

President's Report of the ASA

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The year 2004 has been one of the most significant decision-making years of the decade for the ASA, and certainly for my tenure on the Executive Council.

Our Executive Director, Don Munro, advised the Executive Council in 2003 that he would like to retire after the 2004 annual meeting. After serving ASA so well for ten years, Don indeed retired last summer after the meeting at TWU, Vancouver, Canada. We then brought him back on a half-time basis until our new Executive Director could take the reigns. By the end of January 2005, Don was finally able to fully throw himself into his planned retirement activities.

The Executive Council served as the search committee, with the senior member of the Council, Ken Touryan, as its chairman. It was a sobering thought to be on the Council when such a serious decision was to be made. We limited candidates to members of the ASA. Members were advised of the open position and a modest number applied. Many telephone conference interviews and Council meetings took place leading up to the summer meeting.

As you all know by now, Dr. Randall Isaac is our new Executive Director. He is still working at IBM but is overseeing things on a volunteer basis until this summer when he will have finished his commitments there and have moved to the Massachusetts area where ASA's offices are located.

Elsewhere in this report you will read of improvements and activities with our core communication activities (the Journal, the membership newsletter and the web site). The other publication activity that has probably involved the most people for the most hours is the ongoing project to create material that can be used in the local church to help them understand why ASA members (and many of their young people) have views that may differ from their own regarding details of creation and evolution, but who love the Lord Jesus Christ as deeply, regard Scripture just as highly, and hold the same range of theological views as do the churches.

In particular we need to make the case that God has given us two means to study in order to understand his might and power and nature, Scripture and creation. Properly understood, the two will not clash. When there seems to be a contradiction, we need to be open to think through both some details of our theology and our science without feeling that by this process we are being unfaithful to either. At least we want the churches to understand that we are not questioning that God both authored the Scripture and brought about the creation.

It is so important that this project succeed, especially for the youth of these churches who go off to the university and in many cases feel alienated or else hesitate to share their thoughts back at the home churches. Some are afraid to be open because they would disappoint those who have mentored them in their faith. We all know many who are in that situation. Some in this situation may come to question their faith, and no doubt we can help them in that regard.

In the process of writing this, the committee is finding that it is not an easy task. There are many views within the ASA. In my opinion, we may need to hesitate in the future before taking on any writing task that requires us to come up with "the" ASA position. The ASA is first and foremost a membership organization, a fellowship of Christians in science who have in common a faith in Christ and a theology that we seriously have tried to base on Scripture.

Being a membership organization does not mean we do not find ways to impact and inform society. We must do that. However, it does mean that we must determine that it is not our goal to surround ourselves only with Christians who come to the same conclusions that we do on particular issues. We can and should debate the issues, even try to persuade each other—but not with the goal of turning ASA into a limited membership organization of people who all think alike.

Randall Isaac will be soliciting your thoughts as to possible new directions and initiatives. I am excited about the new energy and ideas he brings to the affiliation. It is an exciting time to be part the ASA. See you at the Annual Meeting at Messiah College in PA!

President's Report of CSCA

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The year 2004 was an interesting one for the CSCA, one filled with a number of new directions and some changes.

Our pinnacle event of the year was hosting the joint ASA/CSCA/CiS meeting at Trinity Western University out in Langley, B.C. in July. This was the first time that a CSCA Annual Meeting was held in that part of Canada, and the only the second time we had ever organized a meeting of that size on our own soil (the first being the ASA/CSCA Meeting in Toronto in 1996). Local organizer Judy Toronchuk is to be thanked for the long hours and hard work that she put into this meeting to make it a success. Our thanks go to all others at the ASA and CSCA, whose behind-the-scenes work we simply could not do without.

Our nation-wide lecture series, "Science and Faith in the 21st Century," featured four speakers in 2004: Owen Gingerich, David Cechetto, Colin Humphreys and Cal De Witt. The respective topics were cosmology, neuroscience, miracles, and the environment.

Owen Gingerich visited B.C. in February, delivering talks he had previously given on the east coast: "Dare a Scientist Believe in Design?" and "Truth in Science: Proof, Persuasion, and the Galileo Affair." These were very well received and generated a number of new members for CSCA.

David Cechetto, a neurobiologist from the University of Western Ontario, gave a talk on his research on brain plasticity. Entitled "Renewing Our Minds: More than a Metaphor," he drew parallels between several scripture passages concerning the transforming of our minds and his work on neural development. David was also a plenary speaker at the annual meeting in July. CiS member and Cambridge University professor Colin Humphreys visited five cities: Fredericton, Halifax, Montreal, London and Waterloo. Along with a specialized talk discussing his work on Gallium Arsenide semiconductors, he gave two talks: "Can a Scientist Believe in Miracles?" and "The Miracles of Exodus," each discussing the credibility of miracles in a scientific age.

In September, Cal De Witt visited the B.C. area to deliver two talks on environmental stewardship: "A Conservancy Worldview: Biblical Teachings on the Care of Creation" and "Eco-stewardship 2004: New Perspectives on the Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis." Cal was also featured in the afternoon at a TWU campus event (opening of restored nature trail) attended by about 150 people.

However, the purpose of this public lecture series is to present current issues in the ongoing science/religion dialogue from a Christian perspective. The lecture series committee in 2004 was Mike Robertson, Don McNally, Robert Mann (chair), Judy Toronchuk, Tony Whitehead and Denis Lamoureux. All deserve a round of thanks for their hard work in making the series possible. The year 2004 represented the last year that grant money from both the Priscilla & Stanford Reid Trust and the Local Societies Initiative would support this series. News articles about the series appeared in several regions of the country, including B.C., Ontario and Nova Scotia. The lecture series has given us new opportunities to articulate the gospel of Jesus Christ in ways and places that otherwise would not be available. We contend that our society will benefit from the participation of a biblically grounded prophetic voice in the ongoing public discussion concerning the role and usage of science. May the Holy Spirit guide to seek new venues of witness and ministry, as the financial support for this series draws to a close.

Membership has slowly but steadily increased to approximately 120 members, up from 100 about a year ago. We have initiated a new category of membership: a trial membership for two years to allow newcomers to "try out" the CSCA at a lower fee level. This has undoubtedly been part of the cause of our increase in membership. Priced at \$30/year, members joining in this capacity receive all benefits of membership except for a subscription to *Perspectives*. A person can be an entry-level member for only two years, after which time they are expected to move into one of the regular membership categories.

Our last main activity was the formation/revival of local chapters of the CSCA. Executive Director Don McNally has spent much time and effort in fostering the development of local chapters in Vancouver, Hamilton, London, and Edmonton. We plan to make more effective use of local chapters in the coming years to further the work and ministry of the CSCA.

We continue to be grateful for God's guidance and leadership, always mindful to pray with trust for great things through the Holy Spirit.

CSCA Executive Director's Report

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This has been an important year of consolidation and expansion for the CSCA. Following the very successful joint ASA/CSCA/CiS meeting at Trinity Western last summer, a lot of attention and effort has been directed towards establishing vital local sections of the CSCA in areas across Canada. The new promotional membership category has helped bring in new members and broaden our base of involvement across the country.

This has also been a year of transition as we move from the original LSI matching grant that made possible our annual lecture series to the development of the LSI initiative at the chapter level. At this point, the Vancouver Local Section of the CSCA, under the leadership of Judy Toronchuk, has received a three-year LSI matching grant. Two additional local chapters, those at the University of Western Ontario and McMaster, are also submitting applications in the final round of the program competition. It is clear that the national lecture series over the past three years has helped to plant the seeds for local sections in a number of areas, and has also helped to bring together a very diverse and talented team of Christians in the CSCA with a desire to minister in their areas of scientific work and academic calling. As these local activities take root, we are also looking at ways to increase the national voice and influence of the CSCA.

