Public Lecture with Francis Collins

We are delighted that Francis Collins has accepted our invitation to speak at ASA 2018 on Saturday evening, July 28, 7:30 pm, as part of our Annual Meeting. This lecture is open to the public and we would love to fill the seats of the Gordon College chapel. If you live in the Boston area and/or have friends, colleagues, or members of your church who are NOT attending our meeting but would be interested in attending the lecture, tickets can be purchased in advance for $10/person by visiting www.asa3.org ($15/person at the door). Contact the ASA office for group discounts.

Doors will open at 7:00 pm.

Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD is a physician-geneticist noted for his groundbreaking discoveries of disease genes, as well as his leadership of the international Human Genome Project, which culminated in April 2003 with the completion of a finished sequence of the human DNA instruction book. Since 2009 he has served as the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world, spanning the spectrum from basic to clinical research. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in November 2007, followed by the National Medal of Science in 2009.

Collins is the author of numerous books, including New York Times best seller, The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief (2006), in which he describes his own conversion from atheism to Christianity, and presents the case for an intellectually satisfying harmony between the worldviews of science and faith. He is also the founder of the BioLogos Foundation (www.biologos.org) and a Fellow of the American Scientific Affiliation (www.ASA3.org).
Dear friends –

Is school out yet? Here in California we’ve gotten our winter weather late, so it doesn’t really feel like early summer. I know those of you living in harsher climates are probably laughing about now, so trust me, I’m not complaining about a few clouds and a little rain (which we desperately need anyway).

Our plans continue to shape up for a fantastic Annual Meeting in late July at Gordon College. We’re looking forward to a wonderful time with all of you, including scholarship, fellowship, networking and fun! We’ve arranged a stellar line up of plenary speakers, engaging workshops, exciting field trips, and more. Some of the highlights include:

- New England-style Clam Bake followed by a lecture with Francis Collins
- Red Sox game field trip to Fenway Park (Thursday evening before the meeting)
- Geology walk at Halibut Point State Park
- MIT Lab tour
- Cape Ann Whale Watch
- Harvard Museum of Natural History (Monday afternoon after the meeting)

We’re on track for another record-breaking number of attendees, so if you haven’t registered yet, please do so soon.

The last few months have been busy, as usual. The Local Chapters Campaign continues to expand, and in March we added a new “ASA Prairie Chapter,” founded at Dordt College, serving the quad-state area of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota. This brings our US Local Chapter tally to twenty, and there are another twelve in the CSCA side in Canada! We’ll be offering a Local Chapters planning workshop at the Annual Meeting, so if you’re interested in starting something new in your own community, or just want some new ideas for an existing chapter, please plan to join us.

Speaking of Canada, in May I got the chance to see quite a few of our members at the CSCA Science & Christianity in Canada Conference in Vancouver, BC. This event was one of the highlights of the CSCA’s three-year Templeton grant, which also helped support the expansion of local chapters in Canada. The conference featured stimulating plenary lectures from Santa Ono (President and Vice-Chancellor at University of British Columbia), Katharine Hayhoe (Director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University), Richard Middleton (Professor of Biblical Worldview and Exegesis at Northeastern Seminary), Robert Mann (Professor of Physics and Astronomy at University of Waterloo), and more. It was a nice foretaste of more good things to come when many of us will gather next month at Gordon College.

That’s it for now; enjoy the newsletter, and I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in July!

Happy Summer,
Leslie

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**Ohio Chapter Meeting**

*By Dana Oleskiewicz*

On Saturday, March 17, 2018, St. Patrick’s Day, the Ohio Chapter of the ASA held its second meeting at Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU). Green was the theme as we explored God’s wonderful creation. Seventeen people attended despite a wintry-mix weather forecast, an encouraging sign for the new ASA Ohio Chapter.

The meeting began with introductions, prayer, and a hymn: *God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory*. Next, Vicki Best joined the meeting via Skype, describing what other ASA chapters have done and encouraging attendance at the annual meeting in July at Gordon College. The possibility of a regional winter conference was also discussed.

Chapter Co-Chair David Winyard spoke on “The Life and Legacy of Robert Boyle.” The presentation highlighted similarities and differences between the natural philosophy of the 17th century and today’s experimental science, especially science-faith-government relationships. Along the way, the Anglo-Irish heritage of Boyle was noted in recognition of St. Patrick’s Day. After lunch and fellowship, ASA member Scott Dyer gave testimony with his presentation on “Parallels of the Christian Ethic with Environmental Science and Stewardship.” Reference conditions are critical in environmental science, and also in the Christian walk. Jesus Christ is our ultimate example, but we can also learn a lot from “heroes of the faith.”

