



Newsletter  
of the  
**ASA & CSCA**  
volume 55 number 1



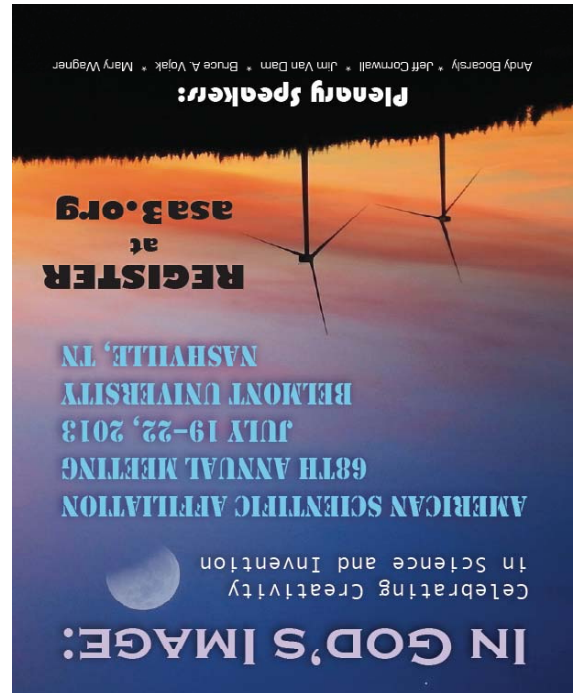
# Meet Lynn Billman!

## *Our Newest ASA Council Member*



Our newest ASA council member, **Lynn Billman**, works in a “zero energy” building. That may seem like an odd idea at first—but what it means is that the structure produces about as much energy during the year as it uses. There are solar panels on the roof which help generate electricity, there are lots of windows to promote daylighting rather than fluorescent lighting, and to reduce overall energy usage, Lynn and her colleagues work in large open spaces—instead of lots of little, enclosed spaces that are hard to evenly heat and cool.

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## The Director's Corner



I am happy to see an increase in activity in our ASA local chapters. Our organization is a widely distributed, diverse community of Christians in science. The dissemination of information by printed material has been greatly augmented by electronic means in the last couple of decades, but nothing can replace the value of direct personal interaction. Such an opportunity of interaction is provided at our annual meeting each summer, and I hope to see many of you in Nashville this year. But since only about 10% of our members are able to attend in any given year, local chapters fill a critical need by providing an opportunity for personal communication without long-range travel.

The Southern California chapter sponsored a very successful conference in January on the topic of "Science through the Lens of Faith." The Wheaton chapter has had a series of well-attended lectures such as one on "Nutritional Approaches

to Prevent Disease." The newly formed New Mexico chapter is also gaining momentum with a lecture series. The Vancouver chapter, rejuvenated from a previous organization, has been growing rapidly with a stimulating series of talks by **Ian Hutchinson**. Our new membership management system makes it easier to set up a chapter, and it provides a home page and communication facility for local chapter members.

You are encouraged to browse through the homepages of each chapter by going to their respective menus on our homepage. Several homepages are still works in progress but most activities are reported there. Be sure to join the group in your area and, if there isn't one near you, we encourage you to start one! It's not hard; it only requires some leadership and organizational work.

**Emily Ruppel** organized the Boston chapter a year ago, and since then there have been more than half a dozen meetings. I'd particularly like to draw your attention to two of those meetings. One was the lecture on February 11 by John Walton on "Origins Today: Genesis through Ancient Eyes." Many of you have heard him speak or have read his books. Though ASA, as usual, does not take a position on specific ideas such as his, we do feature his work as valuable research of high quality which deserves to be considered

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The downside to this progressive type of building design is that there isn't much sound privacy in Lynn's office. Fortunately, there are plenty of small conference rooms around the building, and Lynn was able to occupy one of them to continue our conversation.

