



Why Publish These

Proceedings?

Have you ever wanted to meet John Suppe (Princeton University professor and authority on structural geology and plate tectonics), Colin Russell (United Kingdom Open University professor and insightful interpreter of science history), William Dembski (Baylor University philosopher, mathematician and reflective spokesperson of Intelligent Design), or Calvin DeWitt (University of Michigan professor and enthusiastic advocate of environmental ethics)? By reading this special issue of *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, you can meet the four persons described above as well as eleven additional scientists who are making notable contributions to science and are faithful representatives of Jesus in their scientific and research activities. Within these pages you may catch a glimpse of the energy, passion, and concerns gleaned from a national consultation on "Christian Faith and the Choice of Research Topic in the Natural and Applied Sciences" organized by InterVarsity Graduate and Faculty Ministries, held October 13–15, 2000, at the University of St. Mary's of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois.

On Friday evening, a few minutes before the opening session of the conference, I was full of anticipation as I sat in the nearly empty conference room. After the conference participants and presenters entered the room, Terry Morrison opened the meeting with a welcome and prayer. Then he introduced John Suppe as the first presenter to discuss, "Why does God care about this issue?"

What's the issue? The next hours unfolded the details through speaker presentations, open discussion periods, and vivacious interchanges among small groups. I marveled at the energy, passion, and concern reflected in this gathering.

During the forty-five hours that spanned the opening and closing points of this conference, presenters and participants (invited graduate students and postdoctoral researchers) formed an organismic Christian community. Individual participants sought out seasoned presenters for questioning or for further discussion of presentation ideas. Participants prayed together, pondered and discussed issues, debated critical points, listened to stories, gained new understandings, enlarged their perspectives, and strengthened their Christian commitments.

Will interactions that characterized this briefly formed but vibrant Christian community continue after Oct. 15, 2000? Will the thoughtful presentations continue to challenge and inspire long after the closing conference session? We hope so. Within this journal issue, we are delighted to share these insights with our readership, thereby enlarging the dialogue in the Christian community.

Enjoy this special issue of our journal. Open your heart to the challenges of others. Reflect on the significance of your own calling and participation in science research. Be aware of the larger Christian community that carries many of the same concerns and passions that you do in your science work. Jesus, the Lord of science, invites you to reflect his grace and to build God's Kingdom through your research. ☆



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Roman J. Miller

Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith
Editor

Eastern Mennonite University
Harrisonburg, VA