The meeting concluded with more time for fellowship and discussion. Plans are to organize another Ohio ASA Chapter meeting in the fall.
Dewey Carpenter
(1928–2017), Chemist

A resident of Baton Rouge and retired LSU Professor of Chemistry, Dewey K. Carpenter passed away at home on October 9, 2017, at the age of 89. Dewey is survived by his wife of 62 years Marie B. Carpenter. Dewey was born June 30, 1928, in Omaha, Nebraska, and grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he studied the trumpet, became an Eagle Scout, and developed an interest in chemistry. He obtained his PhD from Duke University, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa honorary society, and came to Christ through InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Dewey was a lifelong teacher and full Professor of Chemistry at LSU, where he specialized in physical chemistry and administration of the freshman chemistry curriculum. He enjoyed and shared a deep interest in general aviation, sailing, birding, and motorcycles. He interviewed and became friends with trumpet great Doc Cheatham and was a long-time lover of jazz music. He had great knowledge of theology and taught Sunday school at First Presbyterian Church for many years. Dewey and Marie celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on Oct. 8, 2017, including taking communion, and Dewey passed away in peaceful sleep that night.

Dewey joined the ASA in 1952. He and Marie attended the 1957 ASA conference at Gordon College and they are in the photo of attendees shown on page 3 of the September 1957 issue of JASA. He joined the -JASA editorial board in 1967. He led the physical sciences commission in 1970 and was program chair for the 1970 ASA annual meeting at Bethel College. He served on the ASA Executive Council from 1974 to 1979 and published several book reviews for ASA.

Benjamin Bonney Dayton
(1914–2018), Physicist

Benjamin B. Dayton passed away Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at his residence in East Flat Rock, NC. He was born in Rochester, NY, February 25, 1914.

After graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a BS degree and from the University of Rochester with an MS degree, he was employed for 30 years as a research physicist in Rochester, NY. He held the positions of Technical Director of Consolidated Vacuum Corporation and Chief Scientist of the SEID Division of the Bendix Corporation before retiring from the industry to the Hendersonville area in western North Carolina where he became employed as a science teacher at Rugby Junior High School and a math and science teacher at Blue Ridge Community College.

He also served as a consultant to various corporations and private contractors working on projects involving high vacuum technology, including the Manhattan Project during World War II. From 1991 to 1993 he was enrolled in the Graduate School of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill taking advanced courses in mathematics and physics. He is the author of over 30 scientific papers, encyclopedia articles, and book chapters. He has published 14 articles in the international journal Physics Essays on the hydrodynamic theory of particles and fields.

He served for many years as an editor of the journal VACUUM, and as an advisor on National and International Committees and Standards Organizations. He was a member of the American Physical Society, the American Scientific Affiliation, and an Honorary Life member of the American Vacuum Society, which he served as President in 1961.

A committed Christian, he served for 10 years as a trustee of Roberts Wesleyan College in N. Chili, NY, and was a member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, NC. He joined the American Scientific Affiliation in 1953 and was active in the local ASA chapter in western NY in the 1960s. He published an article in JASA in 1959 title “Numerical Codes in Bible Prophecy.”

James W. Sire
(1933–2018), Editor and author

James W. Sire died February 6, 2018. He was born October 17, 1933, in Inman, Nebraska. He was a widely respected apologist, author, and lecturer who served for more than thirty years as senior editor at InterVarsity Press. He is the author of more than twenty books, including the seminal apologetics title The Universe Next Door, which was first published in 1976 and has sold over 350,000 copies in five editions and has been translated into eighteen foreign languages.

Born on a ranch on the rim of the Nebraska Sandhills, Sire served as an officer in the Army; a professor of English literature, philosophy, and theology; and a lecturer at over two hundred universities in the US, Canada, Eastern and Western Europe, and Asia. He received a PhD in English from the University of Missouri, an MA in English from Washington State University, and a BA in chemistry and English from the University of Nebraska.