One of the reasons why Lynn works in such a special structure is that her employer is the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), where they take the goal of energy conservation very seriously, indeed. Lynn has been working at NREL for 26 years, which she describes as, "Really special and wonderful—we do great things, and the people here have a sense of mission that's similar to Christian evangelism, because they care a lot about the environment—about energy—and we like to tell people about how they can reduce their carbon footprint and make the world a cleaner, more sustainable place."

While her background is in basic chemistry, Lynn has performed many duties at NREL over the years, much of which has involved logistical support for research and development at the lab. She has also written proposals to the Department of Energy for needed equipment, materials, and/or buildings, and has been a leader for institutional and capital planning at NREL.

"Most recently, I've been doing work that helps take an idea from the lab scale to the factory scale to something you might buy in the marketplace," says Lynn. "There are lots of rules and regulations and financial challenges—such as if your new energy technology is better for the environment but costs more, then you have to figure out how to overcome those price differences and work with government

*continued on p. 3*

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seriously. Whether we agree with him or not, the ideas need to be addressed.

Another lecture by **Douglas Lauffenburger** also generated a lot of interest. Doug spoke on “Sequencing and Synthesis: Where Are Biology, Bioengineering, and Biotechnology Taking Us?” I’d like to suggest that this is a topic of major importance for us as Christians in science. We have long talked about history in the context of origins but our concern needs to focus on the future. Technical capabilities are surging ahead of our ability to grapple with them from an ethical and spiritual perspective. We must continually educate ourselves about these fields and their implications for our lives.

We have set up two new topics on our Forum pages to give you an opportunity to comment on Walton’s work and to consider the question that Doug has raised. We need to hear all sides. Please sign in and share your reaction and thoughts. With your participation, we can foster the dialogue that helps lead us to better understanding.



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

### October–December 2012

Allen, Josiah –Cincinnati, OH	Jimenez, Marissa –Beacon, NY
Archbold, Andrea –Camrose, AB	Kamal, Jennifer –Edmonton, AB
Bashore, Elizabeth –Lewisberry, PA	Kanis, James –Chilliwack, BC
Bills, Robert –Morgantown, WV	Keys, Roy –Fada N’Gourma, Burkina Faso, West Africa
Brooks, John –Ottawa, ON	Khanna, Vikram –Chesterfield, MO
Brudi, Ellen –Santa Barbara, CA	Kim, Seung-Hwan –Lexington, MA
Clapham, Lynann –Stella, ON	Lazio, Hanna
Copeland, Daniel –Canon City, CO	Lund, Travis –Boulder, CO
Cox, Bradley –Edmonton, AB	Manuel, Jemima –Manitoba, MB
Cross, Simon –Ponteland, Northumberland, UK	Marburger, Brady –Mechanicsburg, PA
Davis, Hilary –Edmonton, AB	McClatchey, Shelly
Delgado, Janet –Visalia, CA	Miller, Justin –St Petersburg, FL
Deutschbein, John –Loveland, CO	Narang, Magalie –Pomona, CA
Dorelus, Nathaniel –Stamford, CT	Øygarden, Alf –Førresfjorden, Rogaland, Norway
Dutka, Todd –Surrey, BC	Piwowar, Krystle
Eirich, Melissa –Boca Raton, FL	Price, Kaitlin
Fath, Jared –Burnaby, BC	Quagliana, Diane –Naperville, IL
Forrest, Robert –Memphis, TN	Ramirez, Daniel –Manhattan, KS
Forshner, Reanne –Edmonton, AB	Revol, Fabien –Lyon, Rhône Alpes, France
Foster, Taylor-Rae –Edmonton, AB	Richey, Frank –Katy, TX
Fuhrman, Kit –Gainesville, FL	Ritenour, Laura
Gibbel, Joel, –PA	Rush, Kebirn –Johnson City, TX
Go, Louise –Claremont, CA	Scasta, Derek –Stillwater, OK
Greenplate, John –Manchester, MO	Scheib, Chris –Halifax, PA
Griffin, Chuck –Jericho, VT	Selke, David –Edmonton, AB,
Gulker, Michael –Grand Rapids, MI	Stockburn, William –Lancashire, Lancashire, UK
Hakin, Matthew –Wasilla, AK	Tallman, Kathleen –Azusa, CA
Harman, Peter –Carinpteria, CA	Wernsing, Gary –Beverly, MA
Harrelson, James –Kansas City, MO	Winegarner, Andrew –Leawood, KS
Hedges, Motley –Richland, WA	Wolinski, Sarah –Burlington, MA
Hellgren, Niklas –Mechanicsburg, PA	Worley, Halsey –Huntsville, AL
Hill, Arthur –Fergus, ON	
Hodgdon, Deborah-Anne –Haverhill, MA	
Hori, Roy –Crest Hill, IL	
Hughes, Jeff –Carroll, IA	

