



Newsletter of the ASA & CSCA

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ASA 2026 Celebrates the 85th Anniversary of the ASA

Robert Thoelen III

This year the ASA's annual meeting was held in Wenham, MA, from July 24 to July 27, on Gordon College's beautiful New England campus. The theme was "Science-Faith Synergy: Glorifying God and Serving the World." In the plenaries, oral presentations, and poster session, we saw this theme expounded across the scientific and theological disciplines. Throughout the fellowship times, plenaries, breakout sessions, mealtimes, and activities, the theme was evident in participants sharing how their unique callings and professional work connected to God's glory and service to others.

Our first plenary presentation, by Fellipe do Vale, was on aiming for friendship with our bodies, which he defined as "body okayness." It was an interesting talk on diet culture, how our thinking about eating is shaped by culture, and what theological alternatives we can consider.

The next plenary session featured John E. Harris, a dermatologist and physician-scientist, whose laboratory has researched and developed treatments for patients with vitiligo. He educated us on the disease, first known around the time of the Exodus, and took us through the history of care all the way up to the present.

Jimmy Lin spoke Saturday evening on "Scientific Doxology in the Age of Machine Intelligence." His talk introduced us to scientists who held Christian faith. Then he gave us the timeline of developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning. Lastly, he mentioned the work he and others are doing with ethical approaches to AI.

Romanita Hairston was our plenary speaker after Sunday morning worship. She spoke about the epistemology of attention, and how it is a generative posture that creates new knowledge.

A key takeaway was our repeated attention to God and reality is a form of worship.

On Monday morning, Kaye Cook, our final plenary speaker, addressed the topic of a systems model of Divine forgiveness. She went into detail on her research of what happens when sin is followed by reconciliation in a person's life, and how forgiveness restores equilibrium with God.

As someone who has been attending annual meetings for over a decade, I'm very pleased to see the emphasis on student, under-represented, and early career sessions. There was a pre-conference retreat for under-represented scientists, plus several panels in the breakout sessions specifically for students and early career members.

A breakout session was hosted on Monday for leaders to discuss best practices and ideas for building their chapter. Throughout the conference, posters from students and professionals were displayed on the second floor of the science center.

A highlight for many of the attendees before the Saturday evening plenary was the line dancing activity held outdoors! There were many participants, and it was well received. Thank you to Kathy Sperounis from the ASA office for leading this.

The softball and volleyball games that have become a tradition were also held before the Sunday State of the ASA meeting.

I would like to thank the ASA office team, Gordon faculty who were involved throughout the conference, and my fellow program committee members for all their work and dedication with ASA 2026. It was a blessing to serve, and I'm looking forward to great things at our next annual meeting!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Living abroad, whether in New Zealand, Hong Kong, or Pakistan, has made me deeply appreciative of the universality of the Gospel. Our Christian faith allows us to cross cultural differences to unite in a common faith. I felt like this allowed me to form deeper relationships with locals who shared my faith than perhaps some of my colleagues who would revert to socializing

with the expat community.

I have also experienced the power of Scripture to draw people within the Christian community together in divisive times. In one situation, divided by discussions around human sexuality and other topics, we simply practiced the *Lecta Devina*, a Christian practice of repeating a Bible reading as a process that focuses on a personal conversation with God as we listen to what arises from the Scripture. In this instance, we used 1 Kings 19 where Elijah is afraid and ran for his life and ends up in a cave. The reading goes like this:

And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. (1 Kings 19:9b–13a, NIV)

I am writing in the midst of a trade war between the U.S. and Canada, fires across the world, earthquakes, and political conflicts. I come back to this Scripture, trying to be able to hear the gentle whisper that is the voice of God. I also pray that we, as an organization, are not hiding in a cave where God has to ask us, "What are you doing here?"

Join me in listening for the voice of God,

Janel



ASA Alaska Trip

Bob Geddes

My wife Lynne and I were delighted to be amongst the 24 participants of the "Back Roads Alaska 2026" ASA tour in June. Logistical oversight was provided by Vicki Best and Janel Curry, and the trip guide was Gerry Van Kooten, past geology professor at Calvin University. The same team lead the ASA Hawaii Volcano trip in 2024. Its success had much to do with our desire to repeat.