The CSCA executive council will be meeting late in May for further strategic planning. We value your prayers and suggestions for ways that the work of the CSCA can be expanded to reach more faculty and students at Canadian universities, and those with an interest in faith and science issues in the church.

In the next *Observations*, we will begin a series of profiles of Executive Council members and local sections to help build the wider sense of community that is so vital to the work of the CSCA.

Much of the work of the CSCA this year has been behind the scenes in preparation for more visible ministry on campus and partnership with other organizations on campus to develop a strong Christian witness. Donations to the CSCA at this critical time will help strengthen these initiatives and broaden our base of support.

Executive Director's Report for 2004

Donald W. Munro, Jr.
Executive Director, Retired
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It is one of my final duties to write this annual report. It has been a great privilege to serve this wonderful affiliation over the past decade and to become acquainted with so many of you who take seriously the integration of your science area with your faith. For the 28 years I was a full-time teacher, our faculty worked on the integration process with the many students who filtered through our Houghton College classes. Only rarely do you get to see the fruits of that labor. Since coming to Elizabeth City, NC, I ran into one of my former students, and he expressed how much he was helped by us in his Christian growth. Only eternity will tell what the little things that each of you do may mean in the lives of those around you. I urge all of us to keep this in the forefront of our minds.

February 12–14, 2004, Jack Haas and I had another chance to interact and witness to hundreds of Christians who came to Congress 2004 in Boston. This year we gathered information about bioethical considerations by having those interested complete a questionnaire. The several years that we had a booth at Congress, I believe, established ASA as a solid, Christian organization in the broad community. We almost always picked up some new members and found that ASA members who came by were so glad that we were involved with this large evangelical gathering.

Another highlight of the year was our meeting at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia, which was graciously hosted by the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation (CSCA). Program Chair Judy Toronchuk and Local Arrangements Chair David Clements, along with others, worked to provide a full program and accommodations. We gathered from July 23–26, to hear some stimulating lectures on which we sometimes agreed to disagree agreeably. This is the way we grow as we find new ideas that make greater sense under the Lordship of Christ. I really appreciate the way that we treat one another courteously, and some who have attended for the first time have commented on that. We must never let our quarrels get out of hand. As they have done for ASA in the past, the Templeton Foundation awarded CSCA a grant to help defray the costs, and for this we are profoundly thankful.

Following the meeting was a magnificent trip through the Canadian Rockies. The Collette Vacations tour took us to places such as Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper, and Calgary. One of the events I enjoyed was a ride on a special vehicle up to a glacier area. The places you see in travel magazines became real and our group enjoyed bonding

together through some never-to-be-forgotten experiences. Since becoming an ASA member, I have seen so much more of God's creation than I ever expected such as Europe, Hawaii, and Alaska. We are blessed to be a part of ASA.

The Templeton/ASA lecture series ended in early December and included 154 lectures with an average attendance of 288 per lecture. Recently, I calculated that over the years of the grants, we had penetrated into about 155 colleges, universities and seminaries. This includes some well-known state and Ivy League universities as well as numerous Christian liberal arts colleges and universities. Each venue had one to three lectures and at almost every lecture the ASA was presented as a sponsor. They announced what we were about and made our brochures available as well as sample journals and newsletters. This was great publicity for us and effusive thanks needs to be given for the generosity of the Templeton Foundation in supporting the series.

This year our December ASA Council meeting was graciously hosted by Martin and Bonnie Price at ECHO in North Fort Myers, Florida, which is a very good place to be in December. Martin gave us a tour of some of the ECHO gardens as well as the beautiful little garden they keep out by the back patio. We warmly welcomed Randy Isaac to the meeting as the incoming executive director although his status was still a state secret at that time. We also said goodbye to Ken Touryan who was rotating off the Council after five years but his service to ASA will continue as program chair for the meeting this coming summer at Messiah College. Martin Price finished his term as president; and Marilynne Flora was elected to the presidency for 2005. Ruth Miller completed her first year and will assume the office of secretary/treasurer in 2005. Hessel Bouma was elected as the new vice-president, and we learned that Walter Bradley was elected by the membership to begin his five-year term in 2005. It was also a great privilege to have Johnny Lin at the meeting to speak for the student and early career members. The ASA is so privileged to have such competent people leading and serving its interests.

There are so many people to thank profusely for their help with ASA in 2004 that it is hard to know where to begin. The ASA staff comes immediately to mind as without them I could not have functioned—Carol Aiken and Lyn Berg with Laurie Grover and Bob Barnett serving part of the year. Recently, Jonathan Chechile, Diane Kemmer, and Robyn Leet joined the staff. Where would ASA be without our conscientious editors—Roman Miller, David Fisher, Margaret Towne, and Richard Ruble. Special thanks to Terry Gray and Jack Haas who work tirelessly with our web site. Thanks to CSCA Executive Director Don McNally, CSCA President Robert Mann, and longtime CSCA Secretary Esther Martin, for the outstanding work they do in Canada. Finally, my thanks goes to all the ASA members who graciously support us with gifts, prayers, recruitment of members, ideas, and more. There is yet so much to accomplish as all of us await that day when the Lord will return. God bless you as you strive to serve wherever God has placed you.

Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith

Editor's Report for 2004

Roman J. Miller

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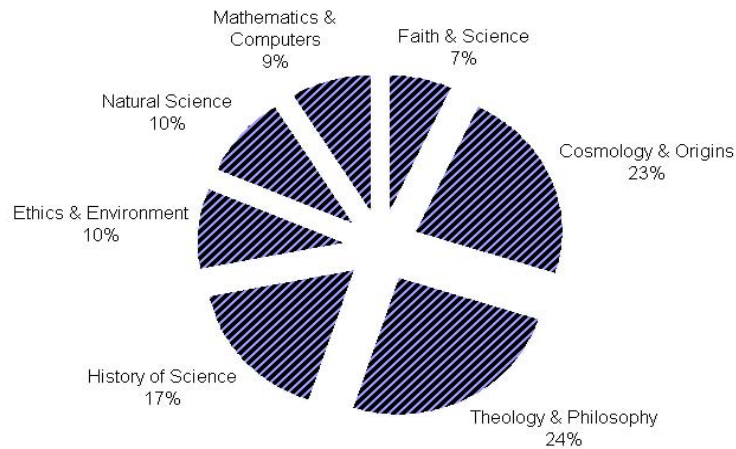
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During the 2004 calendar year, *PSCF* was published as four quarterly issues, containing a total of 320 pages. Manuscripts, consisting of the four categories (Regular Articles, Communications, News & Views and Early Career & Student Articles), made up 69% of the journal pages, 14% of the pages contained Book Reviews, 7% of the pages were filled with Letters, Discussions, News & Views, or Editorials, 1% of the pages contained Art & Science contributions, and 9% of the pages were used for general information sharing and advertising.