*continued from p. 2*

programs to help get that product into the marketplace. (Think: government incentives to buy new energy-efficient refrigerators, and the like). So part of what we do here is study the marketplace, study federal and state regulations ... all those kinds of 'softer' aspects of creating new technologies, along with the basic research and applied research."

"Other aspects of what I do include working with people all around the country—and in other countries—who want to deploy these kinds of technologies. For instance, if the state of Delaware wants more solar energy, we help them figure out the best way to go about doing that. Recently, my department hooked up with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and we have four people right now working to help the FEMA leaders provide assistance to damaged communities, so they can think about energy in their plans for rebuilding," says Lynn.

Lynn describes energy as "something we use every day—but very few people think about it or where it comes from. We're trying to change that."

To that end, Lynn and fellow ASA members in the Rocky Mountain local chapter have organized two workshops on the topic of sustainable energy. Lynn enjoys these opportunities to rub shoulders with people who enjoy discussing her two passions: faith and science.



"I was overwhelmed at my first ASA meeting at the caliber of people I met and the level of commitment of people who were like me—involved with science and also serious Christians—and that sense of awe and delight really hasn't changed," says Lynn. "I've been to most of the ASA meetings in the last nine years, and it's totally unique; you can't find this kind of experience in practically any other fellowship situation. I do my best to promote the ASA to fellow

Christians at NREL, and two have become active members!

But I wish that number were higher—I'll just keep trying!"

Some of Lynn's ideas to increase the visibility of the ASA in various communities include reaching out to the country's most influential church communities, host-

ing joint events with other scientific organizations and faith organizations, offering speaker exchanges and lists of expert members willing to be called on for advice or interviews, developing relationships with key people in the media, and providing information and training to make our members more comfortable at speaking or writing on topics on science and faith.

*Please join me in extending a warm and hearty congratulations to Lynn. We look forward to receiving her energy and input on the ASA council in the coming years!*

## ASA Chapter News

### Boston ASA Chapter Hosts Talks

The Boston chapter of the ASA hosted three events in February. First of all, John Walton spoke at Park Street Church on "Origins Today: Genesis Through Ancient Eyes." He gave his 90-minute version, which delved into the second chapter of Genesis as well as the first chapter. His focus on biblical authority and a desire to understand in depth what the original text meant to the original audience was well received. An audio of the lecture can be heard on the Boston chapter website.

This was the year that the AAAS annual meeting met in Boston on Feb. 14–18. In connection with the DoSER reception, the Boston chapter hosted a dinner at Legal Seafoods. Fifteen people attended and enjoyed a stimulating informal discussion. As usual, the AAAS meeting offered insight to many new advances in all fields of science.