The adventure was framed by Alaska's two major cities. Anchorage, the state's capital and larger city was the starting point on June 8. The trip concluded with a visit to Fairbanks on June 18. In between was a mix of beautiful scenery, fascinating earth science, intriguing culture and Indigenous history, and wondrous encounters with

wildlife. Each day commenced with a time of worship, led by leader Gerry and often with his wife Jan. They also graciously hosted a wonderful dinner of local fare at their home.

The first part of the trip focused on the Kenai Peninsula, Gerry's home territory. This included a boat trip to a large calving glacier as well as islands festooned with puffins and murre. There was a float trip down the Kenai River, and exposure to the historic influence of Russian Orthodoxy.

En route to the center of the state, we took in the home of the Iditarod dog sled race (and got racing ourselves). The remaining time centered on the amazing Denali National Park, overseen by the tallest mountain in North America, Denali itself.

Mixed throughout the trip were valued lessons on Alaska's history, oil industry, Indigenous relations, salmon fishing, and gold mining. Everyone had different highlights, but we shared a common appreciation for an inspiring time and well-run adventure.



ASA New Members, April–June 2026

*Please join us in welcoming these
new members!*

Omotayo Adedo –East Lansing, MI
Olatunji Akinola –Williams, AZ
Hilda Akuamoah –Accra, Ghana
Geoff Ayers –Minneapolis, MN
Anita Azeem –Jefferson City, TN
Ben Banks –Decatur, GA
Nathan Barczy –Somerville, MA
Jaden Beach –Laveen, AZ
Luke Beaudoin –Plymouth, MI
William Boyd –Winston-Salem, NC
Ethan Brightbill –Millerstown, PA
Andrew Buckler –Boston, MA
Judith Canner –Seaside, CA
Aidan Carrier –Bedford, MA
Brandy Carter –Easton, PA
Nitheesh Chandra –Nellore, India
Wing Yan Chu –Markham, ON
Katie Clontz –Shelby, NC
Dawn Corbin –Burlington, MA
David Crider –El Dorado Hills, CA
Shimeka Dade –Schertz, TX
Fellipe do Vale –Bristol, UK
Mark Everett –Beverly, MA
Titilayo Fasoro –Cambridge, MA
Allison Focht –Danville, PA
Anthony Fosu –Keyport, NJ
Johané Fritz –Fort Worth, TX
Athaliah Fubara –Cambridge, MA
Jocelyn Garcia –Malden, MA
Aaron Grawe –Apple Valley, MN
Fitz Green –Charlottesville, VA
Karis Hagens –Ingleside, TX
Lucas Hall –Lakewood, CO
Hugh Henry –Alexandria, KY
Caleb Herrera –Austin, TX
Chakina Hill –Shreveport, LA
JV Hudson –Bangalore, India
Todd Hulan –Nashville, TN
Hope Ingalls –Parker, CO
Richard Joyce –Lakeland, FL
Grace Kapczynski –Slingerlands, NY
Calvin Lee –Tokyo, Japan
Gary Licata –Salem, OR
Cheng-Ho Jimmy Lin –San Mateo, CA
Steven Lippold –Beaver, PA
Evan Liu –Bethesda, MD
Rome Lucchese –Leola, PA
Madison Lyon –Phoenix, AZ
Eli Matthews –West Grove, PA
Marc Mayo –York, PA
Clayton McCathern –Lexington, SC
Jill McCurdy –Marble Falls, TX
Sean McGuinness –Mishawaka, IN
Cade Miller –Phoenix, AZ
Maria Margarita Musante –Syracuse, NY
Amanie Nieves –Staten Island, NY

CSCA Highlights for May to July 2026

Arnold Sikkema, Joseph Vybihal and Heather Prior



Our exhibit table at ASA 2026 sported, along with CSCA pamphlets and stickers, Canadian goodies free for the taking. Many were surprised to find “All-Dressed” and “Ketchup” potato chips and mini chocolate “Smarties.” At the Sunday CSCA dinner meet-up in the lovely Chester’s dining area, Canadians filled out two large tables. The group had about 12 people from Canada, including a first-time student attendee and two student presenters, plus four Canadians now living in the USA, and three “honourary” Canadians.

Although fewer Canadians traveled to ASA 2026 than usual, Zoom discussions facilitated throughout the weekend by our Executive Director Arnold Sikkema and Vice President Rebecca Dielschneider were great opportunities for conversation, fellowship, and networking; these included about as many from Canada as the USA among the 12 to 20 participants each time.

