



**Newsletter**  
of the  
**ASA & CSCA**  
volume 56 number 1



## Hamilton Here We Come!

It's not every day that three different science and faith organizations from around the world come together in mutual pursuit of questions at the intersection of theology, society, and the natural world.

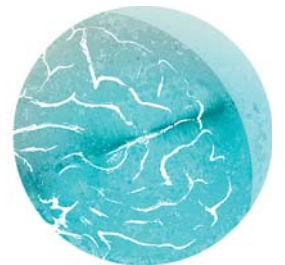
This summer's ASA/CSCA Annual Meeting is one of the special occasions in which our American and Canadian sister organizations will come together with our friends across the pond, the English group Christians in Science.

As with every ASA/CSCA Annual Meeting, we will enjoy lectures from top scholars in a wide range of disciplines, from psychology to ethics to physics and biblical interpretation. This synthesis of science and the spiritual, so important to being a Christian in the sciences, is also quite rare, as conference themes go. Our Annual Meeting is a special time of

*continued on p. 3*



FROM COSMOS TO PSYCHE



the  
American  
Scientific  
Affiliation

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## The Director's Corner



Excitement is mounting for our 2014 ASA annual meeting as can be seen from this issue. The scope is all encompassing as reflected in the theme “From Cosmos to Psyche” and the verse “All things hold together in Christ” (Col. 1:17). We will consider the spectrum of nature from its very beginnings to the awesome phenomena of consciousness and spiritual awakening.

The study of the cosmos is stirring much excitement in our society these days, thanks in part to several recent developments. One is the astounding announcement of the first evidence supporting inflationary theory. The BICEP2 project at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics announced its results a few weeks ago. They detected the faint swirls of polarization that indicated the signature of gravitational waves as would be consistent with some of the more favored versions of inflationary theory. One of our plenary speakers, Barth Netterfield, is an active researcher in balloon cosmology in Antarctica, working on

a complementary project, Spider, that may be in a position to confirm these results from a different perspective.

Another focus on the cosmos comes from the TV series *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey* featured currently on Fox and related TV channels. The host, Neil deGrasse Tyson, seeks to build on Carl Sagan’s well-known series *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage* that was produced in 1980. Being produced by avowed agnostics and atheists, as was the initial series, there was widespread concern about the implicit metaphysical messages that would be conveyed. Accordingly, we have set up a forum for comments by ASA members to help elucidate those tendencies. Be sure to read it at this link and comment if you wish: <https://asa3.site-ym.com/forums/Topics.aspx?forum=167439&group=134210>

At the other end of the spectrum, President Obama recently announced a major program called BRAIN for “Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies.” The National Institutes of Health, led by ASA Fellow Francis Collins, will work with DARPA and NSF to coordinate this work. We look forward to hearing some results of this project in the future. At our annual meeting, we’ll be hearing a number of papers on psychology to help our understanding of our psyche in light of the creation and the Fall.

This year we will continue our recent trend toward adding pre-meeting options for those who are able to come a day or two earlier. On Friday

we will have two workshops, one by John Walton on “Origins Today: Genesis Through Ancient Eyes,” and one by Stephen Freeland on “Progress and Challenges in Understanding Life’s Origins.” Field trips, including visits to Niagara Falls or the Royal Botanical Gardens, will also be offered that day. Denis Lamoureux will be offering his flip-course “Science & Religion: An Introduction” on Thursday and Friday.

What is important to stress is that the value of the meeting lies far beyond the intellectual content. The opportunity to meet and share with other Christians in the sciences is vital for our spiritual lives. We work in a variety of environments. Some of us are in Christian institutions where we already have a community of believers that share our faith. But many of us work in places where Christian faith is not valued and may even be viewed as a negative. Some of us worship in churches where our scientific perspectives are appreciated while others of us struggle with a home church that sees many scientific results as antithetical to Christianity. We need to come together in a spirit of unity in the body of Christ, sharing our ideas and our faith, supporting one another in the life to which Christ has called us.

Don’t miss this opportunity. Come to McMaster University in July and bring your friends and colleagues. See you there!

fellowship, learning, and worship with a rich community of people deeply invested in knowing more about God and nature.