On February 22, **Doug Lauffenburger** spoke at our MIT grad dorm location on "Sequencing and Synthesis: Where are Biology, Bioengineering, and Biotechnology Taking Us?" He gave us insight to the latest research in the field and challenged us to think deeply about the ethical and spiritual issues that we will undoubtedly encounter as this rapidly moving field of research progresses.  
—Randy Isaac

### "Science through the Lens of Faith" The ASA Southern California Chapter's First Winter Conference

The Southern California section of the ASA, Southern California Christians in Science (SCCS), held its first winter conference on January 12, 2013, at Azusa Pacific University's Segerstrom Science Center. The conference's sixty-plus attendees enjoyed plenary talks by John Walton and Jeff Zweerink, oral and poster presentations on a variety of scientific and faith and science topics,

*continued on p. 6*

## Members in Glory

### James A. Stoddard

January 28, 1922–April 12, 2012

James A. Stoddard passed away at the age of 80 on April 12, 2012. A World War II veteran, he was a faithful Christian who served as a missionary in Guatemala, for 38 years. He was a member of New Hope Baptist Church, Bradenton, FL. James also was an amateur poet and photographer. He is survived by his wife, Margaret of almost 65 years, 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

### John Emil Halver III

April 21, 1922–October 24, 2012

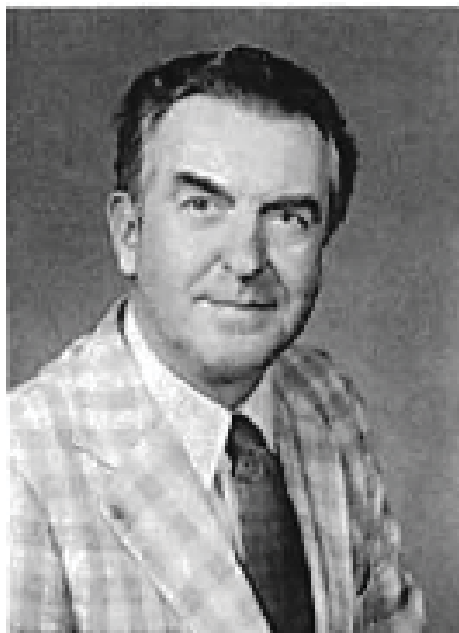
John E. Halver III passed away suddenly and peacefully at home at the age of 90 on October 24, 2012. He was in full possession of his mental abilities, and had finished editing a manuscript just the previous day.

Halver was born in Woodinville, WA, on April 21, 1922, to John E. Halver (from Finland) and Helen Hansen Halver (whose parents were from Norway and Denmark). He grew up during the Great Depression, and learned to make good use of resources and to repair things himself. In 1944 he married Jane Loren of Tacoma, his bride for over 68 years, and together they have 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Throughout the years, John & Jane also opened their home to numerous international students.

Halver was an eminent nutritional biochemist who was honored as “one of the leading scientists of the world” in 2005, for a lifetime of research in nutritional biochemistry, by the International Biographical Center in Cambridge, England. At the time of his death, he was still actively lecturing and consulting around the world. A devout, lifelong Christian, Halver spent his life

confirming his belief that “there is no conflict between science and theology. Science *is* pursuing truth, and God is the author of Truth.”

John Halver received a BS in chemistry from Washington State College in 1944. He then was called to active duty in Europe with the US Army as an infantry officer, returning from World War II as a captain and a decorated soldier, having earned a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, American Theatre Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation (Germany), Combat Infantry Badge, and the Croix d'Honneur from France. Later he also received the Citoyen d'Honneur from France.



After WWII, Halver earned an MS in organic chemistry from Washington State College and a PhD in medical biochemistry from the University of Washington after studies in nutrition at Purdue University. Halver was the Director of Research for the National Fish and Wildlife Service, and as such, built and oversaw five laboratories throughout the northwest.

Using fish as his experimental animal, Halver developed the standard test diet,

resulting in the nutritional standards used worldwide for salmonids and all fish. He also worked on nutritional studies for other animals, including humans. He was promoted to Senior Scientist in Nutrition for the Fish & Wildlife service, and in 1976, Halver joined the faculty at the University of Washington as Professor of Nutrition. He served as US Science Ambassador to the World under four US presidents, as well as a private consultant to over 90 countries throughout the world.