As noted in the June newsletter and communicated to our mailing lists, this year we are holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) as a hybrid event (in Hamilton and online) on Saturday, 26 September, starting at 12pm with lunch and the meeting proper at 1pm EDT. Details and registration are at csc.ca/events/event/2026-agm. We are excited to host the ASA leadership team, with Janel Curry speaking on “Canadian & US Forestry Policy: What It Teaches Us About Why the ASA Needs the CSCA” and Vicki Best assisting with the formal Canadian launch of the legacy campaign.



Faith Olorunwa –Ile-Oluji, Nigeria
Nate Otey –Belmont, MA
Vi Phung –Harrison, NJ
Cassandra Post –Brick Township, NJ
Ethan Quadrini –West Sand Lake, NY
Madielyn Ridgely –Hanover, PA
Belle Rosenberger –Royersford, PA
Emily Schroeder –Centreville, MD
Sophia Schuhmacher –Nokesville, VA
Micah Shelton –Riner, VA
Maria Socciarelli –Canfield, OH
Will Somers –Summerside, PE
Meredith Sommars –Wheaton, IL
Noah Spahn –San Diego, CA
Ojasv Srivastava –Prayagraj, India
Sarah Strikwerda –Madison, WI

Kelly Tatum –Houston, TX
Rebecca Tavit –Summit, NJ
Abhishek Thadum –Boston, MA
Lillian Thompson –Blythewood, SC
Andrew Ting –Wenham, MA
Meredith Westcott –Germantown, MD
Destiny Mercedes White –Springfield Gardens, NY
Patrick Willing –Hoover, AL
Cherlie Lot Sum Yeung –Boston, MA
Jack Zagwoski –Hatfield, PA
Jieyu Zhang –Harrison, NJ
Xiangbo Zhang –Atlanta, GA
Tianqi Zhou –Syracuse, NY
Nicholas Zoller –Bethany, OK

Cover photo credit: Daniel Charles, taken July 24, 2026

The Clarendon Bell outside A. J. Gordon Memorial Chapel at Gordon College. The bell was moved from Boston’s Clarendon Street Baptist Church, where the college’s founder, Adoniram Judson Gordon, served as pastor for 26 years. It was displayed in a gazebo near Frost Hall for decades. In 2014, it was relocated to its current prominent position to mark the college’s 125th anniversary.

Fellows & Special Friends Event at ASA 2026

Vicki Best



John Wood, Fred Cannon, Bob and Lynne Geddes, Steve and Carol Moshier



Front: Julia Carrier meets Brian Greuel
Back: Karma Carrier, Mike Beidler



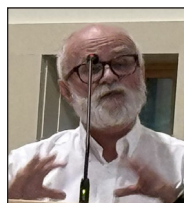
Dominic Halsmer, Suzanne and Tom Larry

Coinciding with ASA 2026, the annual Fellows & Special Friends Event took place on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at First Congregational Church of Hamilton. Approximately 70 people enjoyed a New England barbecue in historic Heritage Hall in Hamilton, Massachusetts.

Our evening began with hors d'oeuvres and drinks at 6 pm followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. We were blessed to be joined by Kevin Adams, Senior Pastor at East Baptist Church in Lynn, MA. The title of Kevin's talk was, "Vignettes of the Spiritual Heritage and God's Work on the North Shore of Boston." He enthusiastically shared many stories as well as his vast knowledge of the history of spiritual awakenings and New England's spiritual heritage.

Before coming to Lynn, Kevin pastored at Welsh Church of New York City after pastoring in Wales for 18 years. His interests include reading and church history. He is the author of the book and documentary *A Diary of Revival: The Outbreak of the 1904 Welsh Awakening* (2003).

After Kevin's presentation, Vicki and Janel provided an overview of the state of the ASA and exciting initiatives on the horizon, including an update on the Legacy Campaign which has just passed the \$4M mark!



Kevin Adams



Chloe Lui



Mike Beidler

While coffee and dessert were being enjoyed, we heard two ASA testimonials. First, Chloe Lui, who recently obtained a PhD in biochemistry at McGill University, specializing in prostate cancer, shared the many ways she is involved with the CSCA/ASA as an early career member and how the ASA has been an important part of her professional and personal journey.