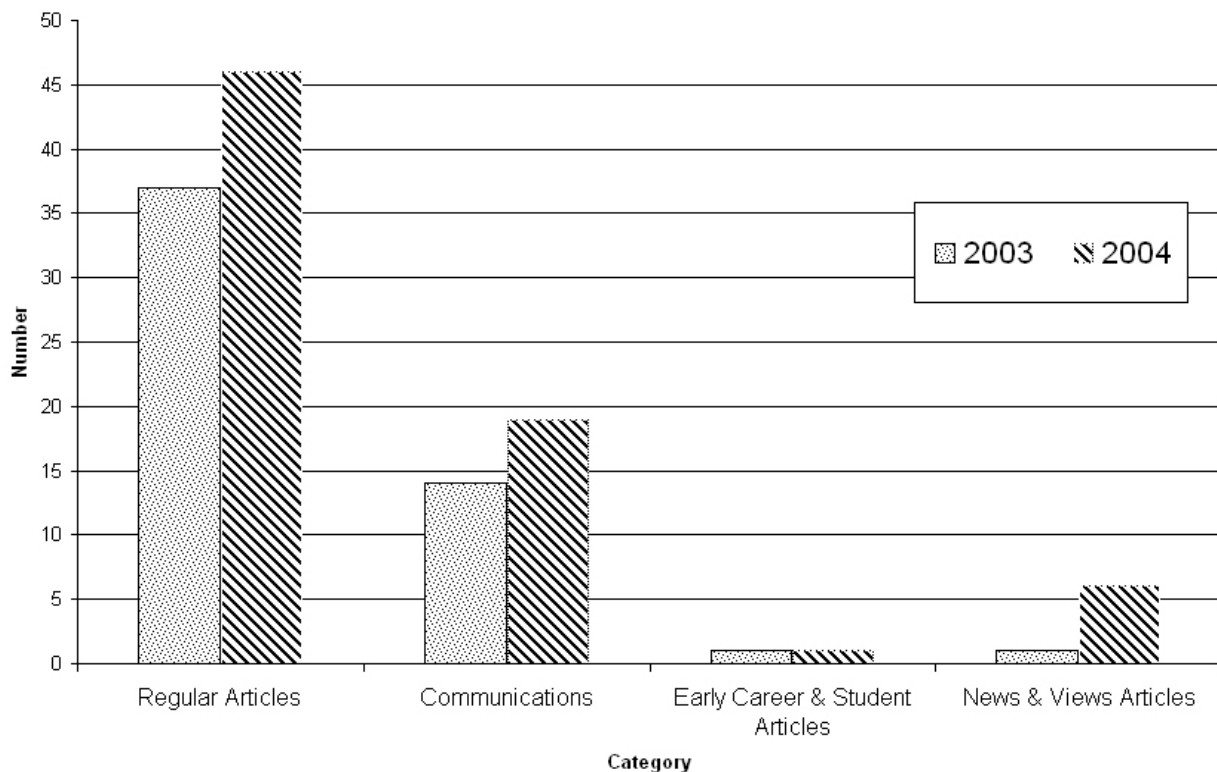
Within the journal, 19 Regular Articles were published (177 pages), 7 Communications (33 pages), 1 Early Career & Student Articles (10 pages), 2 News & Views Articles (2 pages), and 4 Art Views Science contributions (4 pages). The major topics discussed in these articles and the number of journal pages used for each topic were: Natural Science (20.5 pp.), Bible or Faith & Science (15), Cosmology & Origins (48.5), Theology & Philosophy (54.25), History of Science (37.25), Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering (18.5), Social Science (0), and Ethics & Environment (20.5). (For page percentages, see Figure 1: Topic Categories of Peer Reviewed Papers Published in 2004.) The editor wishes to continue promoting a diversity of journal articles. Since manuscripts in the areas of engineering, applied science and technology, and social science are either scarce or lacking in our journal, persons with expertise in these areas are especially invited to submit manuscripts for publication.

Topic Categories of Peer Reviewed Papers Published in 2004



In the 2004 calendar year, the editor received 46 manuscripts submitted for publication as Regular Articles, 19 submitted as Communications, 1 submitted as an Early Career & Student Article, and 6 submitted as a News & Views Article. All submitted manuscripts were reviewed by a minimum of two anonymous peer reviewers. Three persons reviewed about half of the manuscripts and four persons reviewed several manuscripts. The number of submitted manuscripts in these categories was 36% higher in 2004 than in 2003. (See Figure 2: Manuscripts Submitted for Peer Review). Approximately 50% of submitted manuscripts were accepted for publication. The editor solicits more submissions in the Early Career & Student Category in order to make that section a stronger component of our journal. Undergraduate & graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and young academicians and researchers (under the age of 35) are urged to submit manuscripts that reflect their interests and experiences in blending science with faith.

Manuscripts Submitted for Peer Review



The editor greatly appreciated the service of the 110 peer reviewers who participated during the past year in critiquing manuscripts. The Editorial Board members, for the most part, have helpfully participated in reviewing manuscripts and providing needed advice for the editor. Most of the peer review correspondence work is done via email with documents transmitted as attachments. More peer reviewers are needed. Interested persons should contact the editor.

Two new features were initiated for the 2004 journal issues. (1) Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor (may his "tribe increase"!), we published an additional set of eight pages in each issue of the journal. This donation also is renewed for the 2005 issues. (2) A new section, "Art Eyes Science" was proposed for the journal. Readers were encouraged to submit original art or literary pieces that illuminate the connection or integration of Christian faith with science. Poetry was the only art form that was submitted. However, the number of submissions was very minimal. While we continue to hold this category open for reader submissions in 2005, it is apparent that this category has generated minimal interest.

The excellent work and attention given to the journal by Lyn Berg (Managing Editor), Richard Ruble (Book Editor), and the efforts of Kelly Story (Copy Editor) and Robert Greenhow (Book Review Expert Reader) continue to enhance our publication. I'm privileged to work with such a team! As readers and members of ASA, your responses and suggestions for the journal are always welcomed and appreciated.

Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith

Book Review Editor Report for 2004

Richard Ruble

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An important goal of *PSCF* is to continue publishing reviews of books in print. Since books go quickly out of print, it is important to choose books for review that have been recently published. This presents a challenge since there are well over one hundred thousand new books printed yearly in the USA. Of course, most of them are not about the interface of science and Christianity. However, there are hundreds of books that fit into this category. Selecting sight unseen those books appropriate for *PSCF* readers is often a stab in the dark.

A check of the titles of reviews published in *PSCF* reveals a range of subjects sharing in common science-faith dimensions. *Books in Print*, conveniently available on the internet, is extremely helpful since it contains all the relevant information about a book including publisher, publication dates, and postal and e-mail addresses. Many excellent books published are not reviewed in *PSCF*. The book review editor welcomes suggestions of current books which might be considered for a book review for *PSCF*.

Reviewers request books for review via personal contact, e-mail, phone, or through listings in the quarterly *PSCF*. In the past year, the number of people requesting books to review has diminished. There is a standing invitation to ASA members to volunteer to review books. They can request a list of books available for review through ruble@tcainternet.com

The four past issues of *PSCF* (12/03 to 9/04) have contained a total of 79 book reviews, down from the 87 published in 2003 and down from the 112 book reviews published in 2002. This averages to 20 book reviews per issue. Through October 2004 there were 124 books requested for review from publishers. About two-thirds were received. Expenses for postage through October 2004 totaled \$111.30.

I love books and am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Book Review Editor. The entire process of selecting books, contacting reviewers, editing reviews, and seeing the result displayed in *PSCF* is rewarding. May the Lord continue to bless ASA and its quarterly publication *PSCF* as they seek to understand God and His creation.

Newsletter Editors' Report

David Fisher

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and

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Priorities and Emphases:

Our goal continues to be to promote a sense of community among our members and to encourage, inform, stimulate, and edify them. We might even sometimes entertain them! We like to emphasize people in the newsletter as well as news. We have featured some biographical sketches of some of the board members and are trying to do more with the Early Career Scientists.

We are interested in members' insights and activities, especially in the area of the science and religion dialogue, but we are also interested in other areas such as their mission experiences, travel, research, publishing, conferences attended, etc.