Halver was inducted into the National Academy of Sciences of the United States, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Washington State Academy of Science, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and received numerous accolades from around the world, including the Makila d'Honneur from Spain. He published over 200 scientific articles, wrote several scientific books, and was inducted into the Fisheries Hall of Fame as “The Father of Fish Nutrition.”

### Loyd D. Frashier

October 29, 1916–December 26, 2012

Loyd Frashier passed away at the age of 96. He was a professor of chemistry and astronomy and former head of the Natural Science Division at Pepperdine University. He was an Elder and active member of the Woodland Hills Church of Christ. Loyd is survived by Anne Frashier, his wife of 59 years; his children, Martha Wood (David), Kathy Frashier, and Jim Frashier (Lisa); and his grandchildren. He was a man of great integrity, honor, and generosity. He loved nature and never stopped learning new things. His family will miss his wise words and his corny jokes.

In the next issue, in memoriam, **Robert Fischer**, d. March 20, 2013, and **Jack McIntyre**, d. March 23, 2013.



## Vancouver ASA Chapter News

The Vancouver (BC) chapter, called the Vancouver Area Science & Religion Forum, hosted ASA Fellow **Ian Hutchinson** of MIT January 23–25 for lectures on his book *Monopolizing Knowledge* at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Trinity Western University (TWU), and Simon Fraser University. Hutchinson was also joined by three TWU faculty for a panel discussion on “Faith, Evidence, and Reason.”

On March 20–23, we co-hosted and co-organized a visit by John Walton of Wheaton College for lectures entitled “Origins Today: Genesis through Ancient Eyes” (and in two cases, “Genesis and the Genome,” double-billed with BioLogos Fellow **Dennis Venema**) at the same three venues, adding Regent College and Richmond Alliance Church.

Upon invitation of Apologetics Canada, we ran an information table at their

2013 conference (March 1–2) in Abbotsford, which featured speaker William Lane Craig and had a sold-out attendance of over 1300.

We held three film-plus-panel events: in September at TWU, we showed and discussed *Cosmic Origins* and *From the Dust*, and in November, we helped promote a screening of and conversation around a *Test of Faith* episode at UBC. Some of these events had small-group dinners associated with them in homes or restaurants, and all events were free and open to the public, and enjoyed excellent attendance by students, faculty, and the general public.

We have also helped promote science and faith events organized by other groups, such as TWU’s philosophy department and the Graduate and Faculty Christian Forum at UBC.

—Arnold Sikkema

and times of fellowship over lunch and light refreshments.

John Walton delivered the first plenary talk entitled “Genesis through Ancient Eyes.” John emphasized the importance of respecting the authority of biblical texts by recognizing the Divine Author’s communicative intent, which won’t necessarily be immediately apparent

to us since we do not live in an Old Testament culture. In brief, John explained that Genesis 1 was a temple account of God’s functional ordering of the cosmos while Genesis 2 presented an account of the fall of an archetypical but still literal Adam and humankind’s subsequent loss of access to God’s provision for immortality, the Tree of Life.

John’s talk was followed by five oral presentations delivered in two parallel sessions. The first session was focused on Approaching Difficult Questions in Science-Faith Dialogue. In it, Brian Bull and **Fritz Guy** of Loma Linda University and La Sierra University, respectively, presented a paper titled “In Genesis 1, Seven Hebrew Words Make All the Difference,” in which they explained that many Bible translations mislead contemporary readers because of well-meaning but misleading translations or changes in the meanings of English words over time. To partially remedy these issues, Brian and Fritz proposed an “Original Hearer’s Version” of Genesis 1 which better enables contemporary readers to understand the meaning of the original Hebrew. Garrett Johnson and **Stephen Contakes** of Westmont College delivered a paper titled, “Lessons for Thinking and Talking about Science and Religion from the Soviet Resonance Controversy: A Chemical Counterpoint to Lysenkoism” in which they asked whether Soviet ideological debates over chemistry’s Resonance Theory might have anything to teach us about contemporary science-faith dialogue.

