Come Join Us for ASA 2020
Our Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, July 24–27

Since its inception, the American Scientific Affiliation has been committed to integrating, communicating, and facilitating properly researched science and orthodox theology in service of both the church and the scientific community. This is not merely a societal distinction, but a biblical mandate (1 Cor. 12). What is sound in principle, however, is much harder in practice, especially in our increasingly specialized society.

ASA 2020 will provide an unusual opportunity for our largely scientific audience to interact with theologians who have focused their studies on areas of theology and biblical study that directly bear on the relationships between Christian faith and scientific discovery and practice. The conference will both lay some foundations for integration and provide case studies that indicate what is at stake and why the whole body of Christ must work together for the common good not only of the church, but also of the world (1 Cor. 12:7).

Like previous meetings, we will offer pre-conference activities. More on Friday’s workshop will be announced shortly. This year’s field trips include Balboa Park Museums and Gardens, Torrey Pines State Park, and Birch Aquarium at Scripps. We will again have many opportunities for fellowship and networking and will enjoy amazing views of the Pacific Ocean from our host campus.

Because of COVID-19, we are delaying opening registration until May 1, 2020 or later. Continue to periodically check the ASA website for the latest meeting updates.
Dear friends –

Is it spring yet? Signs are already coming to Southern California: my flowers are already blooming, even as the snow can still be seen on the peaks of the local San Bernardino mountains. Here’s a bit of spring trivia for you: according to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, even though the astronomical vernal equinox occurs on March 19 this year, meteorologically the spring season runs from March 1 through May 31 each year. Collected from various sources around the web, common signs of spring include the following:

- Budding blossoms, shoots, and leaves, including daffodils, cherry trees, and woodland flowers
- Return of all kinds of migratory birds
- Toad, frog, and newt spawn/eggs in ponds; spring peeper frogs singing
- Bees, butterflies, and beetles begin to make a noisy and colorful appearance
- Bats and bears come out of hibernation in search of food
- Maple syrup starts to flow
- Baseball season starts
- Potholes need filling

And of course,

- A new season of American Idol is starting! (Lol)

What are your favorite signs of spring? Please go to the ASA Facebook page and post them in response to the newsletter link.

Our plans are shaping up nicely for another fantastic Annual Meeting this coming July, hosted at Point Loma Nazarene University. As you may know, this year’s theme is The Gift of Scientia, the Body of Christ, and the Common Good: Scientists and Theologians Working Together. In partnership with the Henry Center for Theological Understanding at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, we are looking forward to some engaging conversations with our slate of top-notch plenary speakers and respondents from both science and theology, including Jack Collins, Lydia Jaeger, Christina Bieber Lake, David Livingstone, Hans Madueme, and Alister McGrath. Please be on the lookout for registration information on the ASA website, and help us spread the word to your networks of friends and colleagues.

It’s encouraging to see all the various events going on in our chapters and sub-groups across the country and online, from the recent CWiS Live Zoom meetings, to special lectures and panel discussions, to a variety of regional science/faith conferences in Arizona, California, Illinois, North Carolina, and Texas. Make sure to bookmark the Upcoming Events page and check it frequently so you don’t miss out on something happening close to you!

As I’m sure you know, the ASA’s good work spreads best through the efforts of our members. So, if you have a group you’d like some help reaching out to, or if you’re interested in getting a chapter started in your own community, please let us know. We’re here to help.

That’s it for now. Enjoy the newsletter, and I hope to see you somewhere soon!

With gratitude,

Leslie Wickman

**Executive Director Leslie Wickman**

**Director’s Corner**

**CSCA Happenings**

by Bob Geddes, CSCA Executive Council Secretary, with thanks to Paul Heintzman (Ottawa) and David Shumaker (Waterloo)

**CSCA Annual Meeting**

The CSCA had a very successful annual general meeting on November 8, 2019, at MacNeill Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ontario. Activities included a public lecture, “A Finely Tuned Universe” by Robert Mann; the annual dinner; and the meeting itself. As this was a “turn-over” year for some of the CSCA Executive Council members, a number of changes were accepted at our meeting. Heather Prior joins the Executive Council as Vice President, and Mike Werth, who started his work earlier in the year, was confirmed as Treasurer. In addition, due to the life-threatening health affliction that struck Vice President Patrick Franklin mid-summer last year, Janet Warren will carry on as Interim President, and Patrick, whose return to health we continue to celebrate, becomes President (on leave). With Arnold Sikkema now in his second
Local Chapter Events

Local chapters have had and are planning a number of meetings since that meeting. Two are explained here in the interest of sharing some different models of meeting formats and topics. One was a joint meeting of like-minded but diverse organizations, using CSCA materials, and the other is an upcoming event that three local chapters (Waterloo, Hamilton, and Toronto) are planning together.