A main goal is to include information about the dialogue between science and Christianity. Lecture summaries, items of interest found in newspapers and magazines, dates and places of events are always welcome. Since we all can't attend all of the seminars, conferences, and special lectures, we welcome summaries of such events. We facilitate the ripple effect!

We would like to continually encourage members to send us information of interest or letters of response. It would be helpful if members of council would write at least one article a year on their perspectives or suggestions for ASA's well being.

Our Appreciation:

It continues to be a pleasure to work with Lyn Berg. She is our rock! We also thank Carol Aiken for her gracious support. We very much appreciated working with Don Munro and wish him the best as he moves on. Randy Isaac has already begun giving us materials, and we look forward to working with him.

We sincerely are trying to serve the best interests of the organization and to honor the Lord with our efforts. We appreciate all input and suggestions.

Webmaster's Report

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The [ASA web site](http://www.asa3.org) is managed by Terry M. Gray, Computer Support Scientist in the Chemistry Department at Colorado State University (grayt@lamar.colostate.edu) and Jack Haas, ASA Web Editor (haas.john@comcast.net). The web site is primarily served from a Power Macintosh G4/400 (1.12 GB RAM, 20 GB HD, 60 GB HD, Mac OS X (10.3.8)) running Starnine WebSTAR Server Suite 5.4. The server is physically located in the Chemistry Building at Colorado State University and is connected to the Internet via a 100 Mbps connection through the Colorado State University backbone. A Chemistry Department Power Macintosh G4/450 (256 MB RAM, 20 GB HD, Mac OS X (10.1.5) running FileMaker Pro Unlimited 5.5 serves several ASA databases to the web. A new Power Macintosh dual G5/2.0 (1 GB RAM, 250 GB HD, Mac OS X (10.3.9)) was purchased in the fall of 2004 for the purpose of creating web-based video content from Templeton/ASA lectures. Sometime in 2005 the system will be updated to Mac OS X Server (10.4). The web site will be moved to this new computer and Apache will be used as the web server. We also plan to use this system to manage some lists for members and special sub-groups of the ASA. Craig Rusbult manages a science education sub-site under the auspices of the ASA Education Commission at <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/education/>. Our web site is primarily known as www.asa3.org but is aliased by DNS servers at Colorado State University and Calvin College as asa.calvin.edu and asa.chm.colostate.edu (previously used aliases chemistry.calvin.edu, mcgraytx.calvin.edu have been discontinued). Maintaining these aliases has been important in preserving the continuity of various links to our site as we have changed ISP's and server's over the years. The Calvin College addresses are re-directed in such a way that the recipients, especially search engines, get the up-to-date URL.

The top 500 web pages that were served by the ASA web server during the twelve months of 2004 are listed at <http://www.asa3.org/Statistics/2004/Pages.html>. As we have noted for some time now, the pages and articles that have been around since the inception of the ASA web site continue to get the most hits. Here is a quick summary of the most frequently requested articles: the Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith Home page (88,570), the ASA Home Page (69,547), Roger Wiens article on radiometric dating (HTML version—45,039; PDF version—14,882), the Evolution topics page (14,098), J. Raymond Zimmer's article on evolutionary psychology (9904), Keith Miller's article on transitional forms (9288), Ted Davis' article on Jonah's whale (8078), and Carol Hill's article on the Garden of Eden, which was a new addition to the list of top articles last year (6431). The main new addition to the top articles list this year was the print version of Francis Collins' keynote address at the 2002 ASA Annual Meeting (PDF version—9627). The Topics pages continue to be popular. These are edited by Jack Haas and he is currently working on a major revision of them all. Here is a list of current Topics pages with the number of requests during 2004:

About Science (2273)
Apologetics (3338)
Astronomy-Cosmology (2725)
Bible and Science (5496)
Creation-Evolution (14,098)
Dialogues (1823)
Education (1458)
Essay Review (1925)
Ethics (3891)
Historical Studies (4106)

Mathematics (2212)
Origin of Life (4888)
Philosophy (1922)
Physical Science (2065)
Psychology-Neuroscience (2731)
Science and Technology Ministry (2014)
Science Faith News (5411)
Teaching and Research (1595)
Worldview (2006)
Youth Page (1683)

All of the Topics areas increased with the average increase in hits being around 10%.

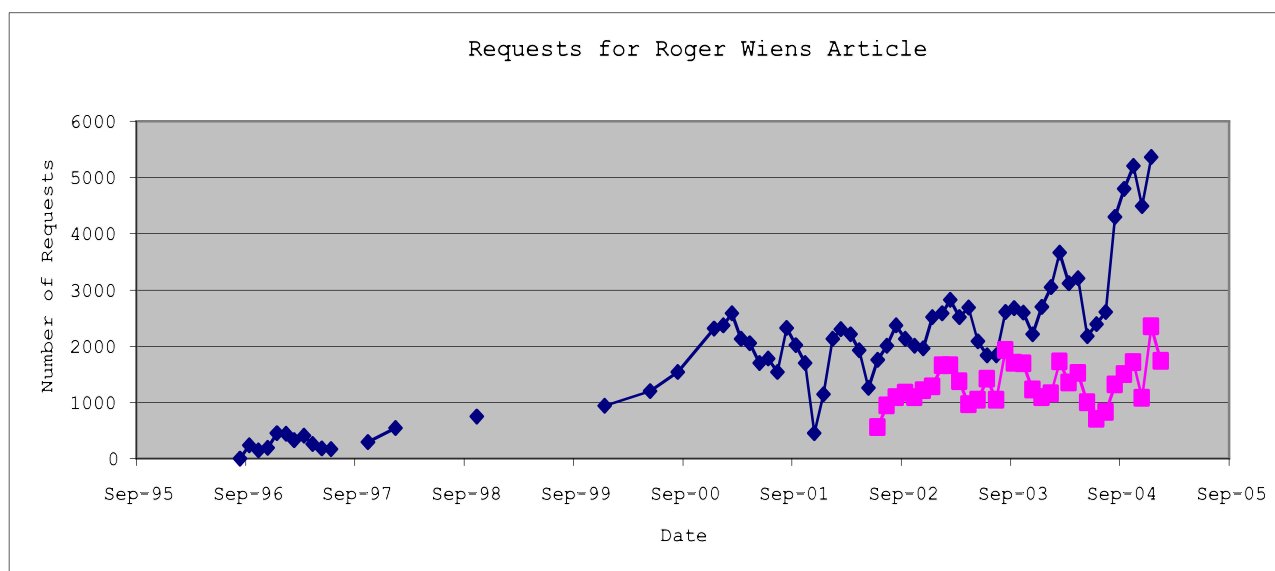
1595 copies of the membership application form were downloaded from the web site during 2004 (over twice as many as last year).