The second morning parallel session was titled “Science and Faith: Motivations, Context, and Methods,” and began with a talk by American Institute for Technology and Science Education President **Caroline Crocker** titled “Why Should Christians Care About Science?” Caroline explored several features of contemporary society that degrade scientific integrity, that adversely impact our nation, and that contribute to preventing Christians from being salt and light. To remedy these problems, she explained that Christians in science should accept the responsibility to model scientific integrity to our colleagues and teach fellow believers how to evaluate scientific claims. **David Vosburg** of Harvey Mudd College spoke on the topic of “Science and Faith on a Secular Campus.” His talk presented

continued on p. 7

the wisdom gained from his experiences talking about science and faith through a variety of activities, including campus groups, films and presentations, courses and research projects, and hospitality. Aron Wall of UC Santa Barbara's talk, "Science and the Resurrection," showed that Christianity was similar to science in its use of empirical observations, use of models to describe different spheres of reality, and status as a truth-seeking enterprise.

The afternoon oral presentations were also held in two parallel sessions. The first session was focused on "Pedagogical Approaches to Science and Faith Issues." Bradley "Peanut" McCoy of Azusa Pacific University presented the results of pedagogical research he performed with Jared Groth-Olson in a talk titled, "Why do Faith Integration: A Pedagogical Motivation." After describing recent physics pedagogy research which shows that students who have more sophisticated epistemologies of science do better in undergraduate physics, Peanut presented preliminary data from his own efforts to integrate faith and learning epistemology topics into his physics classes. Stephen Contakes of Westmont College presented a talk titled, "Fritz Haber, Chemistry, Guns, Gas, & Butter: Questions, Methods, and Dialogue at the Interface between Chemical Technology & Christian Responsibility." Stephen described his efforts to use the physical chemist Fritz Haber's life story to incorporate theological and ethical reflection on technology into his undergraduate chemistry classes. **Kathleen Tallman** of Azusa Pacific University presented the results of her efforts to incorporate faith integration topics into her undergraduate anatomy courses in a talk titled, "Faith Integration in the Context of an Undergraduate Cadaver Lab." Kathleen described a series of case studies she uses to help students approach issues of cadaver privacy and confidentiality from a faith perspective as well as an assignment which helps students to develop



## Rocky Mountain ASAers Host Sustainable Energy Workshop

The workshop titled "Sustainable Energy—a Christian Perspective" was held on March 2, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church of Boulder. The sponsors were the First Presbyterian Church and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of ASA. ASA Fellow **Allan Harvey** was instrumental in arranging this event partnership. The workshop was an all-day event, from 9 AM to 4 PM, a repeat of what was done a year ago at the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL). The speakers were all employees of NREL.

The presentations were of very high quality, each speaker an expert in his or her field. The speakers emphasized the importance of renewable energy technologies (RET's) for the US, and how followers of Christ have a mandate to be good stewards by encouraging the use of RET's in their own lives, in their communities, in churches and even in the mission field.

Attendance was lower than we expected, but audience participation was animated. As with the similar workshop last year, we received strong positive feedback regarding how well the workshop was organized and how important the topic covered was. First Presbyterian provided, gratis, the venue, all the refreshments, and even lunches for the speakers and organizers of the workshop.

The Board now realizes that a full-day commitment (such as a Saturday) is asking a little too much from attendees, even though the theme of the workshop can be a very timely one. Ergo, we are considering offering, instead, short presentations on or near college campuses located in our area on a weekday basis.

—Ken Touryan

and use the cardinal virtues to approach everyday ethical situations and issues related to the public display of cadavers.