Conference Cosponsored by the Ottawa Chapter

On Saturday, January 26, 2020, approximately 82 people gathered at the Laurentian Leadership Centre in downtown Ottawa for an event titled Christians, Climate Change and Our Culture: Can We Agree? The event was cosponsored by the Ottawa Chapter of the CSCA/ASA, A Rocha Ottawa, the Ottawa Christian Reformed Campus Chaplaincy, the University of Ottawa Graduate and Faculty Christian Fellowship, and the Laurentian Leadership Centre of Trinity Western University.

The evening began with a meal provided by the CSCA and A Rocha. Next, a video was shown of Katharine Hayhoe’s keynote address, “Christians, Climate Change, and our Culture,” presented at the CSCA 2018 Sea to Sea to Sky Conference.

Following the video, three local people gave diverse perspectives in response: Anthony Siegrist, pastor of Ottawa Mennonite Church; John Cook, who has worked as a research officer at the National Research Council in solid state physics; and Karri Munn-Venn, the Senior Policy Analyst with Citizens for Public Justice. The evening concluded with a time of questions and discussion from the audience. One of the cohosts, CSCA’s Sid Ypma noted that “by and large the event has had the positive effect of getting good conversation going.”

Upcoming One-Day Retreat

The Hamilton, Toronto, and Waterloo chapters of the CSCA are planning a one-day retreat for those interested in the intersection of science and vocation. Taking place on May 2, 2020, the retreat features guest facilitator, Robert Mann, Professor of Physics at the University of Waterloo. Mann will be sharing his own faith and career journey, focusing on the choices he made along the way. The “retreatants” will be invited to reflect on their own careers and aspirations as ambassadors of Christ, within their profession. The retreat will include snacks and lunch, and other reflective activities, and a chance for hiking and socializing. It will be held at the Ignatius Jesuit Retreat Centre in Guelph, Ontario.

Southern California Christians in Science Winter Conference

By Sarah M. Richart

The Southern California Christians in Science (SCCS) chapter of the ASA held their annual winter conference at Azusa Pacific University (APU) on Saturday, February 22, 2020. The theme of the conference was The Science, Education, and Christian Practice of Creation Care, which kicked off with a welcome address from APU’s president, Paul Ferguson. He shared his thoughts on the compatibility of being a believer and caring for God’s creation, and his address paved the way for the keynote talk given by April Maskiewicz Cordero of Point Loma Nazarene University, entitled “Creation Care: Educating with Evidence and Hope.”

April’s presentation offered insights into framing discussions of environmental/ecological crises in terms that do not overwhelm and lead to despair, but rather empower and inspire hope in students. She gave the audience time to reflect and discuss during and at the end of her talk, which helped set the tone for the remainder of the stimulating conference.

Two parallel oral talk sessions followed, consisting of twelve talks given by faculty and students on a variety of topics, including implementing creation care on campus through the Green Chemistry Commitment and campus community gardens. One session, presented by APU students under faculty Cahleen Shrier’s guidance, focused mirror neuron research and topics related to faith. Others presented on faith and science experiences abroad (in Mexico and Costa Rica), engineering and diversity, and divine design evidenced by proteins. The conference ended with an engaging panel discussion on ethics in the biotechnology industry, which featured several panelists from biotech companies and an organizational psychologist.
Grand Canyon University Hosts COFAS 2020

By Daisy Savarirajan

The Conference on Faith and Science (COFAS) 2020 was held on February 21–22 at Grand Canyon University (GCU) in Phoenix, Arizona. The theme for COFAS 2020 was Science Stewardship for the Glory of God.