This edition of the ASA/CSCA newsletter is largely dedicated to introducing our plenary speakers for this summer's meeting. They hail from universities around the world and have worked for major scientific and medical organizations. Well recognized within their home disciplines, these scholars have also dedicated their minds and time to the pursuit of questions beyond the scope of the purely empirical. Being stewards of the investigative powers God has given us means integrating what we learn about the world around us and the power we continue to gain over it with a working understanding of how we should respond and use these things both as Christians and as citizens of the world.

We hope that reading these brief biographies will encourage our members to sign up for this year's annual meeting! Registration is now open at [asa3.org](http://asa3.org) (click on the tab for Annual Meeting).

Our next edition of the newsletter will cover some local ASA news and give a rundown of some extracurricular opportunities associated with our meeting in Canada, including a description of field trips and workshops. Look for it in early summer!

—Emily Ruppel, editor

# GOD & NATURE

magazine

conversing beyond  
the controversy

essays : articles : poetry  
on science and faith

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

## Welcome, New Members!

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2013

Allen, Paul –Montreal, QC  
Anderson, John –Elgin, IL  
Anstine, Bob –Kennewick, WA  
Ballinger, Ronald –Andover, MA  
Bernhardt, Jan –Hamilton, ON  
Biggers, Boyce –Nashville, TN  
Brown, Alexis –Edwardsville, IL  
Carlson, Melissa –Naperville, IL  
Cherney, Michael –Ann Arbor, MI  
Czapla, Kenneth –Belmont, MA  
Davis, Taylor –San Diego, CA  
Davison, Rick –Schoolcraft, MI  
Dixon, Edward –Raleigh, NC  
Doss, James –Wytheville, VA  
Eveleigh, Ryan –Kingston, ON  
Fabro, Dakota –La Verne, CA

Fu, Jennifer –Wheaton, IL  
Gonzalez-Alvarado, Lucero –Glendale, AZ  
Gullett, Jonathan –Murfreesboro, TN  
Hagerman, Johnny –Newark, Ohio  
Hayes, Jordan –Laramie, WY  
Hiltbrand, Dave –Wilmington, NC  
Hutchinson, Tom –Belleville, ON  
Jackson-Henry, India –Lithonia, GA  
Johnston, Gareth –Lavender Bay,  
New South Wales, Australia  
Kaiser, Daniel –Nepean, ON  
Korff, Megan –Centennial, CO  
Lindquist, Brent –Fresno, CA  
Lowery, Jessica –Columbus, OH  
MacDougall, P. –Ottawa, ON  
McCullum, Keane –Mechanicsburg, PA

McRae, Bradford –Northborough, MA  
Mix, Lucas –Cambridge, MA  
Nesbitt, William –Meadow Vista, CA  
Orteza, Luis –Birmingham, AL  
Robb, Samuel –Rogers, OH  
Roels, Steve –Bath, MI  
Sanders, Ben –Tempe, AZ  
Schultz, Kathy –Ankara, Turkey  
Smith, Erin –Carlsbad, CA  
Stawinski, Stephanie –Quartz Hill, CA  
Thompson, Jeremy –Little Rock, AR  
Touryan, Cheryl –Indian Hills, CO  
Veazey, Janelle –Geneseo, NY  
Wessel, Tessa –El Mirage, AZ  
White, J. –St. Charles, MO  
Wilkerson, Josh –Austin, TX

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: 2014 Plenary Speakers

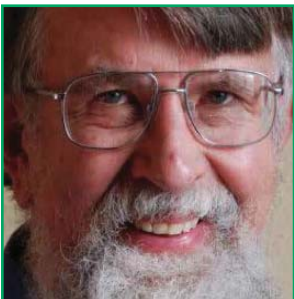


**Jeffrey Schloss** is a Distinguished Professor of Biology and the T.B. Walker Chair of Natural and Behavioral Sciences at Westmont College, USA, and is the Director for the Center for Faith, Ethics & Life Sciences.

His research interests are in the physiological ecology of water relations, the evolution of altruism and moral systems and the theological implications of Darwinism. An AAAS Mass-Media Fellow in Science Communication, he is a winner of the Westmont College Faculty Research Award and a three-time winner of the Monroe Outstanding Teacher Award.