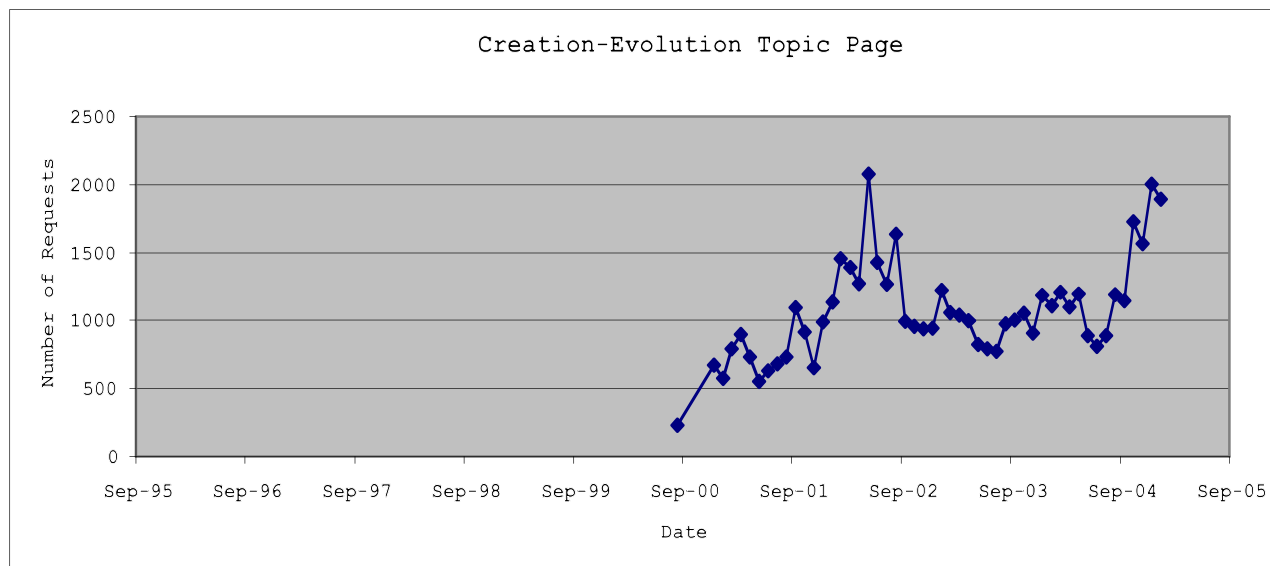
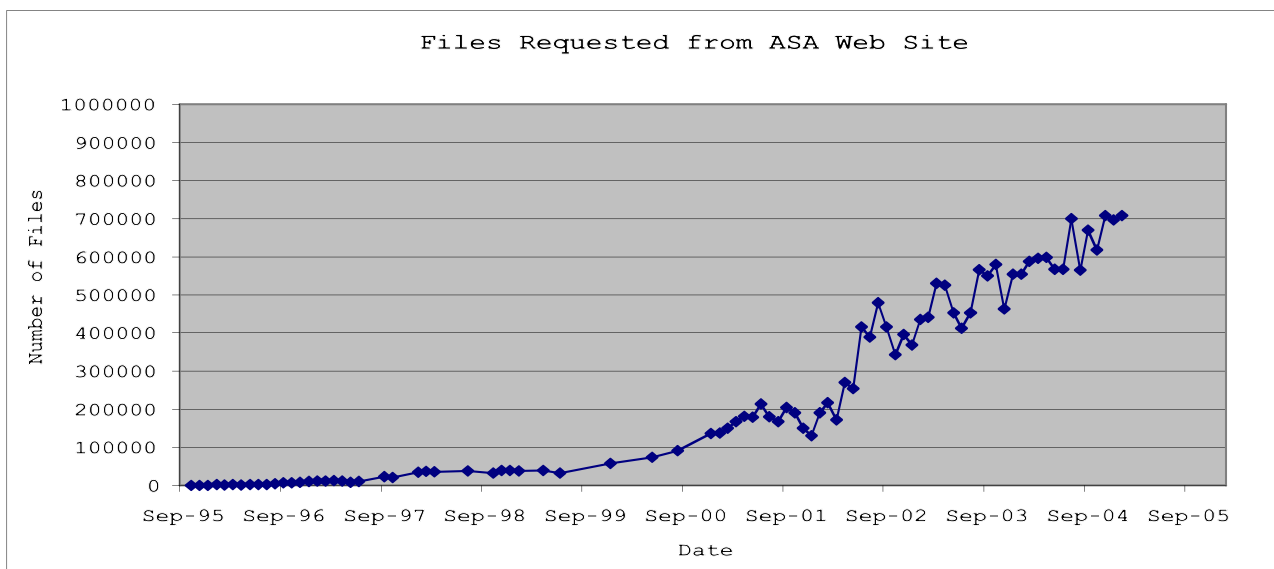
Overall statistics for the year can be found at <http://www.asa3.org/Statistics/2004/>. In comparing the web server statistics from 2004 with those from 2003 the following observations can be made (see the table below for a four year comparison). This year there were 7,278,223 (19,940/day) document requests compared to 5,776,713 (15,837/day) last year (a 25% increase). The average number of visitors/hour were 55.31 this year and 52.14 last year. There were 1327 unique visitors per day this year compared with 1251 last year. There were an average of 225 repeat visitors per day this year compared with 217 last year. In terms of the amount of data transferred, this year we served 122.3 Gigabytes compared with 78.7 Gigabytes last year. These statistics indicate continued increase in the use of our web site—the percentage increase varies considerably depending on what measure is used, somewhere between 10-50%. Requests this year came from 178 different countries with France, Netherlands, Canada, UK, Australia and Italy being the most frequently served countries after the US. This compares to 170 last year with Canada, Netherlands, UK, Australia and the Philippines being the most frequently served after the US. 862,837 (12%) document requests come from search engine spiders and robots compared to 1,396,625 (24%) last year (not sure of the explanation for this decrease).

www.asa3.org WEB SERVER STATISTICS FOR 2001-2004

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Hits	2055680	3668800	5776713	7278223
Unique Visitors	158699	272237	456779	484512
Visitor Sessions	541205	857746	1662811	1742316
Average Visitors Per Hour	18.11	31.08	52.14	55.31
MB Transferred	28174	54743	78659	122822
Errors	69326	89734	40960	50875
Pages Viewed	1489940	2512122	4118854	5289119
Repeat Visitors	25772	43092	79089	82046
One-time visitors	132927	229145	377690	402466
Average Session Length (sec)	169	146	157	186
Average Pages per Session	2.75	2.93	2.48	3.04
Average Pages Viewed Per Day	4082	6863	11284	14490

We track on a monthly basis three items: total number of requests of all types, the requests for Wiens article on radiometric dating (the blue line is the HTML version, the magenta line is the PDF version), and the requests for the creation-evolution topics page. Graphs for these three items are shown below:





This year Jack Haas and I finished the very tedious process of scanning back issues of the *Journal of the ASA/Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* and converting them to HTML for the web site. The entire run (1949 to present) of the journal is now on-line. There remains a fair amount of proof-reading, editing, formatting improvements, etc. but the content is there for everyone's use. New issues of the *PSCF* are added following our policy of at least an 18 month delay between print publication and web publication. Articles published after September 2001 are only accessible in PDF format. The PSCF home page at <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF.html> has links to Table of Contents pages for the entire run of the journal since 1949. If an article is available on-line, there is a link to the article from the Table of Contents pages. From this site you can also find a dynamically produced listing of all journal articles available on the web in addition other indices and ways to access the journal content. Everyone is welcome to notify us about missing articles or bad links to help the editing process along.

There are now several ASA related databases. Some of these simply produce content on demand based on some search criteria; others involve forms that allow users to add content. We have a JASA/PSCF journal database, a members and friends web site listing, and an annual meeting abstract submission database. We continue to work toward a membership application database, a membership directory database, and an annual meeting registration database. Of these three the first two are more or less ready to use—since they involve some privacy issues and payments, we are still sorting out how to best handle these details. These latter three projects suffered some set-back this past year due to transitions in the ASA office. We are currently in the process of setting up an on-line payment system. Once that is done we can move ahead with these additional database back-ended services.