The second afternoon parallel session was titled "Informing Christian Faith and Practice through Science and Math." **Leslie Wickman** of Azusa Pacific University presented a talk titled "Exploring the Wonders of Creation through the Lens of Science" in which she discussed the applicability of the

scientific method to the pursuit of truth in both the realms of science and theology from the viewpoint of history and contemporary issues such as the anthropic principle, quantum physics, and the multiverse hypothesis. Jason Wilson of Biola University presented a talk, "The Bell Curve as a Biblical Type of Christ," in which he described his efforts to apply Jonathan Edwards's extension of biblical typology to nature to the study of mathematics. In particular, Jared argued that the bell curve, or

continued on p. 8

normal distribution, is a type of Christ, particularly as the center of the plan of God. **Michael Everest** of Westmont College presented the results of his efforts to mathematically analyze Christian worship in a talk titled "Worship through the Lens of the Autocorrelation Function." Michael suggested that the autocorrelation function, which shows the extent to which a mathematical function is similar to itself when shifted by certain amounts, can provide insights into the amount and timescale of repetition in Christian worship when applied to liturgies and texts.

The afternoon parallel sessions were followed by a short refreshment break at which B. Tobin Barrett of the College of Charleston presented his research into clean-air meteorology in a poster titled "Experimental Determination of the Smallest Particulate Heat Signature Observable with the NEXRAD Radar." Tobin took radar data from greater Los Vegas area using the Nexrad database and analyzed it to determine the smallest particle size viewable using radar.

After the refreshment break, Jeff Zweerink, a UCLA astronomer and staff member at Reasons to Believe Ministries, presented a talk titled "The Search for Extra-Solar Planets." Jeff presented a highly visual and detailed account of recent advances in the search for planets outside the solar system. Although Jeff's candid assessment of the current state of this field emphasized the need for additional research, he suggested that the overall picture is at least consistent with God's creation of the universe.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion of the question, "Science & Faith: Where Do we Go from Here?," featuring plenary speakers John Walton and Jeff Zweerink, parallel talk speakers Michael Everest, David Vosburg, and Caroline Crocker, and SCCS mainstay **Bill Roundy**. The panel discussed their own efforts at relating science and faith and answered a variety of audience questions.

—Stephen Contakes

### Menninga's New Book

ASAer **Clarence Menninga** has published a book entitled *If Truth Be Known*; the book proclaims the compatibility of science and Christian faith, and refutes claims that employ a distortion of science in supposed support of sectarian views. Chapter topics focus on ages of rocks, and on the failure of catastrophism and flood geology as explanations of the geological history of Earth. The print edition is available from Amazon and bookstores, and electronic editions are available from Amazon (Kindle) and from Barnes and Noble (Nook).

### Winter 2013 CEST Newsletter Now Online

Please find the Winter 2013 issue of the ASA CEST (Christian Engineers in Science and Technology) newsletter at this link: <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/cest/CESTwinter2013.pdf>

—Bill Yoder

### The ASA Council Meets in Ipswich

The ASA Executive Council met in Ipswich, MA, on March 22 and 23. Bob Kaita, Hal Poe, Keith Miller, Johnny Lin, David Buller, and Randy Isaac were in attendance and Susan Daniels by Skype. The financial outlook for the fiscal year ending on March 31 is miraculously close with expenses about equal to income. However, achieving that result required two major fund drives (thank you for your generous responses!), reducing our communication director, Emily Ruppel, to part-time employment, and moving the executive director temporarily to volunteer status. The budget proposed for the new fiscal year that started in April continues with the director on volunteer status and Emily Ruppel on 40% time. She will continue working 60% time with BioLogos.

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The council spent much time discussing future strategic directions. They asked the director to survey the members to better determine their priorities for ASA. A more concerted effort to obtain funding from foundations will also be coordinated. Our focus continues to have the journal and the annual meeting as the primary focus, with the website, *God and Nature*, the newsletter, and local chapter meetings broadening our audience.

