

Newsletter of the ASA & CSCA

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Meet the New Executive Council Members

The first ASA Executive Council members elected under the new ASA Bylaws are Janel Curry, Se Kim, and Effat Zeidan. Their three-year terms started April 1, 2020. They join John Wood, president; Terry Gray, vice president; Michael Everest, secretary/treasurer; and William Jordan. We thank outgoing member Judith Toronchuk for her five years of dedicated service.



JANEL CURRY

Janel Curry is a visionary and strategic leadership executive with an established record of building a mission-centered, and forward-looking institutional culture that is focused on measured effectiveness. She is experienced in building and leading teams that shape successful organizations. Janel has extensive

cross-cultural and international experience that demonstrates an ability to thrive in diverse and intercultural contexts and form cross-cultural partnerships.

SE KIM

Se Kim is trained in genetics and neuroscience, and her research work focused on the role of epigenetics in mammalian brain function and plant stress response. She received her BS in biochemistry from The University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in molecular and human genetics from Baylor College of Medicine. With an interest in nonprofit administration, Se has an executive MBA from the Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Currently, Se serves as the Deputy Chief Program Officer at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Office of Science, Policy, and Society Programs. She oversees the finance and operations of the unit and supports the strategic alignment of six unique programs. She first heard of the ASA through her previous role as the Associate Director of the AAAS program on Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER), leading the program's initiatives to facilitate conversation on science with faith-based communities.

Se lives in the DC suburb of northern Virginia, where her husband serves as the English (young-adult) Pastor at a local Chinese-American church. Active in several science-faith organizations, she is passionate about engaging young Christians and making the science and faith journey easier for the next generation of budding scientists. Se is excited about bringing data-based thinking and business development to mission-based organizations, and she is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the ASA Executive Council.

EFFAT ZEIDAN

Effat Zeidan began her journey in science education and research at the American University of Beirut as she pursued her bachelor's degree in chemistry pre-med. During her undergraduate years, she was inspired by the advancements in the field of nanotechnology, praying that one day she would become a member of a leading research group and participate in the top-notch research. After graduating with her undergraduate degree, she was blessed with the opportunity to pursue her doctorate degree in nanoscience and nanotechnology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, joining Dr. Sandros's research lab. Her research was focused on the development of promising ultra-sensitive nano diagnostic devices for early disease detection.



After graduating with her PhD, Effat began her career as a distance educator through the wonderful opportunity granted to her by the California Baptist University (CBU) Online and Professional Studies team. She is currently a program director of general education and assistant professor of science and math at CBU. Her focus is on improving the quality of online science and math education through the introduction of practical learning tools and motivational learning strategies. She has contributed scholarly articles to *Nanomedicine*, *Nature*, and *JoVE*.



Director's Corner

Interim Executive Director John Wood

This is a season of deep transformation. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified financial risk for every nonprofit. But the impact of the pandemic is also illuminating deep differences among us—none more so than with the death of George Floyd. There is anger and frustration as well as grief and regret, but tinged with hope for a substantial healing. Amid the pain are calls for action and change for individuals and organizations. What will we do? How will we speak to intractable racial inequities?

The ASA is not immune to the foibles and failings that underlie all the forms of injustice. No human institution is. This fact, and our mission, call us to reflect carefully on the exigencies of the day. I doubt that any of us knew George Floyd. But not unlike Rosa Parks a generation ago, none are left unchanged by his tragic death. There is much that we will reflect on in our local chapter and annual meetings to come. In a period of change there is risk but also great opportunity. As an ASA leadership team, our primary focus is on opportunity and the adjustments needed within to meet it.

Last month we repositioned our budget to meet the emerging challenges. After cancelling the annual meeting and carving out a 25% budget reduction, we applied for short-term funding through the Cares Act. We are pleased with the success of securing a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan because it is vital in maintaining sound operations. The further good news is the majority of this low-interest loan is forgivable.

COVID-19 chaos is hitting each of us differently. Some are experiencing income reductions and real hardships, but others in our community have not. We thank God for you and your thoughtfulness. Week after week we have been overjoyed to receive generous gifts in the mail, keeping us focused on the ASA mission.

The ASA team is quickly becoming Zoom experts. At the Member Assembly in April, Patrick Franklin and John Pohl helped us better understand the new reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our dedicated staff is now supporting local chapters in hosting Zoom meetings. Later this summer our annual business meeting will go live in Zoom space on July 24 at 7:00 PM EDT.

Finally, we have rolled out a spring phone calling program and have been in touch with over 350 members so far. This feedback is encouraging and informative as we gain a better understanding of how to best serve our members.

Feel free to be in touch with us and to share your story. And please continue to pray for the work of the ASA. If you have questions or suggestions about our mission or what you read in this newsletter, be sure to contact me at my new email: john@asa3.org.

Cheers,

John

ASA New Members January–March 2020

Please join us in welcoming these new members!

Roshini Abraham –Westerville, OH
Jonathan Amegin –Lakewood, CO
Cliff Anderson –Grand Rapids, MI
John Benton –Scottsdale, AZ
Lucy Bianchi –Lakewood, CO
Michael Borowski –Bielefeld, Germany
Kendall Brome –Baton Rouge, LA
Luke Burroughs –Grand Rapids, MI
Christina Cirucci –Sewickley, PA
Ajeane Cotton –Cave Creek, AZ
David DeGraaf –Yaounde, Cameroon
Arpit Desai –Hermansburgh, Germany
Amy Van Dik –Fort Collins, CO
Colton Doll –Gainesville, FL
Inez Douglas –Arlington, VA
Brian Drawbaugh –Fairplay, MD
Brittany Drenth –Davenport, IA

Amara Dunn –Geneva, NY
Albert Erisman –Bellevue, WA
Ronald Fritz –Burnsville, NC
Glenn Goodwin –Des Moines, IA
Emily Gottry –Gilbert, AZ
Zachary Graber –Mount Vernon, OH
Robert Guinn –Palm Desert, CA
Nicole Hale –Colorado Springs, CO
Carey Harmer –Sheffield, UK
Jemimah Harrouff –Aledo, IL
Jennifer Hartnett –Wilmington, NC
Daniela Hernandez Duque –Nashville, TN
Jacob Honel –Broken Arrow, OK
William Horst –Pasadena, CA
William Johnson –Austin, TX
Glynn Kegley –Florence, MS
John Knox –San Mateo, CA

Andrew Kornilov –Grand Rapids, MI
Victoria Kyarsgaard –Corcoran, MN
Barry Kyrklund –Flowery Branch, GA
Caleb Li –Waco, TX
Alexandra Mayer –Thousand Oaks, CA
Danielle McBride –Cincinnati, OH
Janet McCullough –Anchorage, AK
Halley McDonald –Colorado Springs, CO
Mark McReynolds –Fullerton, CA
Paul Nelson –Boise, ID
Randall Otto –Coatesville, PA
Corey Parish –Fergus, ON
TaeKwan Park –Toronto, ON
Daniel Petersen –Yaounde, Cameroon
Fisher Pham –Lowell, MI
Greig Porter –Honolulu, HI

Cameron Rhodes –Clovis, CA
Michael Sabom –Atlanta, GA
April Sellers –Tulsa, OK
Jed Shpakowsky –Lethbridge, AB
David Simmons –Collierville, TN
Haley Smith –Goleta, CA
Kinsey Smith –Gilbert, AZ
Shirley Smith –Sacramento, CA
Jacob Steele –Trabuco Canyon, CA
Scott Steward –Accokeek, MD
Julianna Thiessen –Lakewood, CO
Julia Thometz –Arvada, CO
Cassandra Van Der Hyde –Dracut, MA
Stephen Walters –Clovis, CA
Micah Warren –Tolland, CT
Daniel Weinhausen –Roseville, MN
Abigail Zoccola –Lake Tapps, WA



CSCA in the First Months of COVID-19

Arnold Sikkema, CSCA Executive Director

By mid-March of any year, our season of local chapter events is typically winding down. The Vancouver chapter co-sponsored a lecture at Trinity Western University on March 9, 2020. Paul Allen, who had recently relocated from Montréal to Corpus Christi College at the University of British Columbia, spoke on “God, Anthropology and the Dangerous Ambiguity of Social Darwinism,” and Myron Penner, Trinity Western University (TWU) philosopher and a book review editor for *PSCF* was the respondent.

But this March was not like any other year in our history: by the end of that week, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and most Canadian universities, including TWU, had

gone fully online. All in-person CSCA events were soon suspended, but a Waterloo chapter event with Isaiah Ritzmann, speaking on “Technology: Progress or Prudence” went ahead online via ASA’s Zoom system. Also cancelled was our much anticipated May 2 retreat in Guelph, Ontario (near Waterloo), on “Science as a Christian Vocation,” featuring prominent Canadian physicist and former CSCA President Robert Mann. At first we had hoped it could be rescheduled to late August, but it has now been suspended indefinitely, along with all plans for the 2020–2021 season. CSCA is working closely with the ASA to coordinate online events, whether Zoom webinars or local-chapter fellowship opportunities.

On the second anniversary of our CSCA May 11–14, 2018, conference, “From Sea to Sea ... to Sky! Science and Christianity in Canada” held at TWU, all recordings (audio, video, slides) were released on ASA’s Resources webpage along with all ASA conference recordings. Many thanks to Mark McEwan as well as Terry Gray for completing this project. We invite everyone to make good use of these resources. Maybe this repository—perhaps including the many talks at csca.ca/youtube—would be a substitute for our July conference which was to be held this year in San Diego.

Finally, congratulations to Regent College! They will continue to be a hotbed for science-and-faith events, many co-sponsored by CSCA’s Vancouver chapter, as they have just embarked on a “Science for Seminaries” project with AAAS DoSER under the leadership of David Robinson and CSCA member Ross Hastings.



Interview with Rebecca English Membership and Outreach Manager

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

I was introduced to the ASA through Vicki Best. Vicki and I have known each other for many years. We have worked together in the past on the Finance Committee at our church as well as with the Board of Directors at Covenant Christian Academy, a Christian, classical school in the Boston area. We both have business backgrounds and attended Gordon College, although ultimately, I finished my BS and MBA at Bentley College. When Vicki informed me about this opportunity with ASA, I was at a transition point in my career where I wanted to make some very intentional decisions about my next direction. With my extensive professional background, I felt that my business operations experience and passion for customer service could be valuable in this role. And from a personal perspective, I learned that the ASA is an organization with a mission I could embrace, which is what I was seeking at this stage in my life.

What does your role involve?

One of the things I like best about my role is that it involves a wide variety of responsibilities and is never boring. I work with the membership database to update profiles, renew memberships, run reports, create events, and ensure website content is kept up-to-date. I coordinate the quarterly newsletter and regular NewsNotes as well as other email communications that go to our members.

I manage many of the annual meeting details as well as assist with the coordination of events and communications of our local chapters and our affiliate groups such as CWIS. I find that being a member of a small team provides the opportunity to learn a wide spectrum of tasks, and I enjoy that.

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

Well, if asked that question four months ago, my answer would have been to experience the annual meeting in San Diego this summer. I was excited for the intense work we do from February through July, preparing for and executing this event. I was also looking forward to meeting many of our members in person. However, as you know, the COVID-19 pandemic derailed that plan. The result is that the ASA, like so many other organizations, is being forced to adapt and find new and innovative ways to do business. For example, we held our first online member assembly and have been making outreach phone calls to members. So, I guess the answer to the question is that I look forward to helping the organization get through this historic event and to all that we can learn as a result of it. Being part of this evolution is exciting.

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

I have a son CJ (15) who is finishing his freshman year of high school. He’s a really great kid and I enjoy his company so much. We have season tickets to the local theater and love to go to concerts and watch baseball together. I am also an adjunct professor at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, where I teach both undergraduate and graduate business classes. I have been a resident of Salem, Massachusetts, for 30 years and serve on the Salem Historical Commission. I am an avid reader, love to travel, and am a HUGE Red Sox fan!



Front row: Gayle Ermer, Ralph Stearley; Back row: Derek Schuurmann, Ryan Bebej

West Michigan Chapter Formed

Ralph Stearley, President

A small group of Michigan ASA members met in Grand Rapids in the late spring of 2019 to discuss the desirability of a local chapter. A West Michigan Chapter of the ASA had been dormant for many years. This fall, we have followed up on our initial discussion and have organized a new regional chapter. The founding officers are Ralph Stearley, president; Ryan Bebej, vice-president; Derek Schuurman, webmaster; and Gayle Ermer, secretary/treasurer.

Michigan ASA members should anticipate announcements by email regarding events. We are currently planning for a kickoff event. We encourage ASA members from anywhere in Michigan's Lower Peninsula or from neighboring states to feel free to join us. Check out our new chapter page at <https://network.asa3.org/group/WestMI>.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter Meets via Zoom

Terry Gray

The Rocky Mountain chapter of the ASA (RMASA) met on Tuesday evening, May 19, 2020, via Zoom. The leadership team had met via Zoom before, but this was our first "public" meeting where all ASA members, friends, and visitors were invited. We tackled the question of theodicy (the "problem" of evil)—particularly, how do we understand God's role in the COVID-19 pandemic.

We had two 20-minute presentations: one by Terry Gray, a chemistry instructor at Colorado State University, on the Reformed/Calvinist/Presbyterian view based on the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and the Westminster Confession and Catechism; the next by Andy Fletcher, the founder and head of Life, the Universe and Everything, who reflected on the problem of evil. Andy has engaged audiences from around the world on questions at the interface of science and faith.

These talks were followed by a 40-minute discussion by the 20–30 Zoom attendees, moderated by Greg Jackson, Professor of Mechanic Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. We opened the Zoom chat window during the presentations, and participants asked questions and made comments that became the jumping off point for the discussion. We even had one participant from China.

Given that this was our first Zoom effort like this, we deemed it a success. Thanks to Peter Brissette, CEO of Digital Marketing Dude, who was our Zoom host and technical guru. And, also thanks to Lynn Billman, who tirelessly organizes these events for us.

CWiS Live May Events

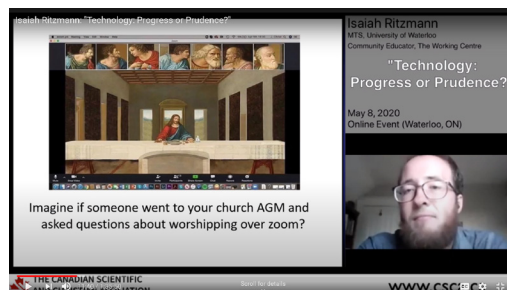
Loryn Phillips

Our two Zoom sessions for the month of May were fantastic. Janel Curry and Dot Chappell spoke about navigating your life when your career is on hold. The conversation involved a discussion between participants about current professional environments and what the future environment may look like. Dot and Janel described the impact of COVID-19 on places such as universities and the personal toll on the professional environment.

We were glad to welcome some first-time attendees and to see familiar faces. Stay tuned for several upcoming CWiS events!

Waterloo Chapter Hosts First Webinar

David Shumaker



The Waterloo, Ontario chapter of the CSCA hosted Isaiah Ritzmann on May 8, 2020, for our most recent event. The talk was the chapter's first experiment using the online platform Zoom (generously assisted by the ASA). Ritzmann, a master's of theological studies graduate of the University of Waterloo, gave a presentation he called "Technology: Progress or Prudence?"

Drawing on the Appropriate Technology tradition (E.F. Schumacher, Ivan Illich, Neil Postman, and Jacques Ellul may come to mind), Ritzmann offered this thesis: "New technology needs to be 'up for debate' in our communities, and careful evaluation should replace assumptions that new technology is always good and better."

Ritzmann seeks to replace deeply held cultural assumptions about technology with wiser alternatives. Instead of downplaying costs of innovation, and unquestioningly embracing the latest conveniences, we should wisely balance benefits against costs, including cultural and environmental ones. Innovation should be guilty until proven innocent, he claims, putting the burden of proof on those who propose the adoption of a new technology without assessing the full range of liabilities. Here lies the essence of Ritzmann's claim: he is not advocating large rules about the use or rejection of certain technologies, but he calls us to form a culture of wisdom capable of judging the right use of technologies in the appropriate contexts.

Ritzmann's full presentation with slides can be found on the CSCA website, csc.ca, at the CSCA's YouTube channel.

Francis Collins Receives the Prestigious 2020 Templeton Prize

Vicki Best

ASA Fellow, geneticist, and physician Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, who led the Human Genome Project to its successful completion in 2003 and throughout his career has advocated for the integration of faith and reason, was recently announced as the 2020 Templeton Prize Laureate.

Francis is a very worthy recipient of the Templeton Prize, one of the largest annual awards given to an individual in the world. Previous recipients include global Christian leaders such as Mother Teresa, Charles Colson, and Billy Graham, and top scientists such as cosmologist Martin Rees, biologist Francis Ayala, and physicist Charles Townes. The award was recently refocused on honoring individuals who are “harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind’s place and purpose within it.” Even among this incredible list of recipients, Francis stands out for bringing together both world-class scientific accomplishments and a deep orthodox Christian faith, all in a life of humility and service.

From 1993 to 2008, Collins directed the National Human Genome Research Institute, guiding the Human Genome Project in its mapping and sequencing of the three billion DNA letters that make up the human genetic instruction book. Before joining the NIH, Collins served as professor of internal medicine and human genetics at the University of Michigan, where he was known as the “gene hunter” for his pioneering technique of “positional cloning” to pinpoint disease-related genes. His research groups have been responsible for the discovery of the genes responsible for cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis, Huntington’s disease, and Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome, a rare form of premature aging. These and other genetic breakthroughs have helped launch a new era of precision medicine in which researchers and providers can customize treatment programs for individual patients, and have shed new light on human well-being and the nature and possibilities of the human species.

Francis openly tells the story of how he moved from atheism to faith in Jesus Christ as he struggled with the meaning of life while interacting with the sick and dying in medical school. When he shared his story in *The Language of God*, the book provoked much curiosity, became an instant best-seller, and has now been translated into 24 languages. Scientists who know the caliber of his research were sometimes surprised (or concerned) that he was talking about God. Meanwhile Christians who loved his testimony were sometimes surprised (or concerned) that he was talking about evolution. The tremendous response prompted Francis to found BioLogos, a proud partner organization of the ASA, as a forum to discuss issues at this intersection and to celebrate the harmony of rigorous science and biblical faith. His reputation quickly attracted a large network of faith leaders.



Beyond particular religious beliefs or scientific views, Francis is loved and respected for his character and humble dialogue. He does more than make the intellectual case for faith—he lives it out. Francis is dedicated in his service to patients, to the church, and to the world. As the COVID-19 pandemic ramped up this spring, his work at NIH became even more intense. He is leading and inspiring a broad coalition of scientists and physicians, both within and beyond NIH, to combat this disease. Countless physicians are dedicated to service, but believing physicians and researchers like Francis Collins are serving out of obedience to Christ’s call to love our neighbors. “I grieve at the suffering and death I see all around,” he writes. “But then I remember that the God who hung on the cross is intimately familiar with suffering. I learn and re-learn that God never promised freedom from suffering—but rather to be ‘our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble’ (Psalm 46).”

We were blessed to have Francis as a plenary at our public lecture at ASA 2018, our annual meeting at Gordon College. And I can’t tell you the number of ASA members whom I’ve met in my travels who tell me they were introduced to the ASA by Francis Collins in his *The Language of God* book. He is a great ambassador, supporter, and friend who says, “ASA has been an important source of fellowship and community for me since I joined about 40 years ago.”

Francis will formally receive the Templeton Prize in a virtual ceremony later this year. We are delighted to add our congratulations as he receives this prestigious award.



Name: Veronica F. Frans

Hometown: New York City (now in Lansing, MI)

Profession: PhD Student (Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, Michigan State University)

ASA Affiliation: Christian Women in Science

Hobbies: Languages, travel, photography, board games

Favorite Pro Sports Team: New York Yankees

When did you first discover the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA)?

I first heard about the ASA during my undergraduate years at Messiah College. Discussions on science and Christian faith were normal there, and many of my professors were ASA members. Upon graduation, I was encouraged to join, so I signed up.

How has your personal and spiritual life been changed because of your involvement with the ASA?

Although I have been an ASA member since 2008, I was not very active for a long time. I advanced in my work and education, but along the journey I kept feeling like something was missing. I truly missed the dialogues we had at Messiah College—those deep conversations on environmental stewardship, defining our vocations, pondering meaning in the patterns we see, etc. Visits with my mentor, Joseph Sheldon, always helped fill that gap, but I needed something more. It was when I started my PhD program that Joe gave me a nudge to be more involved in the ASA, and I finally attended my first Annual Meeting in 2019. I found what I was missing all along! I made new lifelong friends and was encouraged as I listened to speakers with so much knowledge, faith, and experience. Graduate school is a time of self-discovery and growth, and I realized that being a part of the ASA is also essential in this process.

What is the tangible evidence of the growth you have experienced?

Since becoming more involved in the ASA, my perspective on my research has changed; I was reminded of my calling as both a Christian and an ecologist. I am now an active member of Christian Women in Science (CWIS), and I attend their new monthly CWIS Live sessions over Zoom. I am also working hard to strengthen my foundation as a believer, aspiring to be like other ASA members who engage with

Christian communities for creation care. Here at Michigan State University, I started a student organization called Every Nation @ MSU, which stemmed from two campus God's Not Dead events, and we are building a community focused on discipleship, leadership, and apologetics. I also am involved in another ASA member's organization, The Cross Impact, exploring how religious communities can accelerate sustainable development progress. In the fall, I will start my Au Sable Graduate Fellowship, where I will join monthly sessions on environmental stewardship. These pathways for growth and involvement have all been sparked by my interactions with ASA members.

How long have you been a member/donor and what has the ASA meant to you?

I have been an ASA member since 2008, but it feels like my membership really began last year. The ASA means so much to me now because graduate school can be such a struggle! One of my saving graces has been the ASA's effort to help us younger members, such as by CWIS Live sessions and student/early career tracks at Annual Meetings in partnership with InterVarsity's Emerging Scholars Network. ASA members are also so welcoming and accessible—no matter who they are or how busy they seem. I am never shy to ask questions about others' journeys in academia and faith. The ASA is a safe environment as I develop professionally and spiritually. I hope to be an ASA member for the rest of my life.

What do our friends and financial partners need to know about how the ASA is making a difference?

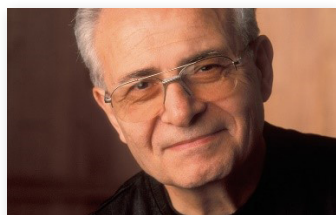
I am so grateful to all supporters of the ASA! If student membership and Annual Meeting attendance were not affordable, it probably would have taken me even longer to become involved. I really appreciate the ASA's special care for us students and early career members. I hope to one day give back and make an impact as an ASA member in the future.

Members in Glory

Randy Isaac

George Giacomakis Jr.

(1937–2019), *History*



George Giacomakis Jr. was born on July 6, 1937, and died April 6, 2019, following heart surgery. George's love for Israel and the Jewish people went back to when he was a college student studying Hebrew and

Greek. The newborn state of Israel was only ten years old at the time and was the subject of much attention amongst his fellow Bible students. When awarded a scholarship by Brandeis University, he studied at the largely Jewish school and earned both a Master's and a PhD degree in Mediterranean Studies (Near East and Islamic Studies).

After graduation, he joined Cal State Fullerton's Irvine campus in the department of history in 1963. He became a Danforth Foundation Fellow in 1968. He was department chair from 1972–1975 and in 1978 left campus to head the American Institute of Holy Land Studies (now called Jerusalem University College) in Jerusalem. He returned to the Irvine campus in 1984 and also became an adjunct professor of history at Biola University. He was director of the university's first south county branch in 1989 until his retirement in 2007.

George joined the ASA in 1961 and, beginning in 1966, he served several years on the executive council of the Southern California section of the ASA. He was also active on the social science commission of the ASA. In 1966 he published the book *The Akkadian of Alalah* on ancient tablets found in the Syrian city of Alalah. He was a founding director of Song of Israel and founded the Museum of Biblical and Sacred Writings at Biola. He led many tours to the Middle Eastern countries. He also was an editor of *Young's Bible Dictionary* and the International Standard Version of the Bible. One of the chapters of *Protest and Politics: Christianity and Contemporary Affairs*, edited by Robert G. Clouse et al., was written by George and titled "Christian Attitudes toward Israel."

Paul A. Lepse

(1937–2019), *Chemist*

Paul Arnold Lepse passed away July 19, 2019, in Seattle of cancer at age 82. He was born in Seattle on March 18, 1937, to Henry H. and Olga (Anderson) Lepse. Academically gifted, Paul rapidly completed his education at Ballard High School, Seattle Pacific College and a doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Washington. The title of his dissertation was "Kinetics of the Oxidation of Benzaldehyde with Chromyl Acetate." He married Jean Marie Mandt in 1961, a marriage which lasted 58 years.

After a year of post-doctoral research in Munich, Germany, he joined the faculty at Seattle Pacific College (later University) where he taught chemistry for 39 years. A couple generations of dentists, physicians, university professors, and research scientists are survivors of his rigorous organic chemistry courses. Paul was an avid reader, and he enjoyed baseball, classical music, hiking, and mountain climbing. He was active in his church, singing in the choir, serving at times as treasurer, recording secretary, and church chairman.

Paul was active in the American Chemical Society, serving several terms as an officer, including going through the 3-year chair rotation, in the regional Puget Sound Section. He was very interested in the relationship between science and faith and enjoyed attending conventions of the American Scientific Affiliation to explore this topic. As a member of the Highpointers Club, he reached the geographical highpoints of 42 of the 50 US states. In 2001, he attended a family reunion in Norway, including visits to the original homes of his grandparents and to the island of Lepsøy from which the family name originates. In 2015, Paul and Jean moved to Ida Culver House Broadview. Paul enjoyed meeting new friends at this retirement home, and it was here that he received good care in the difficult last months.

Earle H. West

(1925–2020), *Chemistry*



Earle H. West died at home on March 31, 2020. He was born in Ashville, NC, on August 3, 1925. He grew up in Henderson, TN, where he completed a junior college program at Freed-Hardeman University. He later received the BA, MA, and PhD degrees from Vanderbilt University. Earle taught chemistry for ten years at David Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. He then served

for 29 years at Howard University, Washington, DC, variously as Professor of Education, Associate Dean of the School of Education, and Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. He edited the *Journal of Negro Education* for several years. Earlier, Earle had served as Minister for Churches of Christ in Goodlettsville, TN, Nashville, TN, and Cleveland, OH. For the past 50 years, he served as an Elder for the Silver Spring, Maryland Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Dr. Tommie A. West, four children, ten grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Earle joined the ASA in January of 1953 and was a member for 67 years. He wrote several letters to the editors published in *PSCF* and remained a faithful, supporting ASA member for his entire life.

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, dfisherasa@gmail.com. Kindly send Canadian matters to CSCA, PO Box 63082, University Plaza, Dundas, ON L9H 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.

ASA Member Assembly Meetings Were a Success

Vicki Best

The ASA held our first-ever online member assembly meeting on Friday, April 24, 2020, at 7 PM EDT and again on Saturday, April 25 at 12 PM EDT. These virtual webinars exceeded our expectations and, by all counts, were appreciated by everyone who tuned in.

During this virtual meeting open to all members and friends, President John Wood reported on the State of the ASA, and two of our members reported from the front line of the COVID-19 crisis. John Pohl, MD, presented a medical professional's view of COVID-19, and Patrick Franklin, PhD, shared a theological perspective on crisis and death. After the presentations, there was time for Q&A and prayer. Each meeting had about one hundred people in attendance.

If you missed this virtual webinar, you can watch the video at asa3.org.



John Pohl has been a member of the ASA since 2007. John's medical specialty is pediatric gastroenterology. He serves as Professor of Pediatrics at Primary Children's Hospital, University of Utah.

Patrick Franklin has been a member of the ASA/CSCA since 2008. Patrick's specialty is theology and ethics. He serves as Associate Professor of Theology at Tyndale University.



PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS OF EXCITING ONLINE GATHERINGS WE ARE PLANNING FOR THIS SUMMER AND FALL.

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