the symposium, see: [http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2012/0404swarm\\_science\\_religion.shtml](http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2012/0404swarm_science_religion.shtml).

- Dominic Halsmer

### OSCAR GONZALEZ AWARDED DAY STAR SCIENCE ADVOCACY RESEARCH GRANT

Oscar Gonzalez, PhD candidate at the University of Florida, School of Natural Resources and the Environment (Gainesville), has received a Day Star Science Advocacy Research Grant to help fund his investigation of nectarivorous birds in the pollination network of the upper montane forest of the Andes.

Day Star Research & Ministries is offering a series of grants to Christian researchers pursuing graduate degrees in fields such as evolutionary biology, paleontology, anthropology, ecology, molecular biology, genetics, etc. Applications are being accepted at <http://www.day-star.org/sci-adv.htm>.

- Fred Heeren

The Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA is published bimonthly for its membership by the American Scientific Affiliation. Send Newsletter information to the editor: Emily Ruppel, PO Box 668, Ipswich, MA 01938-0668. E-mail: [emily@asa3.org](mailto:emily@asa3.org) Send Coming Events information to David Fisher, 1470 Stonebridge Trail, Wheaton, IL 60189-7146. E-mail: [dfisherasa@gmail.com](mailto:dfisherasa@gmail.com) Please send Canadian matters to: CSCA, PO Box 63082, University Plaza, Dundas, ON, Canada L9H 4H0. Send address changes and other business items to the American Scientific Affiliation, 55 Market St., PO Box 668, Ipswich, MA 01938-0668. Phone: (978) 356-5656; FAX: (978) 356-4375; E-mail: [asa@asa3.org](mailto:asa@asa3.org); Web site: [www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org) ©2012 American Scientific Affiliation (except previously published material). All rights reserved. Editor: Emily Ruppel



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