Sire's teaching and books often covered the concepts of worldview and Christian apologetics. He focused on the application of worldview thinking to the integration of Christian faith and the academic disciplines, as well as the nature of “signals of transcendence” and their relation to Christian life. His many books include The Universe Next Door, Apologetics Beyond Reason, Beginning with God, Scripture Twisting, Discipleship of the Mind, Chris Chrisman Goes to College, Why Should Anyone Believe Anything at All?, Habits of the Mind, Naming the Elephant, Learning to Pray Through the Psalms, Why Good Arguments Often Fail, and A Little Primer on Humble Apologetics.

Sire joined the ASA in 1960. Many of his books have been reviewed in the ASA journal. Frequently, the ASA newsletters in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s reported his frequent travels and numerous lectures. For example, the Aug/Sep 1989 issue reports “James W. Sire, senior editor and campus lecturer for InterVarsity Press in Downers Grove, Illinois, recently tallied up his year of academic itineration. Jim made some 156 presentations (14 to faculty groups) at 34 secular institutions and 4 Christian colleges. Instead of resting up this summer, though, he is off to the Lausanne 11 Congress in Manila, where he will lead a workshop on the rise of New Age spirituality in a section on the forces of modernization organized by Os Guinness.” He was an ASA member for 58 years.
DC Chapter Event
By Mike Beidler and Sy Garte

On Saturday, April 28, the ASA's Washington DC chapter held its quarterly meeting at Fairfax Community Church (Fairfax, VA), one of two DC-area churches that have agreed to co-host the group on a rotational basis ever since the chapter outgrew the prestigious Cosmos Club. Local ASA member Daniel Dorman gave a talk titled “The Liturgical Brain: Neuroscience of habits and implications for faith.” A PhD candidate in the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program at George Mason University, Daniel’s research focuses on mechanisms of plasticity in brain cells which underlie the learning and performance of goal-directed and habitual behaviors. He is broadly interested in theoretical approaches to neuroscience that integrate the microscale functions of individual brain cells with mental processes such as learning, memory, and cognition.

At the meeting, Daniel presented his perspective as a neuroscientist and a Christian on how he philosophically and theologically grounds the findings of neuroscience. He gave an overview of the neuroscience of habit formation and discussed how the brain is both wired for and wired by habits—that is, how the brain is predisposed to the formation of habits and how habitual practices can themselves rewire the brain. Daniel's interest in integrating a Christian view of the human person with neuroscientific evidence linking brain processes to human experience led Daniel to conclude his talk with a discussion of how liturgical habits or spiritual disciplines may affect the brain in a positive manner.

With nearly 50 attendees, ranging from local ASA members to Fairfax Community Church attendees who have a strong interest in science and faith, Daniel’s talk generated a number of excellent follow-up questions. ASA Executive Director Emeritus Randy Isaac also attended the chapter’s traditional premeeting dinner in addition to the meeting itself, giving a plug for this summer’s ASA Annual Meeting in Wenham, MA. A member of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History’s Broader Social Impacts Committee (BSIC), Randy was in town that weekend to serve on a panel that followed Amanda Glaze’s (Georgia Southern University) presentation “Laboring for Science, Laboring for Souls: Obstacles and Approaches to Teaching and Learning Evolution in the Southeastern United States.” Local ASA chapter President Mike Beidler and Vice President Sy Garte (new editor of ASA’s God and Nature Magazine) also attended the excellent presentation and panel discussion.

Prairie Chapter Launch
By Carl Fictorie

The Prairie chapter of the ASA met for the first time on May 11, 2018. The fickle Iowa weather forced a last-minute change of location from a park to American Reformed Church in Orange City. Fifteen were in attendance, mostly faculty from Dordt and Northwestern Colleges.

Over a light meal we renewed some old acquaintances and made some new ones. We spent some time talking about our vision and goals for the Prairie Chapter. Among the ideas raised were joint activities between the two colleges and outreach to area teachers, pastors, and churches to provide our wisdom on navigating the faith-science tensions we see in this area. It was an enjoyable evening and a good start for this new group.
Interview with Kristen Broughton
ASA Membership & Outreach Manager

ASA: How did you find out about ASA, and how did you start working with the organization?

Kristen: I was introduced to the ASA in the fall of 2017 by Vicki Best and Sharon Carlson. I attend church with both women. Vicki let me know that Sharon would be vacating the membership and outreach position to accept a new job and asked if I wanted to fill it. She explained the mission and work of the ASA and while I don’t have a science background, I was very interested in the work that the ASA does and felt that I had something to contribute to the position with my prior work experiences. Sharon also told me that ASA members are a special group of people and serving and working with them makes the job worth it!