A new feature added to the website last year was the ASA Forums. Responding to some discussions among ASA Communications Commission members we have implemented, phpBB, an open-source bulletin-board program that utilizes the database MySQL, a web-based scripting language PHP, and a web-server. We have implemented a version of this on our web site at <http://www.asa3.org/phpBB2/index.php>. Currently, forums exist for Annual Meeting

Information, Announcements, the Communications Commission, the Students and Early Career Network, and a Faith-Science Discussion. Forums can be set up with varying degrees of privacy depending on the purpose of the particular forum. For example, the Communications Commission and Students and Early Career Network forums are designed for the use of those groups and are only open to members of those groups. The Announcements forum is read-only but is open to everyone. The Faith-Science Discussion forum is readable by everyone, but only registered users of the forum can post responses. There has been some discussion about moving the ASA Email Discussion Group to this forum. It is likely that we will experiment with this during 2005. Other than that not much new activity has occurred here since some of what we envisioned depends on the on-line membership database and a member-wide email distribution list. Again, some of these things are still in the works and we hope to implement them in 2005.

We have added several new ASA/Templeton videos to the web site at <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/ASATempleton/Videos/index.html>. We made a decision to place these directly on the web site (rather than on a streaming server). The videos can be streamed on demand, but they can also be downloaded for later viewing. There are a few others that are in process. We hope soon to move the older videos that are currently only available via streaming video to downloadable access from our web site.

Sometime during 2005 we plan to revamp the look and feel of the web site. The basic content and structure will remain the same, but in the interest of a fresh presentation we make some cosmetic as well as navigational type changes. I am on the lookout for web sites whose style and ease of navigation are particularly good. Suggestions are welcome. Hopefully we will implement the design changes by the summer meeting.

At the beginning of 2005 we implemented a basic RSS feed for the ASA (<http://www.asa3.org/rss/index.rss>). Basic announcements and info are included. We also include on occasion the Faith-Science News that Jack Haas compiles.

Here is a stream of consciousness list of ideas that we've thought about that aren't mentioned elsewhere. Please send your suggestions if you have any.

- An ASA wikipedia
- A monthly email based newsletter
- Podcasting annual meeting talks
- Facilitating mentoring with on-line resources
- *PSCF* journal electronic manuscript handling

Respectfully submitted,

Terry M. Gray
ASA Webmaster

ASA Web Editor Report

J. W. Haas, Jr. ASA Web Editor
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This year's highlight is the completion of a six-year effort to place *JASA/PSCF* on the ASA site. The fifty-four years of materials represents a unique resource of evangelical culture. We are looking for newsletters prior to 1998 to include in the on-line collection.

Topical materials have been expanded and broadened to include material from other sources. A visit to <http://www.asa3.org/Statistics/2004/Pages.html> will indicate the depth and diversity of interest in our materials.

Science-faith news is up-dated daily. We are experimenting with an RSS feed for the site. Craig Rusbult (education) and Chuck Austerberry (public school science) are contributing editors. We seek other volunteers.

The year 2005 will see new features and efforts to make the site a rallying point for the ASA. We thank all who have contributed and seek your continuing input.

2004 Student/Early Career Network (SECN) Report

Johnny Lin
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During 2004, the two main SECN activities have been outreach at the TWU annual meeting and the creation of an SECN forums page.

As in recent years, at the annual meeting the ASA staff helped plan a number of mixers and informal get-togethers to help connect students and early career (SEC) members at the annual meeting with one another.

In the last two years or so, there appears to have been a noticeable number of SEC members who have returned to subsequent annual meetings, indicating that at least some SEC members are feeling more connected with the ASA. However, that number is still small and financial constraints likely inhibit more SEC annual meeting returnees. A major goal for the next year is to continue to work at finding the resources to overcome such constraints and deepening the level of community.

To help foster community during the rest of the year, we started an SECN forums page in which threaded discussions can occur online. We have had two scheduled discussions on various topics of interest that has generated some traffic. Currently over 30 SEC members are part of the forum network (though the number who post is still just a handful). SEC members who would like to join the SECN forums page can register for a forum account at <http://www.asa3.org/phpBB2/index.php> and send an email to Johnny Lin <jlin@geosci.uchicago.edu> asking to be added to the SECN forum usergroup. All SEC members are welcome!

ASA Lay Education Committee

Gene Maxwell
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Book Preparation

All but Chapters 4 and 9 of *Knowing Creation* had been written, reviewed, and revised at the close of 2004. Final editing will be needed to achieve consistency in style and academic grade level for all of the chapters. This work will be deferred until a publisher is acquired and provides input in this regard.

Search for Funding

A proposal for additional funding was submitted to the Templeton Foundation. A \$25 K grant was received to develop a more detailed plan for reaching our target audiences. The strategy developed under this grant takes a five step, low-key marketing approach to gain experience and the trust of our target markets.

1. Get the word out.
2. Form a strong team to guide production and marketing.
3. Form partnerships with educational groups, scientific material providers, science/faith groups of common purpose, and religious materials distributors.
4. Prepare non-controversial, educational presentations to give at conventions.
5. Produce and market individual chapters with lesson plans, DVDs, and CDs.

Significant progress was made on all five steps, which is summarized in this report under Teaching Guide

Preparation and Marketing

Funding was also received in the form of gifts from ASA members

Search for a Publisher

A detailed book proposal, including four of the chapters of *Knowing Creation* was submitted to Zondervan in January 2004. This was followed by a simultaneous, less detailed, submission on March 29, seeking expressions of interest, from seven major Christian publishers including: Baker, Bethany, Broadman & Holman, Crossway, InterVarsity Press, Simon & Schuster, and Tyndale. Having received no expressions of interest, a proposal was submitted to The Writer's Edge. This was favorably received and resulted in the inclusion of a brief description of *Knowing Creation* in the Writer's Edge January 2005 report, which is sent to 75 Christian publishers—all to no avail.

Our efforts in 2005 will be directed toward curriculum publishers.

Teaching Guide Preparation

Timothy Eimer, a middle school teacher and curriculum writer for publishers such as McGraw Hill prepared detailed drafts of lesson plans. This effort was funded from the Templeton Grant.

Marketing

Colorful, informative display boards (posters) and brochures were prepared and used at the ASA annual meeting at Trinity Western University (July 2004), the New England Christian Education Convention (October 10-11, 2004), and the Denver Christian Ministries Convention (February 10-12, 2005).

The Templeton Grant enabled us to reach Christian educators in New England and Colorado. ASA members were able to discuss *Knowing Creation* with a broad variety of church leaders and parents. We uniformly were told that there is a need for our materials and we have developed a database of people interested in our products. A questionnaire was filled out by 58 people, 6% of registrants and exhibitors, with the following results:

Request for future information: 97%

Volunteering for trial use: 12%

Applications:

Home school ----- 21%

Sunday school ----- 33%

Christian high school - 7%

Annual Committee Meeting

Members Jack Haas, Chairman; Gene Maxwell; and Jim Ruark were joined by Ruth Miller, Executive Council and John Portman, Marketing Manager for *Knowing Creation*. The general guidelines for the project were redefined and affirmed as noted here:

Audiences

1. Teachers and their high school students in Christian home schools, Christian high schools, and Sunday Schools.
2. Christians who want to learn more about science
3. Christians who are uncertain about the age of the Earth

Objectives

1. To increase the understanding and appreciation of science and the natural world by our audiences
2. To show that scientific evidence supports an old Earth and Universe and to mitigate the misuse of science to support a young Earth
3. To show that scripture does not require a young-earth interpretation
4. To prepare a book, CD/DVD, and teaching guide with a biblical, Christian perspective not found in standard science textbooks
5. To show that both nature and Scripture reveal the Glory of God

Policies

1. To minimize the creation of targets for potential critics to shoot at
2. To avoid criticizing people or their organizations
3. To do a few things well rather than trying to take on everything
4. To write for 10th Grade comprehension; avoid or define jargon; minimize the use of equations
5. To seek truth in a spirit of love and grace

Jack Haas, Chairman ASALEC

Gene Maxwell, Technical Editor *Knowing Creation*

AFFILIATIONS**Affiliation of Christian Biologists**

Marilyne Flora
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Batavia, IL 60510

The Affiliation of Christian Biologists (ACB) had a business meeting at Trinity Western University during the 2004 Annual Meeting which was headed by Marilyne Flora.