Next ASA Board Chair & President of the DC Chapter Mike Beidler shared what the ASA means to him and why he and his wife Crystal have prioritized the ASA Legacy Campaign in their charitable giving plans. Like many who have made pledges, they are pledging a percentage of their retirement fund assets to the ASA when they meet Jesus face-to-face. Mike encouraged all present to prayerfully consider doing the same.

The enjoyable evening concluded with Vicki giving a tour of the historic church (315 years old!) that she and her husband Phil as well as several ASA members attend. Many were snapping photos of the beautiful sanctuary, pipe organ, stained glass, and chapel—all with rich historical significance.



40+ Year Members at ASA 2026

Front row, l to r: Paul Arveson, Janel Curry, Brian Greuel, Keith Miller, Ruth Douglas Miller, Bob Kaita, Vicki Best; Back row, l to r: Ron Hodges, Gordon Fish, Sid Niemeyer, Randy Isaac, Kirk Bertsche, Bruce Schweitzer, Kurt Wood, Tim Wallace, Bill Jordan; Not shown: Richard Wright and William Yoder



1st row, l to r: Fred Cannon, Marilyn Naeem, Carol Moshier, Jessica Neamtu, Jennifer Wiseman, Thomas Ferko, Elliot Backman; 2nd row, l to r: Annie Henderson, Grace Miller, Keith Miller, Ruth Douglas Miller, Jim Green, Veronica Frans, Anikó Albert, Abigail Mace, Sy Garte, Stephen Moshier; 3rd row, l to r: Charles Hunt, Larry Zook, Christina Zook, David Campbell, Timothy Campbell

A Whale of an Adventure on the Massachusetts Coast!

Marilyn Naeem

What better way to begin ASA 2026 than with whales, ocean breezes, and a beautiful New England morning! Twenty-two ASA attendees headed to historic Gloucester, Massachusetts, for an exciting Cape Ann whale watch.

Our group boarded the *Hurricane II* and sailed toward Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, a biologically rich feeding ground for several whale species. A naturalist on board helped us understand the marine environment and the behaviors we were observing along the way.

And then came the moment everyone had been waiting for—whales! One of the most memorable sightings was two whales swimming together, surfacing close enough for our group to watch them side by side. Each appearance brought a new wave of excitement as cameras came out and everyone hurried to catch another glimpse.

The adventure offered more than incredible wildlife. With sweeping ocean views, seabirds, fresh sea air, and plenty of conversation and laughter, the trip gave ASA attendees a wonderful opportunity to connect before the conference sessions began.

The excursion was also a wonderful reminder that science doesn't end when we leave the lecture hall. Experiencing the richness of marine life firsthand gave us another opportunity to appreciate the complexity and beauty of the natural world—and our responsibility to care for it.

For our group of 22, the whale watch became much more than a field trip. It was a shared adventure and one of those special ASA memories that we will be talking about long after returning to shore!



Sand volleyball



Softball

Halibut Point State Park Field Trip

Carol Kankelborg

Friday morning, about 20 of us, led by Bob Geddes, headed to Halibut Point State Park for an unforgettable experience. Bob guided the group to a small blue lake surrounded by green trees and gray granite walls. He taught us how to “read” the striations and crescent-shaped fractures in the 450-million-year-old granite at our feet, signs of glacial activity from 10,000 years ago.



We then headed back to the visitor's center. Half of us stayed to watch a movie about the once thriving granite industry on Cape Ann. The unique qualities of the stone made it a sought-after building material for projects up and down the east coast. Meanwhile, a park ranger gave the rest of us a more extensive tour around the lake, which we now knew to be a quarry that had operated from 1840 until the industry collapsed in 1929.

Our second stop was Rockport, a town that was sustained by granite quarries and the fishing industry. We went our separate ways, walking up and down the quaint streets, rarely out of sight of the small harbor and Motif No. 1, the iconic barn-red fishing shack. Several of us discovered the mouthwatering lobster rolls at Roy Moore Lobster Company and other restaurants. The long lines were worth the wait.

About 3 pm, we reboarded our vans to return to Gordon College. We were filled with memories of good food, natural beauty, and technological innovations that turned ancient granite into magnificent buildings.



Making Connections



Learning Together



Eating Together



Partnering Together



Worshipping Together





Student and Early Career Events at ASA 2026

Hannah Eagleson

As we celebrate the 85th anniversary of the organization, it's truly a joy to see the huge growth in student/early career involvement in the ASA! We continued strong previous programming and grew new early career programming at ASA 2026. We were thrilled to welcome 69 student/early career members this time.