ASA: What does your role involve?

Kristen: I work primarily with our membership database, called YourMembership, and assist members and local chapters with event registrations, membership renewals, and profile updates. I am also responsible for coordinating the quarterly Newsletter and monthly NewsNote content and distribution and for updating the website. On a regular basis, I welcome new members and am currently very busy with the details of the Annual Meeting. It’s a position with a lot of variety and plenty to do!

ASA: What are you especially looking forward to in the year ahead with ASA?

Kristen: In the coming month, ASA will be launching a new look to the website. This has been a project in the works for many months, and I am excited to see it all come together in the finished product. I am also looking forward to the Annual Meeting in July. I have had the pleasure of communicating with many members by phone and email through the registration process and it will be wonderful to meet everyone in person. Mike Paul, our program chair, assisted by Tim Wallace (along with Vicki and Leslie) have put together a great program for the weekend, and there will be many opportunities for continued education, fellowship, and fun.

ASA: Tell us a little bit about the rest of your life: family, church, free time.

Kristen: I have been married for 14 years to my husband Adam and we have three children: William (11), Trevor (8), and Annabel (7). I am a graduate of Gordon College and have been a member of First Congregational Church in Hamilton, MA, since my college days. In my free time I love to read, run, and travel. I am not a native New Englander, but have really enjoyed exploring all that this area has to offer.
CSCA Happenings

By Mark McEwan

The CSCA held its first national conference, “From Sea to Sea ... to Sky!” at Trinity Western University on May 11–14, 2018. There were over 160 attendees from coast to coast including a dozen from the US. Fifty contributed talks within three parallel sessions were complemented by four plenary speakers from a variety of disciplines.

Santa Ono, president of the University of British Columbia, spoke on his openness as a Christian leader, including his approach to science and faith based on his favorite book *The Language of God* by ASA member Francis Collins.

A highlight of the conference was an off-site *Sky Gala*, where over 100 additional people from the general public joined the conference attendees to hear *Six Pieces of a Reverberant Cosmos* composed by Janet Danielson, performed by the Isotone ensemble, and narrated by Dennis Danielson, author of *The Book of the Cosmos*. Following this, Katharine Hayhoe gave an address on faith and climate change. On Sunday night there was a screening of the film produced by Iwan Russell-Jones, Regent College, called *Making Peace with Creation* followed by a panel discussion including the star and author of the film Loren Wilkinson.

The essence of the conference is perhaps best expressed by first-time attendee Holly Faith Nelson, Professor and Chair of English at Trinity Western University:

I attended and presented at The Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation conference, “From Sea to Sea ... to Sky,” held at Trinity Western University between May 11 and 14, 2018. I was not only impressed by the remarkable quality of the research presented during the conference from participants across a number of fields, but also by the sophisticated and innovative interdisciplinary conversations that emerged during the question period after each presentation (and in more informal settings).

What really struck me was the brilliant way in which the organizers wove together research from the natural, social, and applied sciences with scholarship from the humanities and with aesthetic practice (in which the scientific and the fine and performing arts daringly intersect). Attending plenary addresses, break-out sessions, and other conference events stimulated nearly every part of my mind, building new “neural networks” as I worked to forge connections between original discoveries and theories in chemistry, biology, physics, psychology, ecology, computer engineering, theology, philosophy, history, and literature from a faith perspective.

As a professor of English, I was concerned that my work in the history of science might not be welcomed by scholars working in the sciences or that I might feel out of place. To the contrary, I received a very warm welcome and was encouraged to explore how my own research could contribute to larger conversations on science and faith in Canada. This has been one of the most intellectually rewarding and best-organized conferences in which I have participated during my academic career.

AAAS Conference

By Leslie Wickman

During the weekend of February 16 through 18, I attended the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) conference in Austin, Texas, where the ASA shared an exhibit booth with two other organizations: the Ecumenical Roundtable, and the Presbyterian Association for Science, Technology and the Christian Faith (PASTCF). One of the highlights of our participation in the conference was the opportunity to further advance the ASA's collaboration with the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion (DoSER). Another benefit of the conference was conversing with numerous AAAS attendees who were hearing and learning about the ASA for the very first time!
STEAM Conference
By Vichi Best

As our STEAM (Science and Theology for Emerging Adult Ministries) grant is coming to a conclusion, ASA President Stephen Moshier, Kristen, and I recently attended this exciting conference, May 22–25, 2018, at the Q Center in St. Charles, IL. The STEAM initiative brought together close to 30 teams from around the US and Canada who are working to bring together mainstream science and mere Christianity with emerging adults.

