



Newsletter
of the
ASA & CSCA
volume 54 number 2



ASA Annual Meeting Preview



Dear Members,

With the ASA Annual Meeting now right around the corner, we're devoting this issue to a "sneak preview" of this year's lectures, talks, and social events — the things that make our time at the ASA meeting a memory worth sharing and creating anew each and every year.

As a relative newbie to ASA, I admit to being consistently awed by the depth of scholarship, the ease of
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The Director's Corner



The world of communications is changing so rapidly, it is hard to keep pace. Jokes abound of learning new skills from our grandchildren who seem to grasp new technologies more rapidly than the older generations. So many technologies for exchanging ideas have been invented in the last 50 years that it is difficult to even know what they are, let alone use them.

The challenges and opportunities before us are to use these technologies effectively to communicate issues of science and Christian faith. This is the focus of our annual meeting this year in San Diego. Program chair **Jim Buchholz** has organized a fascinating conference on the theme "Science, Faith, and the Media: Communicating beyond Books." Plenary speakers include Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparran, director of the Los Angeles Film Studies Center. Other speakers with backgrounds in journalism and the film industry will address means and opportunities for advanced communications. Jack Johnson from the Scripps Institute will address his work on genetics and nanomachines.

Of special interest is the feature-length documentary *From the Dust* which will be shown on Saturday night, followed by a panel discussion with the producer and some participants. This film directly addresses the issue of human origins, exploring the scientific, biblical, and theological issues from various perspectives. This is perhaps one of the most vexing issues in science and Christian faith today.

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personal interactions (even between people with conflicting viewpoints), and the strong fellowship that flows from sharing space with so many like-minded, yet wholly diverse scientists, theologians, educators, and more.

One of the things I cherish most from last year's meeting and am very much looking forward to enjoying again this year are

the conversations and debates that happen outside the seminar rooms and the auditorium. These often unlooked-for insights into alternate perspectives—different ways of interpreting the Bible and the "book of nature"—sometimes happen over lunch or dinner, sometimes over a midday walk, sometimes long after the lights are out on campus and a few attendees have gone to town for a late night pint of ale.

Regardless of how or where these discussions begin, they never fail to bring a welcome feeling of fellowship and increased inspiration for

learning ever more about who we are as human beings and why we're all here enjoying life on Earth.

I hope that as many ASA members as can make it will come to this year's Annual Meeting. The weather and location couldn't be better for an end-of-July destination, and we'll be discussing one of the



most vital aspects of what we do as a community of scientists who believe in God and

wish to share that joy with others—how to do so in an age when computers,

e-readers, television, and the internet dominate the communications market. As we learn more about each other, we'll also be learning how to reach out to millions of other people. It's going to be a great five days. I'm so looking forward to hearing many more of your stories and insights this year.

— Emily Ruppel



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The Director's Corner

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This year's meeting continues to include topics of on-going interest to ASA members, such as appropriate technologies—that is, using science and technology to aid our brothers and sisters in developing countries. There are also symposia on information and the origin of life, teaching science and faith in the curriculum, communicating earth science to the public, etc.

Historically, we have excelled in the written word. We have disseminated ideas through our journal and newsletter and more recently on our website. Oral communications and personal interaction occur at our annual meeting but our journal and newsletter communications are all in written form. While written communications will continue to thrive, other media serve as a vital supplement to augment the experiential domain as well as the intellectual.

Our annual meetings continue to be a vital part of the ASA mission. Consistent with this year's theme, the meeting provides an environment for personal interaction that complements the written dialog in our publications. It takes a lot of time and effort to organize a meeting. We owe a great debt of appreciation to program chair Jim Buchholz, local arrangements chair **Michael McConnell**, and to **Marty Herdrich** and **Lyn Berg** for their tremendous investment of time and energy to work out all the details. The payoff comes in the benefit we provide to each attendee to interact with other Christians in science. We realize that not everyone is able to attend and we will post as many of the audio recordings as we can. But there is no substitute for the personal interaction. See you there!



ASA Announcements

Gregg Davidson Talks About the Age of Earth at Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) Assembly

If you do a Google search on "PCA and creation," many of the top hits will be about the seminar **Gregg Davidson** gave to the 2012 Presbyterian Church in America General Assembly on June 21 in Louisville, Kentucky. While some members of the PCA are very welcoming of earth-age discussions, there are others who, says Gregg, "are very upset, and firing up the blog sites. Many have asked for the seminar to be cancelled, but the PCA affirmed their commitment to move forward with it."