**Megan Best** is a bioethicist and palliative care doctor who is employed by HammondCare, a Christian health-care provider in Sydney, Australia. She studied medicine at Newcastle University and has degrees in theology, palliative care, research and ethics and is currently working on a PhD at the University of Sydney. Her thesis focuses on the spiritual needs of dying patients.

A lobbyist and a quiltmaker, her clinical focus is the development of a Palliative Care Day Clinic which aims to support terminally ill patients with advanced disease who wish to remain living at home. Megan has been a strong participant in the Centre for Apologetic Scholarship and Education (CASE) network as an associate and scholar. She works as a member of the Faculty writing papers, delivering lectures and co-convenes the CASE medical ethics conference. She is author of the books *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Ethics and the Beginning of Human Life* and *A Life Already Started*.



**Don Page** is a Canadian theoretical physicist at the University of Alberta, Canada, whose work focuses on quantum cosmology and theoretical gravitational physics.

He got his BA at William Jewell College in the United States in 1971, attaining an MS in 1972 and a PhD in 1976 at Caltech. He followed this with a NATO Postdoctoral Fellowship in science at Cambridge University under the supervision of Professor Stephen Hawking. Don has recently made a number of contributions to the science/faith dialogue. He has been married to Catherine Hotke since 1986. They have five children.

**Calvin Barth Netterfield** is a Canadian astrophysicist, and a Professor in the Department of Astronomy and the Department of Physics at the University of Toronto. He is a leading expert in developing instrumentation to observe the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation, specializing in the development of balloon-borne telescopes. These are astrophysical experiments that are lifted into the stratosphere by high-altitude balloons where they conduct observations that would be hindered by atmospheric interference if done on the ground. He was a key member of the instrument team for BOOMERANG, the experiment that made one of the first accurate determinations of the age, geometry, and mass-energy content of the universe.



More recently, he has delved into the field of submillimetre astronomy and the physics of star formation, through his involvement with the BLAST telescope, and was featured prominently in BLAST!, a documentary film about the 2005 and 2006 flights of BLAST from Sweden and Antarctica.



**Rev Dr Alasdair Coles** is a lecturer in neuroimmunology (study of the nervous and immune system together) at Cambridge University and is an honorary consultant neurologist to Addenbrooke's and Hinchingsbrooke Hospitals in the UK.

He is involved in research into new treatments for multiple sclerosis (a disease that causes damage to the nerves) and in the neurological basis for religious experience. He was ordained in the Church of England in 2008 and is now a curate at St Andrews Church, Cambridge, alongside his medical and scientific work. Alasdair is married to Olivia and they have two young children.

## ASA Goes to AAAS!

For about ten years in a row, now, ASA and CSCA have had a presence at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

This year, we shared a booth at the meeting with several differ-



evening's DSeR (Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion) event. As always, our mission was met with a mixture of responses, in many cases opening eyes to the possibility of harmony between science and faith.



ent science and faith organizations: the Ecumenical Roundtable, BioLogos, CTNS, and the Zygon Center for Religion and Science. At the conference, we spent time talking to attendees in the exhibit hall, and gathering with other ASA members at dinner after Friday



# Members in Glory

## Karl M. Oberholser

Karl Oberholser, 70, of Mechanicsburg, PA, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 25, 2013, at the Select Specialty Hospital, Camp Hill, PA.



He was born September 21, 1942, in Mechanicsburg, the son of the late Christian L. and Miriam A. (Wenger) Oberholser. He was a retired professor at Messiah College, where he taught in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Karl was a graduate of Chambersburg Area High School class of 1960, a graduate of Messiah College and Auburn University (PhD). Karl was an associate professor at Black Hawk College, Moline, IL, 1968–1969; and Penn State Hershey School of Medicine from 1972–1976.

Karl was one of a small number of educators in the world who pioneered the development of educational 3D interactive tutorials on important chemical and biochemical molecules and concepts using Protopedia.

He was a member of the Grantham Brethren in Christ Church, where he taught Sunday School and enjoyed leading the Boys Brigade.

Karl was a lifetime member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) for over 30 years. He presented a poster at the 2000 ASA Annual Meeting that allowed for a personal examination of interactive computer exercises which were made with Toolbook and HyperChem or Chime, a web-page plug-in. He was a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for 45 years and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for 42 years. His hobbies were hiking the Appalachian Trail, bird-watching, and reading.