We decided to carry on all correspondence via the listserv and E-mail. We want to encourage all of you to use the listserv to communicate and send information about lab ideas, texts, and other issues to the listserve.

The ACB listserve is maintained by James Mahaffy at Dordt College. We all want to express our appreciation and gratitude to him and to his colleagues for their time and responsiveness. The purpose of the listserve is to encourage communication among Christians who are professional biologists involved in teaching and/or research. The vision of the ACB is that this list will expand the great conversations that go on among us when we get together at ASA meetings. It is our hope that this mail list will allow Christian biologists to network and communicate more effectively. It could also be a means to notify one another when we plan to attend specific scientific meetings in our subdisciplines. For information on how to subscribe contact <msflora@comcast.net>.

At this time, we have no official officers. I am (Marilyne Flora) still the contact person for the organization. I am looking for a small group of interested people to take on the leadership of the organization.

At the 2005 annual meeting at Messiah College, Jerry Hess has volunteered to serve as a coordinator for a biology meeting which will meet Friday, August 5. The plans are to have a morning 'round table' discussion for biologists, a tour of Messiah's Oakes Museum of Natural History and an early afternoon biological field trip led by Messiah biology faculty.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyne Flora

Affiliation of Christian Engineers in Science and Technology (C.E.S.T.)

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The 2004 C.E.S.T. meeting convened on July 24 at Trinity Western University, Langley, B.C. in conjunction with the ASA Annual Meeting. Jack Swearengen, C.E.S.T. Secretary, chaired the meeting at the request of Chairman Bill Yoder, who was unable to attend. The theme of the ASA Annual Meeting did not attract a large number of C.E.S.T. members, so our gathering was small: six persons who self-identified as C.E.C.T. members and one Guest (John Wood) from the Global Resources and Environment Commission. We did, however, have a lively discussion about the 2005 ASA Annual Meeting. Time did not permit discussion of the need for additional officers for C.E.S.T. With the election of Ruth Miller to ASA Executive Council, we are down to a two-person Exec (Bill Yoder, Chair, and Jack Swearengen,

Secretary). Hopefully the initiative that we are undertaking for the 2005 Annual meeting will broaden the role of engineering and technology in ASA and thereby attract more from these professions to the ASA.

At the 2003 annual meeting of C.E.S.T., when we learned of the theme of the 2005 ASA Meeting, C.E.S.T. commissioned Jack Swearingen to request of the ASA 2005 Program Chair (Ken Touryan) that our Affiliation be included in the planning. Ken not only agreed, he suggested that we invite two of the plenary speakers. On behalf of C.E.S.T., Jack secured professors and book authors Egbert Schuurman and Robert Wauzzinski. Schuurman studied civil engineering at the Technological University of Delft and philosophy at the Free University of Amsterdam. He is presently Professor of Reformational Theology at the Technological Universities of Delft and Eindhoven and is a member of the Dutch Parliament. He will speak on 'Contemporary Struggles in the Ethics of Technology.' Robert Wauzzinski received his B.A. from Clarion University in history and sociology, his Masters of Divinity from the University of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. in religion and economics from the University of Pittsburgh. He occupied the Lindamann Chair at Whitworth College, was a senior scholar for study of religion and culture at Indiana University-Purdue University, and was the Chauvane Visiting Scholar of Business at Baylor. He is presently Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Ball State University. His specialties are the philosophies of technology and economics. Wauzzinski will speak on "Resources in Philosophy and Religion for the Evaluation of the Social Impact of Technology."

On the strength of these acceptances, Ken (Touryan) asked C.E.S.T. to sponsor a special symposium at the 2005 Annual Meeting. On behalf of C.E.S.T., Jack agreed. The general theme of the Annual Meeting (at Messiah) will be 'Alternative Energy Resources, Conservation, and the Environment.' Jack Proposed that C.E.S.T. assemble a special symposium entitled *Technology: The Solution, or the Problem?* This technology symposium is intended to unite the main theme of the Conference with the limits-to-technology perspective of Schuurman and Wauzzinski. The C.E.S.T. symposium will (hopefully) bring praise to God for the endless list of benefits that technology has provided, but also consider unintended consequences, emergent properties, and 'nasty surprises.' To technological optimists, our energy and environmental future will be secured by applying scientific and technical muscle to the problem(s). To technological pessimists (and many environmentalists), however, the over-use and mis-use of technology has caused our present energy and environmental future to be very insecure. A call for papers for the technology symposium was drafted by Jack Swearingen and reviewed by Ruth Miller and Ken Touryan. It was distributed to the C.E.S.T. e-mail list by Bill Yoder and to the Association of Christian Engineers through the Calvin College ListServ. It was also distributed by U.S. Mail as party of the 2005 Annual Meeting Announcement.

Submitted by Jack Swearingen
Secretary, C.E.S.T.

Affiliation of Christian Geologists

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The Affiliation of Christian Geologists held its annual meeting in Denver on November 9, 2004, at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting. After a business meeting we had a discussion led by the president, Ward Sanford, on the topic of "Rare Earth? Perspectives on Extraterrestrial Life." Current officers of ACG include: Ward Sanford, U. S. Geological Survey, President; David Campbell, University of Alabama, Vice President; and Keith Miller, Kansas State University, Treasurer.

Please visit our website at www.wheaton.edu/ACG for current news and information.

Commission Reports

Bioethics Commission Minutes for July 25, 2004

Members Present: Don Calbreath, Stephanie Chan, Bill Cheshire (acting secretary), Jerry Hess, Don Munro (acting chair), Jim Rusthoven, Bruce Schweitzer and Paula Waters.

1. The meeting commenced with a joint meeting of the Bioethics and Global Resources and Environment Commissions chaired by John Wood. General discussion occurred concerning future symposiums. At some point the Global Resources and Environment Commission left to continue separate discussions.
 - A. It was suggested that we could build on a logical sequence starting with the 2004 conference on Neuroscience and the Imaging of God where we discussed models of human agency.
 - B. At the 2005 meeting it was suggested that there be an environmental ethics symposium with global emphasis. It was also strongly suggested by the Bioethics Commission that there be a separate bioethics symposium during the 2005 meeting under the theme of the physical realm to include some of these possible topics: stem cell research, follow-up on neuroscience, human cloning, transgenics, transhumanism, nanotechnology,

preimplantation genetic diagnoses, patenting of human genes or embryos and/or neuroimaging. The suggestion was made that we could use topics that would prepare ASA members for what might be done in the 2006 annual meeting.

- C. No further suggestions were made for 2006 when we will be in the life science realm.
2. What do Bioethics Commission members think should be on the web page?
 - A. The bioethics newsletter in pdf form.
 - B. Links to other resources such as: www.bioethics.com, www.cbhd.org, www.ethics_and_medicine.com, www.bioethics.gov, www.stemcellresearch.org, www.thecbc.org and www.cmdahome.org
3. Question discussed - could ASA reach consensus on bioethical questions? There was no answer but the following was said.
 - A. We need to improve our witness to our secular colleagues.
 - B. We need to be unified as a Christian community.
 - C. There seems to be consensus on stem cell research.
4. Some additional suggestions for the conduct of our symposium. Have increased discussion time and opportunities for structured small group discussions with perhaps two hours of presentations followed by breaking into small groups.
5. Final suggestions - have a talk(s) on the ethical dilemma of whether a scientist should separate his/her research from faith. Should there be professional integrity as a Christian or compartmentalization. What about the issues of complicity with evil, conflicts of interest, and integrity and credibility?