On Friday evening, after a time of prayer and worship led by the GCU worship music team, GCU President Brian Mueller welcomed the delegates. The kick-off plenary session addressed the big question, “Is God’s Directing Hand Detectable in Nature?” Intelligent Design scholar Stephen Meyer from the Discovery Institute presented “Return of the God Hypothesis,” and Jeff Hardin from BioLogos provided the theistic evolution perspective in his talk, “Why Believing in God Makes Sense in an Age of Science.” The evening concluded with a Q&A session moderated by GCU’s College of Theology Dean Jason Hiles.

Saturday morning included three keynote presentations: Tom Buchanan from the University of Delaware presented “I Muse on What Thy Hands Have Wrought: Reclaiming Science for Christ”; Dan Churchwell from the Acton Institute spoke about “Technology, Freedom and the Future of Work”; and Stephen Meyer concluded the session with his talk on “Signature in the Cell.” The conference also featured a poster presentation by GCU students.

COFAS 2020, sponsored by the ASA with support from Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, attracted more than 800 attendees, including GCU students and faculty, and people from the local church communities and Christian high schools. The phenomenal turn-out, despite the torrential rains, was above and beyond our expectations. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes!

Christian Women in Science Holds First Ever LIVE Meeting

By Dana Oleskiewicz, ASA Local Chapter Coordinator

On Tuesday, February 18 and again on Sunday, February 23, 2020, members of the Christian Women in Science (CWIS) called or logged in for a live video chat. Attendees were connected through Zoom online conferencing with video displays. This fostered a dynamic and interactive discussion.

After an opening prayer, Loryn Phillips, CWIS leader from the University of New Mexico, began CWIS LIVE with a welcome to attendees, asking each to introduce herself to the group. She then gave a summary of her journey into science and its intersection with her faith, and shared her vision for CWIS for the coming year.

Guest speakers (Effat Zeidan and Cahleen Shrier, Tuesday; Robin Rylaarsdam and Louise Huang, Sunday) provided a formal overview about their own experiences, including challenges experienced professionally as women of faith in the sciences. This prompted questions from the audience as others reflected on their own careers. Strategy in outreach to students and early career professionals was a common theme within the remarks.

Each event concluded with an examination on how CWIS can engage further with the ASA community. We will continue the dialogue through ongoing CWIS LIVE meetings. Dates for the next CWIS LIVE will be Tuesday, May 26 at 7:30 pm EDT and Sunday, May 31, 2020, at 5:00 pm EDT. All women are welcome to join the conversation.

Colorado ASA Chapters Team Up

By Julie Woodman

Colorado’s local chapters have been quite busy! The Rocky Mountain ASA chapter and the Colorado Christian University student ASA chapter have teamed up to host many successful events this year.

Chapter members have gathered to hear recorded plenary lectures given by Deborah Haarsma, Ken Miller, and James Sherley from last year’s annual conference. As an added benefit, members have had the privilege to ask questions following the lectures with the speakers themselves via Skype.

In January, the chapters joined together once more with a special visit from the ASA Executive Council members and Executive Director Leslie Wickman to hear a wonderful lecture on “calling” given by Colorado State University Psychology Professor Bryan Dik. The chapters are looking forward to joining together for several other guest speakers this spring. They have tapped into the expertise of local members and will hear talks from ASA members Jim Green, Andy Fletcher, and Ken Touryan. The fellowship offered to student members from the Rocky Mountain chapter has been a gift that the student chapter hopes to continue to benefit from in years to come.
John W. Haas Jr. 
(1930–2020), Chemist

John William Haas Jr., age 89, of S. Hamilton, MA, passed quietly on February 12, 2020, at the Masconomet HealthCare Center after a brief illness. Son of John W. Haas, Sr. and Ada Bowles Haas, “Jack” was born in Philadelphia, PA, on February 19, 1930. He received his BS degree in chemistry from King’s College, DE, where he also met his future bride, Ann Sutliff Haas, beloved wife of 66 years. Jack went on to achieve MS and PhD degrees in physical chemistry from the University of Delaware in preparation for his career as a college chemistry professor and scientific researcher at Grove City and Gordon Colleges. Jack was an elder and deacon in the First Presbyterian Church Northshore, where he also played the organ for over 40 years. An active community member, he served on the Hamilton Conservation Commission, Historical Society, and Chebacco Woods and Lake Associations.

Jack heard about the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) while he was a King’s College student from his professor, Omar Olney. He joined the ASA in January 1957, when he was a graduate student at the University of Delaware, and remained a member for 63 years. When Olney went to Gordon College in 1960 as the sole biology professor, he arranged for Jack to get an interview to start the chemistry department at Gordon. Jack joined Gordon in 1961 and within two years he was chairman of the New England section of the ASA.

Jack was an avid advocate of the ASA and its mission of expanding the discourse on science and Christian faith. He was a visionary and often identified leading-edge possibilities for the ASA. His first letter published in *PSCF* in 1971 urged the ASA to produce 5-minute radio broadcasts for widespread use on Christian radio stations, although there is little evidence that this was done. Later, in 1994, Jack brought the ASA to the digital world when he convened an impromptu gathering at the annual meeting to consider starting an ASA website. Terry Gray was a new member who attended and offered to take the lead in implementing it. In 1996 Jack helped found the ASA Press. He had a deep passion that ASA should provide resources to churches and the public that taught good science. He had the idea of creating an online Members in Glory page. He faithfully filled in all the information he could and he is now the latest entry.

ASA had the fortune of having Jack on the executive council from 1973 to 1978. In 1980 when Bill Sisterson suddenly resigned as executive director and Bob Herrmann expressed interest in taking that role if he could return to the Boston area, Jack stepped in. He and Dean of Faculty Judson Carlberg worked with President Richard Gross to arrange for Bob to have a joint appointment as the pre-med advisor at Gordon College. As a result, the ASA offices relocated from Elgin, IL, to Ipswich, MA, in Bob’s home. Jack continued to work closely with Bob and the relationship between ASA and Gordon College grew productively.

In late 1989 when Wilbur Bullock resigned as editor of *PSCF* Jack agreed to succeed him. Jack had been a frequent reviewer of articles for the journal. In addition to his specialty of chemistry, he was deeply interested in philosophy and history of science, making him a natural for the position. In 1995 Jack retired from Gordon College, allowing him to devote even more time to the work of the ASA. He continued as editor until 1999 when Roman Miller succeeded him. Jack authored more than 50 letters, articles, and commentaries in *PSCF*.

Jack continued to spend much time in the ASA office, particularly focusing on helping build the ASA website. When Terry Gray scanned and did an OCR on the articles in all the ASA journals, Jack worked to edit and format the articles. Jack felt that there should be a lot of discussion about science and faith on the internet. He personally put together a large number of topical discussions that are still available online, though somewhat outdated now.

When I succeeded Don Munro as ASA Executive Director in 2005, Jack was very influential in working with me to help me understand the mission of ASA and the big picture of science and faith. We became close friends, meeting virtually every week for coffee and discussion. These discussions moved from the ASA office to Williams Bakery, then Sofia’s coffee shop, and finally to Jack’s home until our last meeting on January 14, 2020. I helped him attend many local lectures and travel to many ASA annual meetings, his last being the 2012 meeting at Point Loma.

In addition to his many accomplishments and acts of service, Jack will be especially remembered as a devoted and faithful husband, a loving and present father who passed on the important things of life to his children, a loyal friend, one who took joy in intellectual banter, and a man who loved and served his God with his whole life.

Robert L. Herrmann 
(1928–2019), Biochemist

Robert L. Herrmann passed away peacefully on December 12, 2019, at the age of 91. Born on July 17, 1928, in New York City to Philip and Florence Herrmann, Bob grew up in Queens. His family attended a Plymouth Brethren group in Manhattan. He studied chemistry at Purdue University, interrupted by two years of service in the Navy on USS Shenandoah. In 1950 Bob married his childhood sweetheart and loving wife of 69 years, Betty Ann Cook, a year before completing his chemistry degree at Purdue. He earned a PhD at Michigan State University and came to MIT in 1956 for a post-doc as a Damon Runyon Fellow in Biology. He later joined
Bob joined the American Scientific Affiliation in 1957 shortly after arriving at MIT. Together with more than a dozen other ASA members, Bob was a member of the Federation Christian Fellowship subgroup of the American Societies for Experimental Biology. He was elected to the ASA Executive Council in 1978 while he was on the faculty at the Oral Roberts University School of Medicine. He was serving as president of the council when, in 1981, the council was informed that Bill Sisterson was unexpectedly resigning as executive director. Bob was eager to go back to the Northeast and was also very interested in leading the ASA, which was then located in Elgin, Illinois. Sensing an opportunity, Jack Haas at Gordon College helped construct a package deal that would give Bob an adjunct professor and pre-med advisor position at Gordon as well as being Executive Director of the ASA, if ASA would move its headquarters to the Northeast. The deal was accepted and the Herrmanns moved to Ipswich, MA. His house became the ASA headquarters, which later moved to leased space in downtown Ipswich.

The ASA was privileged to have Bob serve as Executive Director from 1981 to 1994. He was a major factor in revitalizing the ASA. An unfortunate office fire in 1979 had destroyed many records and the sudden departure of Executive Director Bill Sisterson left the ASA in a difficult situation. Harry Lubansky served as an interim director until Bob was able to move to Ipswich and take the reins.

Perhaps Bob is best known for pursuing the John Templeton connection to ASA. While perusing the membership list for possible sources of funding, Bob noticed that John M. Templeton was a member. Knowing of his investment prowess, Bob visited him at Lyford Cay in the Bahamas while Bob was vacationing there. John immediately solicited Bob’s help in reviewing a book he was writing. Soon their relationship blossomed, leading to five jointly authored books. Meanwhile, John became a fan of the ASA, supplying both some funding as well as additional visibility and members from the Unity Church. In 1987 Bob helped John found the John Templeton Foundation (JTF) which currently is one of the largest sources of funding for research in science and faith. Bob published eight articles in PSCF, four of which were co-authored with John Templeton.

One of the most significant ventures that Bob initiated and led was the ASA/Templeton Lecture series. Funded by the JTF, the ASA managed a nation-wide series of lectures at colleges and universities on science and faith, raising awareness of both the ASA and issues of science and faith. When Bob retired in 1994, Don Munro succeeded him as executive director and continued working out the logistics of the lecture series which concluded around 2003. The JTF and Gordon College continue to sponsor an annual lecture series in his honor, sustaining the work that he dearly loved.

Bob had a lifelong interest in the connections between Christianity and science and in Christian higher education which honored both. He was a long-time member of the American Scientific Affiliation and spearheaded the establishment of its Canadian branch, the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation.

James Wylie Jr. (19??–2019), Chemist
James Wylie Jr., an environmental chemist, passed away on November 8, 2019. He joined the ASA in 1977 and was an ASA member for more than 40 years. He was a member of the Southern California local chapter of the ASA.

Roger G. Rowe (1942–2019), Geologist
Roger G. Rowe, age 77, of The Villages, Florida, passed away at his home on Saturday, September 21, 2019. He was born and raised in Duluth, Minnesota, by the late Mildred and Grant Rowe. Roger graduated from Duluth Central High School in 1960 and continued his studies at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. In 1971 he graduated from Bowling Green State University with a MS in Geology. He worked as a geologist for ExxonMobil for 38 years and then as a geological modeler for Subsurface Computer Modeling for 12 years. He retired to The Villages, Florida, with his wife, Jane, in 2008 where he enjoyed flying his plane and bicycling. Roger was a strong man of faith and believed in the soon return of Jesus Christ to Earth.
As some of you may know, Roger has an extremely mentally challenged and physically wheelchair-bound son who periodically attends SCARC, which is a handicapped center in Bushnell for this type of individual. A small donation to this facility in the name of Roger and Glen Rowe will help SCARC achieve its goals:

Roger joined the ASA in 2001 and participated in the Houston section of the ASA.

The Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA is published quarterly for its membership by the American Scientific Affiliation. Please send Newsletter information to Rebecca English, becky@asa3.org, and Coming Events information to David Fisher, dfisher@asa3.org. Kindly send Canadian matters to CSCA, PO Box 63082, University Station, ON L0H 4H0. Send address changes and other business items to the American Scientific Affiliation, 218 Boston St, Ste 208, Topsfield, MA 01983-2210. Phone: (978) 887-8833; E-mail: asa@asa3.org; Website: www.asa3.org. ©2020 American Scientific Affiliation (except previously published material). All rights reserved.
$160,000  Goal
$149,000  Gifts & Pledges
$ 11,000  Left to Fundraise by 3/31/2020

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 $11,000 to meet our funding goal. Would you prayerfully consider a first-time or additional gift to help us meet our goal?

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!