Gregg's seminar, titled, "The PCA Creation Study Committee a Dozen Years Later: What Does Science Say Now?" was a direct response to the fact that, according to Gregg, "The PCA Creation Study Committee reported their results in 2000 without establishing a firm position on the age of the earth. The report encouraged the PCA to consider what additional scientific understanding might develop in the future to assist in answering the question of age." Gregg's seminar focused on providing an update on the scientific evidence for an ancient earth using examples non-scientists could easily apprehend.

ASA Boston Chapter Hosts Author Karl Giberson

ASA's newest chapter, located in Boston, MA, held its second meeting on Friday, May 18, featuring a talk by author **Karl Giberson** on his new book, *The Anointed: Evangelical Truth in a Secular Age*. Karl's talk, which explored questions like, "Why do millions of Americans prefer to get their science from Ken Ham, founder of the creationist organization Answers in Genesis, who has no scientific expertise, rather than from his fellow evangelical **Francis Collins**, current Director of the National Institutes of Health? Why is the uncredentialed and discredited David Barton the favored

Welcome New Members!

JAN 2012–MAR 2012

Andringa, Brent –Tofield, AB, Canada
 Arant, Lauren M. –Tulsa, OK
 Ayodele Sr, Favour O. –Ondo, South-West, Nigeria
 Beausoleil II, Geoffrey L. –Boise, ID
 Beavan, Neil –Edmonton, AB, Canada
 Bosch, Savannah –Sturgeon County, AB, Canada
 Brondos, Michael D. –Centennial, CO
 Bundrick, David –Springfield, MO
 Caines Sr, John R. –Ringgold, GA
 Coleman, Andrew P. –Houston, TX
 Collier, John –Houston, TX
 Davis, Justin L. –London, OH
 Denney, Dwight –Tucson, AZ
 Doede, Robert –Sumas, WA
 Driver, Julie –Nashville, TN
 Fitt, Gary N. –Phoenix, AZ
 Foggin, Marc –Xining, Qinghai, China
 Foster, Briana K. –Edmonton, AB, Canada
 Franklin, Matthew T. –Friendsville, TN
 Gossling, Gustavo C. –Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
 Grossman, Elizabeth A. –Santa Barbara, CA
 Hager, Cynthia B. –Mount Vernon, OH
 Hall, Jennifer –Norco, CA
 Haller, Megan K. –Michigan City, IN
 Hansen, Steven –Granville, OH
 Harris, Robert –Cambridge, MA
 Hine, Katherine –Yucaipa, CA
 Hoehner, Paul J. –Millersville, MD
 Johnson Sr, John E. –La Jolla, CA
 Karakey, Gustavo M. –Medellin, Colombia, South America
 Kiefuik, Kimberley –Edmonton, AB, Canada
 Kim, Yong-Soo –Rockville, MD
 Kits, Kara –Grand Rapids, MI
 Knight, Jeffrey –Buford, GA
 Kwok, Kam –Thornhill, ON, Canada
 Larrabee, David –Shenyang, China
 Leung, John –Edmonton, AB, Canada
 Lhejirika, Polycarp –Toronto, ON, Canada
 Long, Rachel J. –Tulsa, OK
 Luke, S. John –Dublin, CA
 Maciejko, Roman –Laval, QC, Canada
 Makous, Walter –Hoover, AL
 McBeath, Shannon M. –Lehigh Acres, FL