Over the last few years, we have carefully designed the student/early career programming at the Annual Meeting to give students a warm welcome, connect them to friends and mentors early in the conference, and nurture broader network connections as the conference goes on. This year student/early career members had the opportunity to participate in the following programs designed especially for them:

Thursday evening/Friday all day: Retreat for Underrepresented Early Career Scientists (third year in a row)

Saturday Morning: All student/early career session

Saturday Lunch: All student/early career lunch meetup

Saturday afternoon: New undergraduate session led by Messiah University Professor Erik Lindquist

I'm especially excited about how generously early career members are participating in planning and organizing for ASA, and how deeply more-experienced members are supporting them. Multiple student and early career members volunteered for ASA 2026 planning teams this year.

It was also immensely encouraging to see how many members were forming intergenerational friendships at ASA. As just one example, two experienced faculty members, one at MIT and one at Purdue, came to the early career session and encouraged earlier career members in the engineering small group. Other ASA members talked about how much they enjoyed conversations across career stages in many contexts.

A Room Full of ASA Leaders and Lots of Energy

Dana Oleskiewicz

Each year at the ASA Annual Meeting, we host a session that brings together the leaders and potential new leaders of the chapters and affiliations. This is a time to learn, reconnect as colleagues, and talk about future programming as an outreach of the ASA mission. This year was particularly productive.

We gathered on Monday morning to hear from three panelists about leadership development, organizational marketing, and social media presence. Angie Cornwell (chapter advisor), Karma Carrier (marketing committee), and Kathy Sperounis (marketing & communications director), respectively, shared their expertise and gave



guidance for chapters and affiliations to strengthen their group activity.

We hit an attendance record for this annual session with 27 people. Not only were suggestions shared by the panelists, but good advice also came from the veteran leaders in the audience on how the affiliations and chapters can organize for leading ASA programs. The event even prompted ideas for possible new groups. The final 40 minutes were spent in small group discussion so that leaders

could conduct strategic planning on group activity for the 2026–27 academic year.

Over the next few months, ASA will be capitalizing on the synergy that was created by the conversations, channeling that energy into forging new chapters or affiliations, as well as re-energizing the current ones. Don't hesitate to contact Dana at dana@asa3.org if you have questions, ideas for leadership, or wish to become active in a regional group, on a campus, or by scientific discipline within the ASA!

State of the ASA

Mike Beidler

At our annual State of the ASA meeting at Gordon College, leadership shared exciting updates celebrating our growth, honoring key leaders, and looking forward to our shared future.

Partnering with the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the board progressed long-term leadership succession planning and introduced draft revisions to our mission, vision, and values—the latter of which includes Gospel Faithfulness and Scholarly Integrity. To capture your thoughts and ideas, we will hold listening sessions with members this fall.

Financially, the organization remains strong: our operating budget reached \$750,000, the endowment topped \$1 million, and the Legacy Campaign crossed the \$4 million milestone. In addition, ASA is within \$30,000 of fully funding the purchase and outfitting of an adjacent office suite at our Topsfield headquarters to support our expanding cross-functional team.

We proudly welcomed new Fellows Noel Anderson, Amy Dykstra, Jeff Hardin, and Sid Niemeyer. We also presented the Marie H. Berg Award to Deborah Haarsma, the Campus Ministry Award to Marianne Smith, and our inaugural Early Career Theologian Award to Seth Hart. Finally, we honored the faithful service of our 50-year members and two of our 60-plus-year members in attendance, alongside a solemn time of remembrance for members who entered glory this past year.



Peter Story

Next, ASA member Peter Story shared his experience in the ASA, first as a student/early career member now as a full member. With nearly 70 students and early career scientists in attendance and \$40,000 distributed in student scholarships, the ASA

continues to prioritize emerging scholars through regional grants, campus ministry partnerships, and new student chapters.

A recording of the meeting can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/live/zlbN6G6u62w>. The PowerPoint slides are available at <https://www.asa3.org/slides/ASA2026Curry.pdf>.

Mark your calendars for next year's annual meeting: July 23–26, 2027, at Point Loma Nazarene University in sunny San Diego, California!