## Donald H. Kobe

Donald Kobe, 79, of Denton, Texas, passed away peacefully at his home on December 3, 2013. Donald was born in Seattle, Washington, on January 13, 1934, the son of Kenneth and Jeneva Holm Kobe. Donald graduated from the University of Texas and went on to earn his Master's degree and PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Donald was a professor emeritus in the Department of Physics at the University of North Texas from 1968 to 2008. He made significant contributions to quantum theory and to other areas of theoretical physics. He published papers concerned with quantum mechanics, quantum field theory, statistical mechanics, classical mechanics and electromagnetism.

Donald joined the ASA in 1975 and later was elected Fellow. Over the

years, he reviewed manuscripts for publication in *PSCF*.

## Johannes Joost (Joe) DeVries

Joe DeVries was born in 1936, in Chicago, to George and Georgia DeVries and died at home on Dec. 8, 2013, after a 17-year battle with prostate cancer. He attended schools in Alameda and college in Michigan, earning a bachelor's degree in engineering from both Calvin College and the University of Michigan and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan. He returned to California in 1961 to work for the state Department of Water Resources Aqueduct Design Branch. He received a PhD from UC Davis in 1978. He had been an ASA member since 1983.

Joe married Donna Hefner from Woodland in November 1968, and was the father of two sons.

His engineering career spanned fifty years in the fields of hydraulic engineering, irrigation system analysis and hydrology. He was a registered civil engineer in California, a registered professional hydrologist with the American Institute of Hydrology and a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He began working at UC Davis in 1972 and served as



a research engineer, engineer-in-charge of the J. Amorocho Hydraulics Laboratory, northern regional coordinator and associate director of the Water Resources Center and lecturer in the departments of civil and environmental engineering and land, air, and water resources.

Joe taught courses at UC Davis, at Sacramento State University through University of California Extension, at the Computational Hydrology Institute, and for professional groups such as ASCE and the Floodplain Management Association. He retired from UC Davis in 1993, and became a consulting engineer working with various firms, state, federal and international agencies. From 2001 through 2012, he held the position of principal engineer with David Ford Consulting Engineers Inc. in Sacramento.

He received great pleasure in encountering students who had taken courses from him, and who thanked him for receiving practical engineering knowledge from his teaching. He received an award for Excellence in Teaching and Outstanding Service from University Extension at UC Davis and an award from the California Extreme Precipitation Symposium in recognition of his lifetime of service as a teacher, adviser, and mentor to colleagues who work to minimize the adverse impacts of extreme precipitation in California.

Joe had a lifelong love of music, and in the 1960s was a member of a folk singing group. He enjoyed entertaining family and friends with his guitar and singing. He also sang in church choirs and with the Davis International House choir. He had

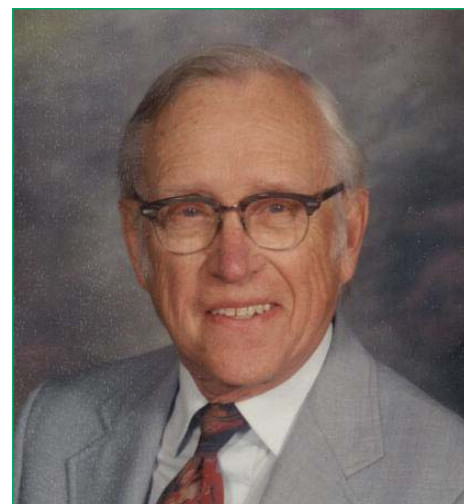
a real passion for the outdoors, and in his 20s was an avid outdoorsman and mountain climber. He was a member of the Sierra Club for more than fifty years. In more recent years, he greatly enjoyed summer excursions to the Hefner family cabin at Bucks Lake in the Northern Sierra.

Joe and Donna were active members of Living Stones Christian Reformed Church and enjoyed international travel. Donna accompanied Joe on working trips to India, Morocco, Japan, and Taiwan and to international conferences. They also traveled together in the U.S. and to Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Australia, and New Zealand for pleasure and loved taking ocean and river cruises.

### V. Elving Anderson

Elving Anderson was born September 6, 1921, in Stromsburg, NB, and died on March 9, 2014 in Stillwater, Minnesota. Elving worked in his family's funeral home before enrolling at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, where he met his wife, Carol. At the urging of a professor, he took a class in zoology that changed his life.

