Come Join Us for ASA 2018, Our Annual Meeting in Wenham, MA, July 27–30

The theme for ASA 2018 is Bioethics and Biotechnology. Our hope is that all who attend will engage in the increasingly important ethical questions surrounding these new technologies and their use within a Christian worldview. We have five fabulous plenary speakers, including Francis Collins, and parallel sessions and a poster session on various aspects of bioethics and biotechnology as well as other topics. And back by popular demand are guided walks in the surrounding campus area on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday mornings.

Like previous meetings, we offer pre- and post-conference activities. On Friday two workshops are planned: “Science for Service: Diagnostics for the Developing World,” led by Alyynne MacLean; and “Reworking the Science of Adam,” led by S. Joshua Swamidass. This year’s field trips include a Thursday evening Red Sox game; a half-day whale watch, tours of selected MIT laboratories, and a local geology tour on Friday; and a trip to the Harvard Museum in Cambridge on Monday afternoon. While there is no campus housing Monday, there are several hotels in the area.

We are planning to open registration by April 1, 2018. Check out the ASA website at this time for all the details.

Francis Collins
Director of National Institutes of Health, Founder of the BioLogos Foundation

Nigel M. de S. Cameron
Founder and President Emeritus of the Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies

Douglas A. Lauffenburger
Ford Professor of Bioengineering and Head of the Department of Biological Engineering, MIT

Noreen Herzfeld
Reuter Professor of Science and Religion at St. John’s University and the College of St. Benedict

Jeff Schloss
Senior Scholar at BioLogos; Distinguished Professor and T. B. Walker Chair of Biology, Westmont College
Dear friends —

I hope you’re enjoying the remaining days of winter. With the exhuberation of the winter Olympic games just behind us, Easter is just around the corner with its celebration of the Resurrection and our new life in Christ.

Our plans are coming together for a fantastic Annual Meeting this coming July at Gordon College. Along with the previously confirmed plenary speakers, we’ve just gotten word that Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, will be joining us as well. We hope you’ll make plans to join us.

At the end of January our Executive Council visited the Los Angeles area for our winter council meeting as well as for the Southern California Chapter’s Annual Winter Day Conference, featuring plenary talks by Executive Council members Terry Gray and John Wood. The conference was a great success, with about 70 people in attendance.

In mid-February, I attended the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) conference in Austin, where we shared a booth with the Ecumenical Roundtable and the Presbyterian Association for Science, Technology and the Christian Faith (PASTCF). Over the course of the conference weekend, I had the opportunity for many interesting conversations with AAAS attendees who were hearing and learning about the ASA for the very first time.

Our expanding Local Chapters Campaign continues, and last month we added a new chapter in Silicon Valley, with members from Stanford, San Jose State, Valley Christian School, Menlo Church, Genentech, and beyond. As an added highlight, we had a surprise sighting of “The Woz” at our dinner meeting near Apple’s campus! Our next stop on the Local Chapters Campaign trail will be Dordt University in Iowa in late March. Remember to let us know if you’re interested in getting something started in your own community.

That’s it for now; enjoy the newsletter, and I hope to see you somewhere, sometime soon.

Happy Spring!

With gratitude,

Leslie

---

**SoCal Winter Day Conference**

*By Thomas Ferko*

On Saturday, January 27, 2018, the ASA’s local chapter in Southern California (Southern California Christians in Science) hosted our 6th Annual Winter Day Conference at California Baptist University in Riverside, CA. There were 74 registered attendees including representatives from 13 colleges and universities throughout Southern California, including many students and first-time attendees.

This year the conference was held in conjunction with the ASA’s Executive Council meeting which provided the opportunity to have plenary sessions be presented by ASA Executive Council members John Wood and Terry Gray. Five members of the Executive Committee also had an opportunity to greet those in attendance while Leslie Wickman and Vicki Best gave updates on recent ASA activities and upcoming events. There were an additional 12 breakout sessions throughout the day presented by attendees.

Anna Benson, a junior chemistry major at California Baptist University and a first-time ASA-event attendee, summed up the day as follows:

*The Winter Day Conference challenged me to keep learning about the recent advances in science while still clinging to my faith in God. It was so inspiring to meet many other scientists who are Christians, and I came away with a renewed resolve to passionately love Christ and the study of his creation.*

We are already looking forward to our 7th Annual Winter Day Conference in 2019.
This year’s Student Membership Drive was very successful. We welcomed over 220 new student members to the ASA. Thank you to all who encouraged the students in their sphere of influence to check us out. And especially to Grand Canyon University for growing their local chapter by over 80 new student members. They will receive a financial incentive to be used for chapter events and meetings at their discretion.

Student membership plays an important role in the ASA organization. By offering free memberships during years of study, we hope to encourage students at all levels to engage our wide network of members and to utilize the resources we offer to further educational opportunities. Part of the way this occurs is by having ASA chapters on campuses across the country.

At Grand Canyon University (GCU), the student chapter sponsor is the wonderful Daisy Savarirajan. I recently had an opportunity to ask her a few questions about how the GCU chapter operates.

**How often does the GCU ASA chapter meet?**
We meet once a month but encourage our members to socialize and interact outside of the general member meetings.

**What types of meetings/events are your student members interested in?**
As was shown by last semester’s attendance, most are interested in activities centered on building career-applicable skills or hands-on experiences. While we aim to have multiple speaker panels throughout the semester, we are also looking to foster relationships with other STEM clubs/organizations to act as an activity mediator and stage joint events in the future.

**How many student leaders does your chapter have?**
We currently have three student leaders on staff, but understand that with the incredibly rapid growth of our chapter, more will be needed in subsequent semesters.

**Does the science department at your university assist you in promoting ASA student membership?**
Most definitely. Our STEM department puts forth considerable effort as far as ensuring that students are aware of upcoming ASA opportunities and events. This is most likely due to the remarkable number of faculty who are associated with the ASA.

Daisy, her husband, and several students plan to attend ASA 2018 in July. If you are the leader of an ASA chapter or a student looking to grow your group on campus, feel free to ask her more about their successful presence on campus.

Congratulations also to California Baptist University, which came in second place and received a chapter credit as well.

---

**Executive Council Meeting**

By Vicki Best

The ASA Executive Council traveled from around the US and Canada to convene the weekend of January 26–28 for their semi-annual in-person meeting. It was planned in conjunction with the SoCal annual winter day conference—both held at California Baptist University in Riverside, CA.

At the council meeting, in addition to reviewing the accomplishments of this fiscal year, we looked forward to the exciting endeavors on the horizon for the next year. Among the important topics of discussion were reviewing the fiscal year 2018 budget, discussing constitution and by-law revisions, and strategizing our vision for the future of the ASA. It was a fruitful and productive time of engaging together as a leadership team, upholding the organization in prayer, and looking expectantly to God for his continued faithfulness to the ASA.
The Boston Chapter held an informal Christmas party at il Casale Restaurant in Lexington, MA, on December 19, 2017. While the primary purpose of the evening was fellowship and networking, we also used the opportunity to share some exciting ASA initiatives for 2018, including details of this summer’s annual meeting at Gordon College. Since the Boston ASA members are looking forward to hosting ASA 2018 on our home turf, we enjoyed many productive planning conversations to that end.

Meet Charles R. Roy and His Work on PSCF

By Randy Isaac

On the Ides of March, 2017, the ASA mailbox received a letter addressed “To whom it may concern” from Charles Roy. He introduced himself as a student member of the ASA from the University of Maine (Orono), having joined in October of 2014. He said he wanted to read through the ASA PSCF publications and had begun by making a table of contents for himself. To his dismay, he discovered a host of link errors in the PSCF index on the ASA website. The rest of the note detailed nearly 150 specific links that weren’t working.

When Vicki forwarded the note to me, I was appalled and astonished. How was it possible that a student would have the interest and the motivation to scour our website and document so many failing links that no one else had identified before? I contacted Charles immediately and there began a friendship that has grown strong and productive.

To make a long story short, we have worked together to fix all the link errors he identified. Furthermore, Charles embarked on a project to scan all JASA and PSCF issues. These issues have all been scanned previously and the articles converted to html format. They are available online but none of the issues until September 2001, is available in PDF format, a format that wasn’t available or popular when the original scanning was done. I provided Charles with a complete set of print copies of the journal and he has now scanned more than 25 years of issues. These are all online. Check them out as the “Complete” pdf links in each issue at http://network.asa3.org/?page=PSCF for the years 1949 to 1976 and counting.

Meet Charles in his own words:

I grew up in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and was raised in a fairly dogmatic young earth creationist home and church. I was homeschooled for several years, and for biology I went through Jay Wile’s creationist textbook Exploring Creation with Biology. In it, he mentioned something to the effect that few Christians go into biology and contend with the theory of evolution, and I was hooked by the possibility of doing that myself.

Later, in public high school, my biology teacher loaned me a copy of The Blind Watchmaker by Richard Dawkins in order to set me straight, and I was taken aback by the strength of the arguments. After high school, I studied theology for a year at New Brunswick Bible Institute, a school that promotes both a literalistic hermeneutic and a young earth creationist perspective.

Around this time I read Paradigms on Pilgrimage, by Godfrey and Smith, two of my uncles. The book articulates a theistic evolution perspective, and while I didn’t find it persuasive initially, after several reads the strength of their arguments was just too compelling to ignore. Since then, works by Plantinga, Hyers, Falk, and organizations such as the ASA and BioLogos have continued to refine my views.

I am now studying at the University of Maine, and am currently working on a bachelor’s degree in bioengineering with minors in chemistry, microbiology, nanoscience, and cell and molecular biology. I hope to go on to earn a PhD, and do research in a field that can both reduce human suffering and give me a voice in science and faith.

I have learned that Charles is an avid reader, devouring everything he can find on science and faith and listening to every video and lecture he comes across. I have gained great appreciation for his insight into the fundamental issues as well as his amazing ability to deal with the vast collection of PSCF resources. Check out his work in the PSCF Table of Contents and send him a note of appreciation for his outstanding contribution. In addition to finding specific issues of the journal in the index, you can search for topics and key words in the Resources for Science and Christian Faith page.
Please join us in welcoming these new members!
Members in Glory

Bruce J. Clark (1926–2017), Engineer

Bruce J. Clark was born in 1926. He earned a BSE, MSE, and MA in chemical engineering and math. He joined the American Scientific Affiliation in 1969. He was a cellist and member of a chamber orchestra.

Bruce attended several ASA annual meetings. In the 2000 meeting at Gordon College, he organized a chamber music concert, playing his cello.

Clarence Vos (1920–2016), Theologian

Clarence J. Vos was born in 1920. He went to his eternal home on July 28, 2016. Left to mourn his passing are the sweetheart of his life for 72 years, Jeanne, three children, and four grandchildren.

His training for the ministry was interrupted by 42 months of military service. After the war, his studies continued at Calvin College and Seminary. He received his Masters of Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary. He served the Christian Reformed Churches in Monroe, Washington, and Patterson, New Jersey. He was a professor of theology at Calvin College until his retirement in 1985. During that time, he earned his Theology Doctorate from the Free University at Amsterdam, The Netherlands. His thesis, “Women in Old Testament Worship,” was published in 1968 when women’s place in the church was a major issue in the Agenda for Synod. Synod quoted it rather frequently.

Clarence joined the ASA in 1983, two years after hosting Dick Bube for a lecture at Calvin College.

Donald S. Robertson (1921–2016), Geneticist

Donald Sage Robertson was born on June 27, 1921, in Oakland, CA, and passed away at 95 years of age on December 24, 2016, in Story City, IA. Donald and Roxana Ruth Sidensol were married September 13, 1942, and Roxana survives her husband after nearly 75 years of marriage.

Donald received his AB in 1947 from Stanford University and his PhD from the California Institute of Technology in 1951. In the 1950s, he taught at Biola Bible College where he became chairman of the Sciences Department. He was Emeritus Professor of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology at Iowa State University, retiring in 1991. Donald was a member of the Genetics Society of America; Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society; and the American Scientific Affiliation. He received the Governor’s Science Award in 1984. He loved his work in genetics.

He had a strong relationship with Jesus Christ and loved his family unconditionally. He was a long-time member of Christ Community Church in Ames. He loved to paint, doing landscapes and whatever his wife requested. He and Roxana worked closely with international students, and were sponsors for students through InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Donald joined the American Scientific Affiliation in 1951 at the same time as Walt Hearn who was later his colleague at Iowa State. He is shown in the photo of attendees of the 1955 ASA annual meeting at Star Ranch in Colorado Springs, CO (see page 3 of the Complete December 1955 Journal of the ASA). In 1957 he published a short article called “Out of the Lab” in the BIOLA publication The King’s Business. This article was reprinted as Appendix 17 in the book by F. Alton Everest, History and Development of the American Scientific Affiliation. He spoke on a panel of the meaning of “kinds” in Genesis at the 1958 ASA Annual Meeting.

In 1959 he served on the ASA nominating committee. In the 1960s, he served on the Natural Sciences Commission and on the Biological Sciences Commission of the ASA. In 1964 and in 1967, he helped organize the ASA Annual Meeting at Siloam Springs and Stanford University, respectively. When Walt Hearn left Iowa State in 1968, Donald was elected to lead and receive all the documents related to the Iowa Section of the ASA.

The February/March 1987 issue of the ASA Newsletter devotes several paragraphs to describing his work on corn genetics. In June 1987, he spoke on corn genetics at the ASA conference on “Gene-Splicing: Current Progress and Ethical Concerns.”

John H. Freer (1938–2017), Psychiatrist

John H. Freer, 79, of Hopkinsville, KY, died September 30, 2017, in Madisonville, KY, following complications from open heart surgery.

A native of Somerset, KY, he was born January 3, 1938, the son of the late Albert Herschel Freer and Edith Evelyn O’Dell Freer. He completed his undergraduate studies at Kentucky Wesleyan University in Owensboro, KY. He went on to the University of Kentucky where he obtained his MD. He then completed his residency at Menninger Clinic.

John returned to Kentucky as Chief of the Alcoholic Treatment Center at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington, KY. He was active in mental health clinics across the state prior to moving to Hopkinsville in 1991. He came to Hopkinsville to work at Western State Hospital from where he would eventually retire. While in Hopkinsville, he also worked at the Pennroyal Center and had a private practice. Following his retirement, he went to work at Fort Campbell where he specialized in Behavioral Health of Families. He was also a retired officer with the United States Public Health Service.

He was an active member of First United Methodist Church where he was also a member of the Share Group and the choir. John joined the American Scientific Affiliation in 1978 for about ten years and rejoined in 2011 until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Anita, two children and five grandchildren.
CSCA Happenings
By Mark McEwan

CSCA’s Local Chapters Project made significant gains in 2017, with a record 64 events, at least one per chapter. Events ranged from small, invite-only talks, to a large-scale event with about 1,000 in attendance and many cosponsors, featuring Alister McGrath and Michael Shermer. Other high-profile speakers included George Marsden and Scot McKnight. Several Canadian speakers travelled to multiple chapters, deepening the country-wide connection. We saved enough funds from 2016’s national tour to send Dennis Venema (Biology, Trinity Western University) to nine of our local chapters in 2017, including our first event in New Brunswick!

Early 2018 has seen several great events so far: Bill Newsome in Vancouver, CSCA President Janet Warren in Hamilton, and James Drummond in Halifax. We also made our first appearance as exhibitors at Missions Fest Vancouver (Jan. 26–28), giving us great local exposure with those who wouldn’t otherwise know about us. Situated directly beside the Creation Ministries International’s booth, we had ample opportunity to put into practice our mandate of respectful dialogue amidst disagreement (we got along very well).

We are greatly anticipating our May 2018 conference in Langley, BC: “From Sea to Sea … to Sky! Science & Christianity in Canada.” Plenary speakers will include Dennis Danielson (English, UBC), Robert Mann (Physics, UWaterloo), Richard Middleton (Biblical Exegesis & Worldview, Northeastern Seminary), and Santa Ono (University of British Columbia president & biologist). Additionally, our conference includes a special evening “Sky Gala” (open to the public), featuring Katharine Hayhoe (Climate Science Center, Texas Tech) and a cosmos-themed concert by Janet Danielson (School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University) and the Isotone Ensemble (Oak Ridge, TN). See www.casca.ca/may2018 for registration; we welcome our US friends.
Annual Fund
Thank you very much for your generous donations to our Annual Fund appeal. Our fiscal year ends on March 31 and we are seeking to raise another $21,694 to balance the operating budget. Would you prayerfully consider a first-time or additional gift to help us meet our funding goal?

Capital Campaign
By God’s grace, 281 donors made 481 gifts totaling $150,000. We are ever grateful for the enthusiastic and generous support from our members.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!