Student/Early Career Poster Winners

Hannah Eagleson proudly announced the poster winners at the ice cream social. First place was awarded to Christian Osei and second place to Joshua Afzal.



Joshua Afzal, Hannah Eagleson, Christian Osei

ASA Student Member Testimonial

Adam Zhang

In high school, I wrote a blog that was titled “Science and Faith: Can They Coexist?” When I read that article now as a medical student, I find myself envying that somewhat giddy innocence and naivety I once had. At the time, I didn’t see any immediate tension between the two.



Adam Zhang

College and post-grad have been very formative for me. I had the privilege of meeting, for the first time in my life, people of so many different backgrounds. American writer David Foster Wallace captures this transition quite aptly: In high school, I was once a fish swimming in water, not fully knowing what water was. Now, having been taken out of the water, I started to see that not everyone swims in water. Not everyone shares the same beliefs or background as I do.

Coming to ASA 2026 this year was meaningful to me. As a medical student and someone entrenched in studying the mechanisms of human life, I have been confronted by my peers, mentors, and teachers about my beliefs as a Christian. It hasn’t been easy to find the right responses, but I remain optimistic. ASA 2026 showed me that even though I may not have all the answers, this doesn’t make the water in which I swim any less real.

Introducing Campus Ministry and Early Career Award Recipients

Hannah Eagleson

We were delighted to honor Marianne Smith, an InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty campus minister in the Boston area, and Seth Hart, assistant professor of biblical studies and theology at John Brown University.



Marianne Smith

Marianne Smith is an innovative campus minister who cares deeply about supporting Christians in the natural and social sciences. She has served graduate students and faculty at multiple campuses in the Boston area, including Babson University, Brandeis University, Northeastern University, and MIT. Marianne holds a bachelor's degree in field biology/human ecology from Connecticut College and a master's degree in missional movements leadership from Wheaton College. At ASA 2026, she participated in multiple conversations about science and the environment. Many campus ministry colleagues and student/early career members were there to celebrate with her at ASA.

Seth Hart is our first Early Career Theologian Award recipient in ASA. Seth admirably reflects the network's deep commitment to bringing science and theology into conversation. Seth has participated regularly in ASA, and many ASA members will recognize him as a talented theologian who cares profoundly about science. He holds a master's degree from Oxford in theology, where his work was supervised by Alister McGrath, and a PhD from Durham University, also in theology. He now teaches at John Brown University, and ASA members look forward to many more excellent discussions of science and theology with him.



Seth Hart



From left to right: Kristin Kendall, Maria Straight, Mark Bearden, Bruce Schweitzer, Caitlynd Myburgh, Seth Hart, Becky Bearden, Christine Menzel, Ronald Hodges, Amaya de Vin, Jennifer Boone, Suzanne Larry, Thomas Larry, Angie Cornwell
Not shown: Robin Schweitzer

To Boston, By Boat

Kristin Kendall and Angie Cornwell

God blessed our group of 15 with a beautiful trip to the New England Aquarium and so much more! We began our early-morning journey with a van ride to Salem harbor, where we boarded a ferry, replacing a stop-and-go commute in rush-hour traffic with a delightful cruise to Boston's Long Wharf. We disembarked before the Aquarium actually opened, so we walked to the historic North End for much-needed coffee. We visited some Italian-American favorites, including Caff  Vittoria and Modern Pastry. Along the walk back, we took in the neighborhood's charming narrow streets, colonial architecture, and public gardens, while sipping cappuccinos and eating cannolis.

We arrived back at the aquarium in time for its opening, and enjoyed the seals (boy, are they agile and adorable!), penguin feeding, Myrtle the sea turtle and all her friends in the giant ocean tank, the shark exhibit (live embryos inside mermaid's purses!), sea lions, the newest octopus (unfortunately, semelparity results in very short life spans for octopi!), and many other amazing ocean exhibits. We left the aquarium and headed to nearby Quincy Market in search of Boston favorites, like clam "chowdah" and "lobstah" rolls.

After lunch, we explored some of the sites along the Freedom Trail such as the Old North Church where Paul Revere famously hung his lanterns ("one if by land, two if by sea"). We headed back to the North End for important research—to settle the rivalry between Mike's and Modern Pastry. Intimidated by packed lines inside Mike's, some of us opted for Italian gelato instead, and we savored it in the sanctuary of the nearby Christopher Columbus Park. Fully satiated, we boarded the ferry for our return trip to Salem, resting our weary legs while taking in beautiful views of the Boston skyline from a perspective we rarely get to appreciate.

Altogether, it was a wonderful day of adventure and discovery. God gave us the opportunity to appreciate the beauty and marvel of his natural creation, but we also reflected on his mark on our country at its beginnings. Most of all, he blessed us with the opportunity to meet new friends, including several first-time annual meeting attendees, and to deepen our friendships with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We returned to Gordon College, rejoicing in his goodness to us. Praise God!



Line Dancing

From Ideas to Innovation: Exploring the MIT Museum

Marilyn Naeem

How do artificial intelligence, robotics, holograms, space, and cutting-edge research come together? Twenty-five ASA partici-

pants had the opportunity to find out during our post-conference field trip to the MIT Museum in Cambridge.



Left to right: Joshua Afzal, Joseph Cheung, Christian Osei, Ogochukwu Elisha-Wigwe, Kristine Johnson, Annie Henderson, Dolapo Anyanwu, Oluwatosin Esther Obafunsho, Debbie Gaisie, Marilyn Naeem, Joanna Lumbsden-Pinto, Elaine Fung, Chloe Liu, Johnson Adebayo, Atul Shinde, Preeti Shinde, Islamiat Raji, Valentina Asiedu, Xi (Rita) Wang

After traveling from Gordon College to Kendall Square, our group spent the afternoon exploring interactive exhibits showcasing science, engineering, technology, art, and design. Participants encountered fascinating displays on robotics and artificial intelligence, innovations emerging from MIT research, and the museum's remarkable collection of holography, where physics, technology, and visual art intersect.

Other highlights took us from the cosmic to the molecular scale. We explored the science of black holes and the distinctive "chirps" of gravitational waves produced when black holes merge. A large-scale RNA model offered another striking perspective, bringing molecular structure and the complexity of biological systems to life.

Our group included students and other ASA attendees, creating opportunities to explore together, ask questions, and exchange ideas across disciplines. It was a fitting conclusion to ASA 2026—leaving the lecture halls and experiencing curiosity, creativity, and scientific discovery brought to life. For our 25 participants, the afternoon provided plenty to explore, learn, and discuss on the ride back!

CWiS at 2026 ASA

Sarah Gall

The Christian Women in Science (CWIS) had a year of growth and fellowship, capped off by gathering at the ASA annual meeting.

The CWIS breakfast meet-up was held Sunday morning, and was attended by numerous women, including several newer members of the ASA and CSCA. We had time to meet new members and foster connections.

The Marie H. Berg award was presented to Deborah Haarsma. A former professor

of physics and astronomy at Calvin University and past president of Biologos, Deb is currently the executive director of the International Network for Christian Higher Education. Her recommenders wrote,

Welcoming and conversing with those with different views, while keeping faithful to God's revelation in Scripture and nature, Deborah Haarsma has helped the body of Christ to better follow Christ.

Our evening retreat at Vicki Best's home closed out the conference. We enjoyed

supper and conversation, along with some swimming. We had a great time with the many women and their spouses who attended!

We are planning our events for the coming year. The fall CWIS Live is scheduled for October 25 and 27, featuring several women speaking about their careers. We will gather again December 5 for our annual Christmas party.



Dana Oleskiewicz presents CWIS Award to Deborah Haarsma



Megan Behrmann, Dana Oleskiewicz, Vicki Best, Sebina Bertsche, Kirk Bertsche, Becky English



Gail Jordan, Kristen Siaw, Kathy Sperounis, Cathy Wood, Chris Menzel

Members in Glory

Randy Isaac



Benjamin Dube

2025, Biologist

Benjamin Dube, a devoted father, grandfather, scholar, and man of unwavering integrity, departed this life on October 20, 2025.

Professor Ben Dube was a distinguished academic and biologist, whose remarkable career spanned decades of teaching, research, and mentorship. He graduated from Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and then obtained his doctorate in nematology at the University of Florida. He joined the faculty in the biology department at Eastern University.

A specialist in biology and entomology, with advanced studies in plant pathology and nematology at the University of Florida (A GATOR at heart to the end!), he devoted his life to understanding the natural world and nurturing curiosity in others. His scholarly contributions and dedication to education earned him respect both academically and socially, leaving an indelible mark on his students and colleagues alike.