Originally headed for the mission field, Elving attended (then) Bethel Junior College. During his second year, he was an assistant in the biology lab. He next enrolled in Bethel Seminary, where he made a (radical) change to a career path in biology. He transferred to the University of Minnesota and earned the BS, MS, and PhD (zoology) while teaching part-time at Bethel.



After graduation he served Bethel as head of the the biology department, temporary faculty dean and dean of students. In 1960 he took a postdoc appointment at the NIH in Washington, DC, to work on study of the inheritance of disease in prenatal children.

Hooked on genetics, Elving made a second radical move to accept an offer from his doctoral advisor and joined him at the Dight Institute of Genetics and on the University faculty where he had a distinguished career investigating the genetics of breast cancer, mental illness, and epilepsy. Years later, he would tell an interviewer, "I can see how God was leading me step by step into human genetics research."

His early research led to his first book, in 1958, *Variables Related to Human Breast Cancer*, which looked at the role of environment and genetics in the disease.

Elving never forgot his Christian roots and lectured at many Christian colleges in a period when Christian education was emerging from the Bible college period. He joined the ASA and was voted to the ASA Council in 1960. Among his

more important publications were the book *On Behalf of God: A Christian Ethic for Biology*, an article titled “Imaged Through the Lens Darkly: Human Personhood,” written with Bruce Reichenbach for the ETS, and his early *JASA* article: “Personal Decisions in Biomedical Research.” They reflect the wide range of his interests.

“His idea was always that there’s no inherent contradiction between [science and faith],” said his son, Carl Anderson, a child psychiatrist in New York. In fact, he was entirely at home in both worlds, his family said, at a time when religious groups and scientists were often in conflict. Many times Elving found himself in the role of peacemaker, trying to help them find common ground, his son said. “He was really very gifted in that.”

Elving was also conscious of the ethical implications of his work, his family said. In a 1988 paper, he argued that scientists were not “playing God” by trying to cure genetic illnesses. He wrote:

A more reasonable approach is to insist that all of our endeavors be carried out in the spirit of being answerable to God ... The Creator bestows the power of creation ... on humans, to be used morally.

and

Biology helps me to construct a fuller view of God’s relationship to the world. It doesn’t subtract from it. After all, it is God’s world, so I am appropriately interested in it.”

Elving retired in 1991.

Francis Collins, head of the National Institutes of Health, posted a tribute after Anderson’s death, saying: “For me, Elving represented a wonderfully winsome role model of the scientist-Christian.”

Anderson’s youngest daughter, Martha Anderson, a scientist in Silver Spring, Maryland, said her father was “quiet and understated” and would often talk at home about his love of science. “He was just the consummate professor,” she said. “He was a teacher at work and at home.”

The University of Minnesota will host an annual lecture in his honor: The V. Elving Anderson Lecture in Science and Religion. The lecture was created by MacLaurin CSE, a group that promotes Christian faith in academic studies.

### Eugene L. Maxwell

Eugene Maxwell, 83, passed away January 25, 2014, in Fort Collins, Colorado. The journey of his life began in a small house on the west side of Fort Collins on December 24, 1930, and was completed at his current home. He was a farm boy, proud of his Scottish descent and western roots.

An insatiable curiosity eventually led Gene to studies in electrical engineering at CU Boulder and a PhD from the Natural Resources and Forestry College of Colorado State University. His career as a research scientist, which was culminated by seventeen years at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, took him on what he refers

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Send Coming Events information to David Fisher, [dfisherasa@gmail.com](mailto:dfisherasa@gmail.com)

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to in the title of his self-published memoirs as *An American Odyssey* that stretched at least twice around the globe.

For 47 years he was accompanied by his beloved wife Barbara J. Maxwell who encouraged him to look more deeply into the mysteries of heaven even as he introduced her to the hidden glories of the stars. He is survived by five children (Gayla Martinez, Becky Fulton, Tim Maxwell, Eric Maxwell, Tammy Cline) and ten grandchildren.

An ASA member since 1999, Gene devoted countless hours to the ASA Knowing Creation Project.

### Check This Out!

[www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org) → FORUMS → ASA COMMENTS → (COSMOS/ YOUR INNER FISH / YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY)