The ASA Hosts Legacy Campaign Event at the Museum of the Bible

Mike Beidler

On October 13, 2023, the ASA held a Legacy Campaign event at the renowned Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC, featuring speaker ASA Fellow Ted Davis, Professor Emeritus of the History of Science at Messiah University, who specializes in the interaction of Christianity and science from the early Church Fathers to the present day. Attendees came from as far as Louisiana, Boston, and Chicago to attend the event, which sought to promote the ASA’s Legacy Campaign and solicit pledges to grow the organization’s endowment, which will poised the ASA for impact growth, fiscal stability, and financial sustainability for generations to come.

After opening comments by ASA President Janel Curry and Executive Vice President Vicki Best, attendees had the pleasure of listening to Ted give a brief summary of his involvement—as well as that of other ASA members—in shaping the Museum of the Bible’s most successful temporary exhibit since the museum opened in November 2017: Scripture and Science: Our Universe, Ourselves, Our Place. After emphasizing the exhibit’s purpose of “busting the myth that science and biblical faith have been diametrically opposed to each other throughout history and ... inviting people to discover the Bible’s impact on the scientific world,” Ted took the group through the exhibit and highlighted some of his favorite artifacts, which included Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei’s original manuscript providing the earliest observations of the lunar surface through a telescope, an anonymous mid-13th-century piece of art depicting God as an architect that served as the frontispiece of Bible moralisée (Codex Vindobonensis 2554), and Francis Collins’s personal Ryrie Study Bible opened to the first chapter of the Gospel of John.

Also in attendance were ASA Board of Directors members Se Kim and Mike Beidler, God & Nature editors Sy Garte and Anikó Albert, and representatives from several partner organizations such as Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER), Reasons to Believe (RTB), Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN), and the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).

For ASA members who are unable to visit the Museum of the Bible and experience the “Scripture and Science” exhibit before it closes on January 15, 2024, you can always visit virtually at https://scriptureandscience.museumofthebible.org/.

The ASA is planning a joint seminar with the Museum of the Bible and a field trip at ASA 2024. Stay tuned for those details.
President’s Corner

When I say, “I believe,” I am not merely describing an inward feeling or experience: I am affirming what I believe to be true, and therefore what is true for everyone. The test of my commitment to this belief will be that I am ready to publish it, to share it with others, and to invite their judgment and—if necessary—correction. If I refrain from this exercise, if I try to keep my belief as a private matter, it is not belief in the truth. (p. 22)

This search for truth is not solitary but rather takes place within a tradition and community which has developed skills, practices and terminology that allow for deeper communal discussion and understanding. The scientific community is dependent on the mutual trust that scientists have in one another, knowing that the search for truth requires the work of many individual scientists who each grasp only a small part of the whole. Knowledge grows through a common understanding of practice in the context of a community. We become scientists through learning to dwell in the tradition. Likewise Christian believers must dwell in the Christian tradition.

The American Scientific Affiliation provides a communal context for our ongoing discernment of truth at the intersection of faith and science. We carry out this process in the context of a community where individual members are willing to publish and share their thoughts, invite feedback and correction, and thus together grow in understanding. As with the scientific community, this process happens over time. One of my practices is to listen carefully to the questions raised at one annual meeting and think about how we might craft the next meeting to address those questions, or who might be encouraged to write an article that addresses the questions. I encourage all members to do the same as we together seek understanding of God’s truth.

Warm greetings,

Janel

ASA Launches Fall Faith and Work Accelerator

Hannah Eagleson

The ASA launched a new fall Faith and Work Accelerator event for students and early career members this September. The interactive online event featured worship led by singer/songwriter, ASA member, and BioLogos editor Ciara Reyes-Ton, mentoring by a panel sharing ideas on how to connect faith and work, and networking in Zoom rooms by field area.

We often hear from student and early career members who want to connect their lives as scientists and their lives as followers of Christ. Yet it can be hard to integrate those things in the rush of a new semester or a busy season at work. This event is designed to help by discussing theological and practical strategies from our network and by giving student and early career members plenty of time to connect with each other and share their own ideas.

Faith and Work Accelerator is also designed to reconnect those who met each other at the summer annual meeting, to make connections with our local chapters and affiliates and Christian college members, and to welcome new participants into these networks. We were delighted to see this working well this year.

Denise-Margaret Thompson, a leader in InterVarsity’s Black Scholars and Professionals network and the 2022 ASA Campus Ministry Award recipient, connected with mathematicians who came to the 2023 ASA Annual Meeting. Environmental scholars in ASA and the Cornell Faith & Environment Collective graduate student group were also able to connect. A number of the student speakers and attendees were connected to local ASA chapters and Christian colleges such as Calvin University.

This year the panel featured a campus minister and student/early career ASA members. Wendy Quay, an InterVarsity expert in faith and work connections and the 2021 ASA Campus Ministry Award recipient, spoke about the presence of the Holy Spirit caring for us in what we do and working through us. Student/early career presenters included Ethan Sipes of Grand Canyon University, studying biology with an emphasis in psychology and pre-med training; Vincent Holmlund of North Dakota State University, currently completing a degree in mathematics and statistics; and Chloe Liu, a graduate student at Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute at McGill University.

We plan to make Faith and Work Accelerator an annual event, so mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024!
Fruitful Visits in Midwest

Vicki Best

Janel and Vicki embarked on an extended trip to the Midwest during early November, visiting five different states (North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wyoming) and many ASA members, chapters, and partner organizations. Driving 1,200 miles over twelve days, they had meetings at two colleges, two universities, and a Christian study center.

Their first visit was to North Dakota State University (NDSU) with a tour of this remarkable R1 institution. Then we joined Red River Valley (RRV) chapter leaders, Mark Strand, David Buchanan, and Noel Anderson, as well as other chapter members in the student union. Enjoying coffee and lunch together, we got to know one another and strategized ways this chapter could gain greater impact.

The afternoon was spent touring downtown Fargo and visiting Concordia College and Dakota Wesleyan University. In the evening, we gathered at NDSU for an RRV chapter event with a full house of members and friends from the area. Janel and Vicki had the opportunity to address the importance of the relationship of science and faith to the church. In attendance was 56-year member David Rogers.

All in all, the RRV group rolled out the red carpet and displayed radical hospitality. We stayed at the warm and welcoming home of Dave and Cindy Buchanan who were the consummate hosts.

Next stop on the trip was to the Minneapolis/St. Paul vicinity with visits to Bethel University and the Anselm House. Bethel University Provost and ASA Fellow Robin Rylaarsdam congregated several of her science faculty for an informational session. It was a great opportunity to discuss the work of the ASA and ways they could get involved in engaging the faith and science dialogue in their classrooms.

That evening, the North Star chapter, led by Kristine Johnson, Dale Gentry, A.J. Poelarends, and Joanna Klein, gathered a crowd at the Anselm House in their brand-new location for a dinner event. As we dined around round tables, it was a wonderful time of fellowship and community. Janel presented, “Tapestry of a Scientist: Research, Life, and Faith,” and Vicki gave a strategic overview of the ASA. There was a diverse representation from Bethel, Northwestern, the University of Minnesota, Anselm House, and several local churches.

From there, they drove to Sioux Center, Iowa, to meet with the Prairie chapter. Leaders Carl Fictorie, Robbin Eppinga, and Laurie Furlong gathered almost one hundred students and faculty from Dordt University and Northwestern University. Janel gave a lecture, “Christian Environmental Worldviews,” and Vicki introduced the audience to the important work of the ASA and offered ways for them to get involved.

We came home feeling invigorated by our members and chapters and realizing the importance of face-to-face meetings. The trip was a fruitful time of hearing how God is using each one of these members in their calling and service to society, science, the church, and one another.
Activities of Affiliation of Christian Biologists in 2023

Brian Greuel

In 2023, the Affiliation of Christian Biologists (ACB) held three Zoom events, the last two open to the public. The first was a one-hour discussion held after the ASA Winter Symposium on January 28 that focused on practical ways biologists integrate the Christian faith with science in service to the Church. It included a panel composed of Dorothy Chappell (ASA Fellow; retired Dean of Natural and Social Sciences, Wheaton College), Amanda Sparkman (Assoc. Professor and Chair of Biology, Westmont College), and John Wood (ASA Fellow and Emeritus Executive Director).

The second event, held on May 16, featured a 90-minute discussion of faith/science curriculum that is well-suited for Christian academies and home educators. Faith Stults (Program Manager, BioLogos) focused on the Integrate curriculum published by BioLogos, and John Mays (Director of Science Curriculum, Classical Academic Press) highlighted the biology and environmental science curriculum in the Novare Science collection.

Finally, on October 17, Sy Garte (ASA Fellow and editor of God and Nature) gave his personal faith story in a 90-minute talk/discussion entitled “My Blessed Journey: From Atheism to Christianity.”

This year, the ACB formed a Special Interest Group on the Origin of Life, led by Sy Garte. They also made an EndNote database of PSCF publications available online.

Boston and Gordon College Student Chapter Pool Party Crashed by Ophelia

Chuck Applegate

Vicki and Phil Best graciously opened their home to ASA members, spouses, and students Saturday, September 23, 2023. It was originally advertised as a poolside cookout, but unfortunately tropical storm Ophelia crashed the party. Resourceful, as always, Vicki improvised an in-house alternative. Good fellowship was complimented by excellent food and conversation. Senior members especially enjoyed the enthusiasm and perspectives of the students.

Attendees shared personal reflections on how we were introduced to ASA and what significant event, or influence ASA has had on our faith journey. After personal introductions, the meeting portion concentrated on plans for the Boston Chapter and Gordon College Student Chapter. Thank you, Vicki and Phil, for hosting this event.

Annual Fund Update

Thank you to the many who have already given. If you have not, would you prayerfully consider helping us reach our goal?

GOAL: $265,000

66% $175,000
A Year to Re-engage as ASA Affiliations and Chapters

Dana Oleskiewicz, Director of Chapters and Affiliations

This past year has been a time of rejuvenation for our outreach efforts through activity hosted by the ASA affiliations and chapters. Several chapters have re-engaged after a hiatus, and there has been renewed interest in strengthening existing, as well as starting new, affiliations. We are prayerfully considering discipline groups in creation care, artificial intelligence, and medicine.

There were several well-known scholars who presented at ASA local seminars in 2023. The topics covered were diverse: from astrobiology, AI and the church, mathematics, to Mars. The strong connection to scientific scholarship through our partnerships and members as experts in various scientific fields offers excellence to ASA programming.

Informal gatherings of ASA members have included a birding field trip, a service project and ice cream social with North Star, Fall Kick-off Picnic with Red River Valley, and Christmas parties hosted by CSCA Calgary and Christian Women in Science.

In total, there were 79 ASA/CSCA events on the 2023 calendar with a gathering of 2,784 attendees, surpassing the attendance in 2022. The calendar for 2024 is already starting to fill with upcoming events, including local watch parties for the ASA Winter Symposium on January 27, 2024. We welcome hearing from you if there is interest in starting a new chapter or championing a new affiliate group. Contact me at dana@asa3.org with your ideas or requests.

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2023 Totals  79  2784

CSCA 50th Anniversary Wraps Up

Arnold Sikkema and Joseph Vybihal

The last half of 2023 was eventful with our annual general meeting held at ASA 2023, ongoing 50th Anniversary celebrations across Canada, establishment of an ASA-CSCA MOU, and local chapter events.

Nyasha Gondora completed her term as our Executive Council’s Student & Early Career representative. She will be greatly missed, and is replaced by Rachel Pryce, PhD student in chemistry at the Université de Montréal. Participating in the CSCA (including some ASA conferences) since her undergraduate years, she is now active in our Montreal chapter. Welcome, Rachel!

We capped off our anniversary celebrations on November 17. A Zoom meeting to which all CSCA and ASA members were invited, and open to the public as well, was organized around a talk by John Wood (Emeritus Professor at The King’s University in Edmonton and Executive Director Emeritus of the ASA) entitled “The CSA & ASA: A Cross-Border Checkup.” This presentation was a valuable reflection on the state of the CSA in relation to the ASA (as noted in our MOU: “the CSA is an expression of the ASA in Canada”), and what our future might look like.

The event was hosted by celebration committee co-chairs Judy Toronchuk and Rebecca Dielschneider. A few local chapters held watch parties to add the valuable element of in-person fellowship. This event followed our Past President Lecture Series which featured six former presidents reflecting on their time at the helm and their thoughts as to future directions, while addressing important topics in science and Christianity.

Many thanks to the celebration committee for its 18-month service as they articulated and helped us achieve our celebration goals: (1) Promote the CSA, (2) Encourage our members, (3) Learn about our members, (4) Celebrate our past, and (5) Discuss our future.

See csca.ca/50 for our anniversary newsletter, weekly blog featuring 50 members, and more!
Kenneth C. Olson
(1942–2023), Biochemist

Kenneth Charles Olson was born on December 5, 1942, and grew up in Longmont, Colorado, where he played on the high school tennis team and played trombone in band and orchestra. The first in his family to attend college, Ken attended Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, and received his BA in Chemistry in 1964. During his college years, he enjoyed competing on the tennis team, tutoring in chemistry, working on the grounds crew, and playing the trombone in the college pep band. Ken earned an MS in both Biochemistry and Microbiology from Oregon State University in 1967. He then moved across the country to launch his career as a biochemist at Hoffman LaRoche (Nutley, NJ) in nucleic acid enzymology, from 1967 to 1979.

His career path took him to Genentech (South San Francisco, CA) from 1979 to 1997, as a scientist with a focus on recombinant DNA technology. He was one of the original 50 employees who had a vision to change the way that drugs were produced. One of his longtime colleagues stated, “You are a real icon in the biotechnology business” and “you turned a page of history.” He developed novel methods of protein purification and helped develop manufacturing processes for recombinant protein drugs, including Protropin (human growth hormone), Nutropin, Interleukin 12, and Somavert (PEG-Growth Hormone Antagonist).

After Genentech, from 1999 to 2008 he served as Director of Research and Development at Allergan Pharmaceuticals in Fremont, CA. He led the development program for human collagen using fibroblasts from cell culture to the FDA-approved drugs CosmoDerm and CosmoPlast. In 2008, he began consulting services for multiple biotech companies in product development, process, and regulatory support. In his early retirement, he continued to share his expertise, mentoring the next generation of scientists.

Ken joined the ASA in January of 1965 while he was at Oregon State University. During his career at Hoffman LaRoche in New Jersey, he was very active in the ASA Metropolitan New York City chapter. He gave a plenary talk on “Development of Therapeutic Proteins by Recombinant DNA Technology” at the ASA Gene Splicing Conference at Eastern College in 1987. He served on the ASA Executive Council and was the founding donor of the ASA Endowment Fund. He and Eunice attended many ASA annual meetings, and he has been a dedicated advocate for and contributor to ASA.

His commitment to God and his ministry was widespread and lifelong. Over the years, as a member of his home church, he served as a church deacon, served in youth ministries, taught men’s Bible study, and, most recently, was involved in Seniors’ ministry at Quail Lakes Baptist Church. He supported many missionary families and organizations globally. He took his role seriously and lived a lifetime of stewardship. He was always willing to share a meal and open his home for missionaries as they traveled, with his wife, Eunice, graciously hosting. He coordinated singers and concert opportunities at his church home. His was a quiet and kind presence that spoke to others of God’s grace and love for his neighbors.

He was consistent in providing for his family and was well known for being the father of five girls. He allowed his silly side to come out, with his mischievous grin, dry humor, and Dad jokes. Ken loved to travel, and instilled this in his family as they would navigate across the country, from coast to coast. He visited all 50 states and traveled overseas for conferences and for tours, such as The Holy Lands and the Wesley Heritage and Hymns Tour in England. Later in life, he and Eunice enjoyed taking cruises, especially when they were able to hear some of their favorite gospel groups sing and to join up with fellow church friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Eunice (Boldt) Olson. Ken was clear in mind as he faced his final weeks and was at peace knowing that he had done what he wanted to accomplish in life. He was confident in his faith and continued to read his Bible daily and minister to others. “Well done, good and faithful Servant.”

Mary H. Korte
(1946–2023), Biologist

Mary Hurn Korte passed to eternal life in her sleep at home on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at age 77 after a 10-year struggle with heart failure. She was born on March 5, 1946, in Boston, MA, to Eugene W. Hurn and Lola (Gates) Hurn of Henrietta, TX. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Don W. Korte, Jr., her son Don “Trey” Korte III, her son-in-law Jamie Schounard, and her grandchildren Lizzy, Brooke, and Erin.

As the daughter of a US Navy Commander, Mary lived in Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Tokyo, northern Virginia, and then Carmel, CA, where she graduated from high school. She attended The College of William and Mary where she excelled both academically and in women’s athletics. She was a four-year starter in field hockey and three in lacrosse and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. More importantly, William and Mary was where she met Don whom she married after completing her master’s degree at Southern Illinois University in 1969.

Before the birth of Trey, Mary worked as a high school teacher and medical researcher. Her research at St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital in Memphis, TN, was instrumental in determining the calcium-dependence of an important regulatory molecule now known as calmodulin. As an Army wife, Mary established homes in Silver Spring, MD; Presidio, CA; San Francisco, CA; and Columbus, OH, for Don and Trey and did not resume teaching (at Columbus State Community College) until Trey was in high school.

After the Army, Mary and Don took positions in the Department of Natural Sciences at Concordia University Wisconsin. While at Concordia, Mary completed a doctorate from Trinity College/Liverpool University. For over twenty years, Mary taught a variety of science courses at Concordia and was also Director of the Master of Science-Environmental Education program. In addition to science,
Mary loved theology obtaining a diploma in Christian Apologetics from The International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism, and Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. After her retirement, she thoroughly enjoyed being a docent at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Mary immensely enjoyed all aspects of God’s creation especially when she could experience it firsthand. Her favorite activities were raising/showing dachshunds, riding horses, and being at the beach and the ocean whether sailing on it or snorkeling in it. Some of her happiest times were conducting fish surveys for the Reef Environmental Education Foundation in the Caribbean and the Hawaiian and Society Islands. Mary was a consummate teacher whose passion was to infuse her students—whether secondary, collegiate, or at the zoo—with the same love, respect, and awe for nature that she had.

Wayne received a master’s degree from Oregon State University (WA). They have five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Wayne was always active in any church they belonged to and was a member of The Gideons International for 50 years, both in the USA and Africa. Wayne was a Fellow of the ASA and an ASA member for 59 years.

**DeVon Wayne Linn**
(1929–2023), Biologist

DeVon Wayne Linn, age 93 years, passed away on Friday, March 31, 2023, in Ashland, OR. He was born on October 9, 1929, in Estherville, Iowa, to parents Ward Ira and Mary Belle (Warrington) Linn. They moved to Fairmont, MN, where he graduated high school in 1947. He was in the US Army Signal Corps from 1947 to 1949, then attended Mankato State Teachers College where he majored in biology and chemistry. It was during college that he met Fae Anderson of East Chain, MN, his wife of 70 years. They raised three children: Jay Linn (MI), Doug Linn (WY), and Jennifer (Linn) White (WA). They have five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**David Bradford Tribble**
(1940–2023), Physicist

David “Dave” Bradford Tribble, 82, of Chicago passed away on July 13, 2023. He was born on December 24, 1940, to Joseph and Genevieve (nee McCrohan) Tribble in Hartford, CT. He earned a BS from Boston College in 1962, and an MS and PhD in 1966 and 1969 respectively from St. Louis University, all in physics.

Dave joined Loyola University Chicago as a professor of physics in 1968 where he taught until 2007. He also served variously as Freshman Dean, Dean of Mathematics and Natural Science, and Director of the Seismology Station. He was instrumental in developing the pre-engineering program, continuing as pre-engineering advisor.

He was a faithful attendee of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement Chicago. He was also a board member of the Illinois Orchid Society until 2012 and was always interested in environmental issues. To Dave, science and faith were equally divine! He joined the ASA in August 2006.

Dave is survived by his loving wife of 22 years Allison (nee Sibbald) Tribble.
ELAINE HOWARD ECKLUND
Herbert S. Autrey Chair in Social Sciences, Professor of Sociology, and Director of the Boniuk Institute at Rice University

WINTER SYMPOSIUM
“Why Science and Faith Need Each Other in These Times”
ONLINE EVENT
January 27, 2024
1 pm EST / 10 am PST