Beyond academia, Ben Dube was a man of many passions. An avid tennis player, he competed at league level with the same discipline and grace that defined his professional life. A lover of sports and an advocate for healthy living, he was deeply health-conscious, valuing balance, nutrition, and physical well-being. His love for cars and adventurous spirit reflected his inquisitive nature and appreciation for life's beauty. Widely traveled, he saw the world not only through the lens of science, but through gratitude and wonder.

A man of principles, punctuality, and purpose, he was never late to any occasion—a reflection of his belief that time is a sacred form of respect. His sense of honor and discipline guided his every action. He treated others with dignity, listened with patience, and led by quiet example.

At the heart of his life was his faith in God. A devout Christian, Ben lived by the Word, embodying humility, grace, and reverence. His unwavering faith shaped his values and inspired those around him to walk in integrity and wisdom. He joined the American

Scientific Affiliation in 2010. He attended the ASA annual meetings regularly. At the 2025 annual meeting he participated in the special session on "Faith & Work for Science: Flourishing in Challenging Times."

He was a family man who cherished his children and grandchildren deeply, celebrating their milestones with pride and gentle encouragement. A good listener and mentor, he found joy in seeing others grow, learn, and fulfill their potential. His legacy is one of love, service, and knowledge—a life fully lived and gracefully given.

He leaves behind Dr. Desiree Dube, mother to his three children; Charlene, Elaine, and Herschel; their two grandchildren, Ethan and Olivia who were his world; and extended family of brother, sister, cousins, nephews, and nieces who will forever carry his light in their hearts.

May his soul rest in perfect peace, and may his memory continue to be a blessing to all who were privileged to know him.



James "Larry" Hayes

1942-2026, Engineer

James "Larry" Hayes passed away peacefully on May 25, 2026, after spending several days surrounded by loved ones. Larry was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 7, 1942.

During a particularly busy week in June of 1963, at the age of 21, Larry graduated from Birmingham-Southern University with a Bachelor of Science in Physics, moved to Huntsville, Alabama, and married the love of his life: Carolyn Elaine Layman. He continued his education with graduate studies in physics from 1963-1966 at the University of Alabama at Huntsville before beginning his remarkable professional career.

Over the next six decades, Larry and Carolyn built a loving home centered on faith, family, and steadfast commitment. In July 2007, he joined the American Scientific Affiliation and remained a member until his death.

Larry spent much of his career as an engineer with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), where he served as Program Director for numerous advanced technical radar and optical programs. He later continued his work with the development of ballistic missile defense systems, managing multi-million-dollar government programs and reporting directly to senior Army leaders, before founding his own consulting company after retiring. Larry was deeply respected for his intelligence, precision, and dedication to his work.

In 1990, Larry earned the Superior Civilian Service Award for his outstanding leadership, skill, and dedication to the U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command. Additionally, from 1982-1984, he served as the Northern Division Lt. Governor of Toastmasters International.

Larry, a lifelong learner, was an avid reader with an endless curiosity about the world. As a self-taught speed-reader, he consumed books and articles on countless subjects, especially history and biblical studies. Led by Carolyn's faithful example, Larry was baptized into the Church of Christ and was a devoted and involved member for over four decades, known for leading detailed and thoughtful Bible studies.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife, Carolyn Hayes; his children, Ruthie Sommers (David), Marland Hayes (Denise), and Janell Hustead (Bill); nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Larry's life was marked by quiet faithfulness, intellectual curiosity, humility, and enduring love for his family. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all those who knew him.

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Please send Newsletter information to Rebecca English, becky@asa3.org

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Speaker:
Nathan Grills
 Public Health Physician
 and Professor at Nossal Institute
 for Global Health
 University of Melbourne



Panelist:
Yuka Langlais
 Disability Inclusion
 Advocate and Faith
 Community Leader



Panelist:
LaTonya Penny
 Chief Executive of
 the Laughing Gull
 Foundation

Moderator:
Mark A. Strand
 ASA Fellow and Board Member
 Professor, Pharmacy Practice
 and Master of Public Health
 Departments at North Dakota
 State University





WINTER SYMPOSIUM

“Disability and the Church”

ONLINE EVENT

Friday
 January 29, 2027
 8 pm EST (North America)

Saturday
 January 30, 2027
 12 pm AEDT (Australia)
 2 pm NZDT (New Zealand)



ISCAST
Christianity & Science in Conversation



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