The STEAM leadership team put together fun hangout times, exhilarating and insightful talks and workshops, and a stimulating talk by guest speaker, Andy Root, associate professor of youth and family ministry at Luther Seminary. It was a great opportunity for the ASA to share and showcase the success of our local chapters campaign. We came away from the week together with friendships deepened, our hearts and minds revitalized, and new visions for the importance of integrating faith with science.

ASA New Members January–March 2018
Please join us in welcoming these new members!

Alar Aksberg –Wetaskiwin, AB
Marni Anbar –Tempe, AZ
Joseph Andrews –Durham, NC
Elizabeth Antonelli –Danielson, CT
Isac Artzi –Phoenix, AZ
John Auxier –Langley, BC
Yeeun Bae –Wenham, MA
Nicolas Beausoleil –Edmonton, AB
Rachael Bencic –Havelock, ON
Sarah Bencic –Havelock, ON
Anna Benson –Riverside, CA
Angelle Britton –Edmonton, AB
Douglas Brown –Calgary, AB
David Buckler –Ringgold, GA
Michael Campbell –Orland Park, IL
Chaz Francis Comia –Calgary, AB
Kathryn Conrad –Ottawa, ON
Greg Cootsona –Chico, CA
Matthew Coxon –Victoria, BC
James Cresswell –Calgary, AB
Bryan Dik –Fort Collins, CO
John Douglas –Potosi, MO
James Drummond –Halifax, NS
Jacqueline Durand –Okotoks, AB
Daniel Dyke –Cincinnati, OH
Silvio Esteves –Brossard, QC
Pedro Ferreira da Silva –Nashville, TN
Valerio Franceschin –Calgary, AB
Gail Francis –Scottsdale, AZ
Robert Franz –Boulder, CO
Dave Garwick –Edina, MN
Bill Giles –Camarillo, CA
Sean Grogan –Montreal, QC
Esza Harper –San Diego, CA
John Harrop –Coquitlam, BC
Brit Haseltine –Brookhaven, PA
Isabel Haupfear –Minneapolis, MN
Russell Hencinski –Oak Park, IL
Cheney Huls –Cave Creek, AZ
Shahrzad Jamali –Coquitlam, BC
Rachel Ko –Etobicoke, ON
Alexander Laffoon –Paragould, AR
John Lange –108 Mile Ranch, BC
Thomas Larkin Jr –Attleboro, MA
Patrick Lewis –Aspinwall, PA
Grace McDonald –Hemet, CA
Gordon Miller Jr –North Branch, MI
Sierra Momberg –Azusa, CA
Kalee Morgan –Imbolon, AR
Divine Ntabara –Phoenix, AZ
Lilianne Pagé –Ottawa, ON
Marvin Pemberton –Milwaukee, OR
Jaime Perez –Crowley, TX
Kent Phillips –Camby, IN
Richard Piercy –Beaumont, CA
Luke Pistol –Stanford, CA
Mason Pohlman –Jacksonville, IL
Andre Saputra –Surabaya, Indonesia
Jennifer Satish –Langley, BC
Katherine Sayson –Richmond, BC
Nathan Scott –Caronport, SK
Victoria Smith –Falls Church, VA
Felipe Alfonso Soto Lanza –Monterrey, Mexico
Isaac Steffan –Calgary, AB
Frank Steinele Jr –Tullahoma, TN
Dale Thompson III –Pensacola, FL
Cayla Thorlakson –Edmonton, AB
Alex Trew –Edmonton, AB
Wang Hung Tse –Surrey, BC
Richard Turner –Dublin, OH
Anne-Laury Verreault –Clermont, QC
Jessica Verschoor –Brantford, ON
Timothy Wakefield –Siloa Springs, AR
William Webb –Birmingham, AL
Amy Wen –Vancouver, BC
William Wenger –Massillon, OH
James White –Claremont, CA
Erin Wiberg –Calgary, AB
Bria Wong –Edmonton, AB
Gregory Wrightstone –Allison Park, PA
Effat Zeidan –San Bernardino, CA

Send address changes and other business items to
The American Scientific Affiliation,
218 Boston Street, Ste. 208, Topsfield, MA 01983.

Phone: (978) 887-8833
E-mail: asa@asa3.org
Website: www.asa3.org

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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...