Respectfully submitted by Bill Cheshire, typed by Don Munro

Communication Commission Report

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At the 2003 Annual Meeting, the Commission decided to develop and initiate to enhance and develop new channels of communication to help ASA members share and build communities of interest.

A Strategic Plan for the Student and Early Career Network (SECN) was written by Johnny Lin and Susan Daniels in August, 2003. Among other things, it called for information technology support from the Communications Commission.

A draft proposal for new communication initiatives was written by Ernie Prabhakar in November. The technology we have in mind includes an enhanced email announcement list of members, an online database of members, and web-based discussion forums to support existing and new groups.

Johnny Lin, Terry Gray and I reviewed the proposal, and it was submitted to the Council. The Council responded with a series of questions regarding details of the process, its policies, who would do the work to support it, and what would it cost.

Terry Gray replied to the Council's questions in February 2004. Terry also set up discussion forums for the Communication Commission and the Student and Early Career Network (SECN). These are considered prototypes for the future use of ASA members generally, once policies are fully drafted and approved. If you wish to participate in the work on policies, please contact Terry Gray at gray@lamar.colostate.edu and ask for the password and URL to access the discussion forum.

At the 2004 Annual Meeting, the Commission hopes to have completed its policy statement for use of the discussion forums and email lists. This will be submitted to the Council for final approval, after which the membership will be notified via email of the existence of these new resources.

I am grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of the aforementioned people in raising the bar for communications in ASA. I am especially appreciative of the work of Terry Gray in maintaining the web site. We had approximately a 50% increase in web traffic this year, with an average of 1251 unique visitors per day, from 170 countries. Details are posted on the web site at <http://www.asa3.org/Statistics/2003/Pages.html>.

I am also very appreciative of the ongoing, untiring efforts of Jack Haas in converting the paper articles of *Perspectives* into an online format. This requires a lot of patient manual editing, and Jack is talented at it. The payoff is that the past articles in *Perspectives*—including many classic and relatively timeless contributions—will continue to find new readers well into the future.

Creation Commission

George L. Murphy
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The ASA Creation Commission met on Sunday evening, 25 July, at the Annual Meeting which was held at Trinity Western University, Vancouver, Canada. George Murphy presided in the absence of the commission chair Robert Newman. Margaret Townes took notes on the meeting, with about a dozen people in attendance.

Reading of the minutes of the 2003 meeting at Colorado Christian College was dispensed with by common consent.

The major topic of discussion was the possibility the commission might sponsor a symposium at one of the next annual meetings. In the recent past there were such symposia in 2001, on "Evolution as a Work of the Trinity," and in 2003 on "Divine Action."

Several topics were discussed for possible symposia, tentatively for the 2005 meeting at Messiah College. The major ones considered were:

1. Origin of life—status of current scientific research, theological evaluations of the concept of abiogenesis, etc.
2. Pros and cons of Intelligent Design, both scientifically and theologically. (It was noted that there had been a symposium at the 1999 meeting held by proponents of Intelligent Design.)
3. The ultimate fate of the universe (eschatology). Although this would not fit into the traditional theological category of creation, it would probably make more sense for it to be sponsored by this commission than by any of the others.
4. Implications of the doctrine of creation for understanding of human sexuality.

It was decided that the second option, Intelligent Design, would be the easiest to pursue at the present time. John Bloom agreed to take the lead in organizing such a symposium, and to be in touch with the commission chair and the program chair for the 2005 meeting about developments. It was suggested that the Discovery Institute might provide some funding, but it was noted that such support would have to be for the symposium as a whole and not just for selected speakers.

Some other matters were noted briefly, including encouragement to contribute items of interest to the ASA Newsletter and to provide criticisms and suggestions for the lay education project *Knowing Creation*.

Respectfully submitted,
George L. Murphy

Global Resources and Environment Commission

John R. Wood, Chair
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This last summer the GR&E Commission joined with the CEST Affiliation in sponsoring a symposium on human agency and the environment. Eleven excellent papers were presented in the session called *Christian Environmentalism: Technology, Theology and Social Organization*. Financial support for this work has been received from the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities program – Initiative Grants to Network Christian Scholars. Six of the papers were published in the March (2005) issue of *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*. The leadership team of Janel Curry, Mark Bjelland, Steve Bouma-Prediger, Susan Bratton, and myself put the articles into context on the biblical importance of a sense of place.

Commission members met on Sunday evening, July 25, 2004 at the Annual Meeting at Trinity Western University. During the first part of the meeting, the GR&E Commission met with the Bioethics Commission, chaired by Don Munro in the absence of Bud Bouma. For the last five years, John Wood and Bud Bouma have worked together to put symposia together at ASA meetings. This year, 55-60 people attended the bioethics symposium while 45-50 attended the environmental symposium. This year marks the end of a grant that supported much of the activity in the environment. There is a similar situation in bioethics. It is proposed that a joint symposium be organized for 2005, but Bud and John plan to put their efforts into a symposium on human agency for the 2006 meeting at Calvin College. For the 2005 meeting Jack Swearingen and the CEST are planning on a symposium on the theme around the limitations and ethics of technology. Look for some good papers at Messiah College in the summer of 2005.

In April of 2004 the United States Congress heard from GR&E Commission member Joseph Sheldon (see details in the Jan/Feb 2005 ASA Newsletter). Joe began by saying, "I direct my comments to you today as a Christian and as a conservation biologist. I have been invited to speak out of concern for the stewardship of biodiversity that was wrought into existence and is sustained by God." These are good words for our congressional leaders to ponder. Thanks Joe!

Elsewhere, other commission members have been involved as board members, speakers or volunteers with various Christian environmental groups, such as the new A Rocha-USA chapter, the Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN), and the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies. And some Commission members have been seen driving the hybrid (gas-electric) cars that have been on the market for a few years now.

History and Philosophy of Commission

Thaddeus J Trenn
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In lieu of an official HPS report we are currently seeking to identify members with a serious interest in HPS issues willing to function as an informal advisory board. We would also like to hear from those interested in helping to identify, coordinate and activate the potential within ASA/CSCA concerning this important interdisciplinary area of History and Philosophy of Science

Thaddeus J. Trenn t.trenn@utoronto.ca
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Science Education Commission

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The commission is beginning to build a community within ASA and beyond, and continuing to develop a science education website. These activities, and ideas from Mark Witwer about "Teaching Students to Think Christianly," are in the newsletter for 2004. Our homepage provides an overview of education in ASA, plus links (to the newsletter, bulletin board forum, building a community, improving a website, and more) at www.asa3.org/ASA/education/comm

Reference Archivist

David Osielski
Special Collections
Wheaton College
Buswell Memorial Library
Wheaton, IL 60187-5593

Accessions:

- 4 volumes *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, vol. 56, nos. 1–4
- 6 volumes *Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA*, vol. 46, no. 1–6 (paper and searchable. PDF)

Processing:

Materials received are being added into the collection

Collection volume:

Collection volume measures approximately 54' linear feet

An archives finding aid and inventory is currently accessible online:

<http://www.wheaton.edu/learners/arcsc/collections/sc26/>

The Special Collections is located in Buswell Memorial Library on the campus of Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. The Reading Room is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 12 noon, 1 PM to 5 PM and Saturdays from 9 AM to 2 PM. Appointments for research are appreciated and research times can be negotiated.