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McConnell, Michael –San Diego, CA
 McCully, Curtis –Edison, NJ
 Menonides, Kami R. –Moses Lake, WA
 Miller, Dawn –Cambridge, MA
 Mohns, Mariel –Clinton, WI
 Muhire Gihana, Gabriel –Riverside, CA
 Munce, Vanessa L. –Tulsa, OK
 Munoz, Wilmer –Deadwood, SD
 Nicholas, Robert L. –Peoria, AZ
 Offringa, Chris –Caledonia, MI
 Park, Peter J. –Nyack, NY
 Parker, Mark –Lakewood, CO
 Peµ±a, Jaime –Santiago, Chile
 Philpott, David –Houston, TX
 Phua, Desiree –Singapore, Singapore
 Porebski, Dennis L. –Tulsa, OK
 Pugh, George –Aurora, CO
 Ressler, Barbara –Grantham, PA
 Rice, Allison –Riverside, CA
 Rodriguez Sr, Ruben B. –Mexico City, D.F., Mexico
 Rosenberg, Stan –Oxford, Oxon, UK
 Rugheimer, Sarah M. –Cambridge, MA
 Schumacher, William K. –Columbus, OH
 Shaffer, Lindsey A. –Mount Vernon, OH
 Shumelda, Mark –Whitehorse, YT, Canada
 Simberg, Kristina –Westfield, MA
 Smedley, C. Donald –New Haven, CT
 Srokosz, Meric –Southampton, UK
 Staab, Cordelia J. B. –Mayetta, KS
 Steensland, David B. –Tulsa, OK
 Styer, Amy –Athens, GA
 Susanto, Agus –Busan, South Korea
 Teranishi, Rachel –Stockton, CA
 Thomas, Christian –Nashville, TN
 Tope, Michael A. –Columbia, MD
 Trapp, Jake P. –Mount Prospect, IL
 Vadlamudi Jr, Prasangikumar –Krishna, India
 Varnell, Tori –Tulsa, OK
 Velasquez Garcia, Celestino –Tulsa, OK
 Ver Straten-McSparran, Rebecca –Los Angeles, CA
 Vermilyea, Tracy M. –Eugene, OR
 von Roedern, Bolko –Golden, CO
 Waskel, Edith –Highland, CA
 Waskel, Samantha J. –Highland, CA
 Wells, Doug –Lakewood, CO
 Whitlatch, Michael P. –Tulsa, OK
 Winters, Nathaniel –Mount Vernon, OH
 Wraga, Ian T. –Watkinsville, GA
 Yee, Homun –Edmonton, AB, Canada
 Youmans, Zachary W. –Siloam Springs, AR
 Young, Zachary R. –Tulsa, OK

historian of the religious right—including Newt Gingrich and Michelle Bachmann—rather than the well-respected evangelical historian Mark Noll?” Giberson’s lecture inspired many thoughtful questions from a crowd of about 35 ASAers and local scientists, students, and church-goers.

DC ASA Hosts Randy Isaac for Talk

The DC Metro ASA hosted **Randy Isaac** for a lecture on April 29 at Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church, a well-established suburban congregation. Randy’s talk, titled “Information & Intelligence in the Universe: Implications for Spirituality and Faith” connected the science behind biological and spiritual information with an exploration of information theory as a scientific apologetic, and how a better understanding of information can inform our Christian faith.

Owen Gingerich Addresses United Nations General Assembly

Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics professor **Owen Gingerich** presented a talk called “The Harmony of Nature,” at the United Nations General Assembly 66th Session Dialogue on Harmony of Nature New York, 18 April 2014. Gingerich was asked to speak as the lead panelist on a dialogue about how human beings are interfering with our environment.

Gingerich concluded his talk, which is not yet online with the following sentiments, “We do not know if there are other cultures and civilizations out there among the 200 billion stars in our galaxy. But if there are and if they blow themselves to bits within a century or two after getting the technology to communicate across space, then two or three hundred years is only a speck in the billions of years it takes to evolve a civilization. Then it would be featherbrained to think of finding such an alien outpost still alive in the ocean of time. ... Today we are on a great ship, planet Earth, cruising through mostly empty space, little dreaming that humankind now has the means, in a split second, to destroy this entire city, to render this entire

region radioactively uninhabitable for generations to come, and to destroy civilization as we know it. It may not happen here. Perhaps it will happen to Jerusalem and the much-competed-over Holy Land, which would become radioactively quarantined for every faith.

“Or it may be something more subtle, that our climate will reach a tipping point, where within just a decade irreversible changes will heat our fields and forests beyond recognition. We are at a perilous point where our knowledge, our powers, and our masses have the newly acquired capability to irredeemably wreck our environment. Never has more been asked of diplomacy, and never has so much hard and dedicated work been required from men and women like you. Our world hangs in the balance. Don’t let this unique cosmic ship carelessly sink to the bottom of the sea.”

CEST Newsletter Now Online

Please find the Spring 2012 issue of the ASA CEST Newsletter at this link:

<http://www.asa3.org/ASA/cest/CEST-spring2012.pdf>

Leonard Bond Appointed Director of the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation

Leonard Bond will become the new Director of the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation (CNDE) and a Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Iowa State University, effective July 1.

Bond comes to Iowa State from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory where he served as a Laboratory Fellow since 2000. Bond has focused his career on non-destructive evaluation and related topics and has worked in academia, as a consultant, and in government laboratories.

The Center for Nondestructive Evaluation was established in 1985 as a NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center, with its roots in the Engineering Mechanics program that is now part of the Aerospace Engineering department. “NDE has a long and illustrious

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The 2012 ASA Annual Meeting

SCIENCE, FAITH, AND THE MEDIA: COMMUNICATING BEYOND BOOKS

Plenary Speakers!



Jack Johnson
Professor, Department of Molecular Biology, Lab of Structural Virology, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA



Dean Nelson
Journalism Professor, Point Loma & Author of *Quantum Leap: How John Polkinghorne Found God in Science and Religion*



Ralph Winter
Producer of *4 X-Men*, *Star Trek III, IV, V & VI*, *2 Fantastic Fours*, *Cool It*, *Left Behind*, and *Mother Mary of Christ*



Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparran
Philosopher, Theologian, Instructor, and Director of the Los Angeles Film Studies Center



Chris Perez
Public Relations and Interactive Marketing Counselor and Educator, Consultant for over 60 companies and organizations including JVC, USFDA, American Cancer Society, and Amazon

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history at Iowa State University, and many distinguished faculty have contributed to its success," said Richard Wlezien, chair of Aerospace Engineering.

The Center has a long history of working with industry to provide cost-effective tools and solutions which address relevant problems for a variety of industrial sectors. Dr. Bond will provide leadership to an interdisciplinary team in the further development and implementation of theoretical and experimental tools for NDE and prognostic applications in the transportation, energy and infrastructure communities, working with faculty, professional scientists, and students in the Colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Bond was a Research Professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder from 1997–1998, a Chief Scientist at the University of Denver Research Institute and Research Professor in the Department of Engineering at the University of Denver from 1994–1998. He also served as a Lecturer and Reader in Ultrasonics at the University College London from 1979–1992. He earned his PhD in physics from The City University in London in 1978 and is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (UK) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Southern California Local Section meeting in Santa Barbara

Nine ASA members and approximately thirty guests gathered at Shoreline Church in Santa Barbara for a fellowship potluck meal and a lecture by Jeffrey Burton Russell on "Exposing Myths about Christianity: A Historian Answers Culturally-Rampant Lies and Legends about Christianity and Science." **Michael Everest** opened the meeting at noon by describing the ASA and the Southern California Christians in Science local section. Attendees then sung a hymn and **Stan Anderson** introduced Jeff Russell.

Jeff's talk covered a range of myths, including the story of Columbus and the flat earth, the Galileo affair, the idea that Christianity is violent, modern ideas on progress, and miracles. After the talk, Jeff fielded a variety of questions, mainly dealing with the Galileo affair. After the talk, Jeff stuck around to talk with attendees and to sell "at cost" copies of his new book, *Exposing Myths about Christianity: A Guide to Answering 145 Viral Lies and Legends*.

Saturday Night Panel

So You Have an Idea for a Movie: Process, Opportunities, Pitfalls, and Profound Stories

Moderator:

REBECCA VER STRATEN-MCSPARRAN

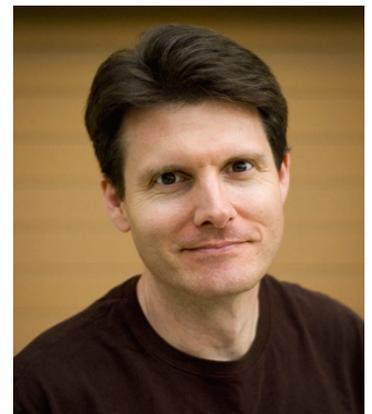
Rebecca is the director and a professor at the L.A. Film Studies Center, a program of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. She speaks at conferences and universities, leads spiritual retreats, and gave a Princeton lecture in January, to be published this summer. Last fall her article, "Andrei Tarkovsky: Holy Cinema," was published in the CIVA journal SEEN. Rebecca wrote a chapter in the book, *Reframing Theology and Film*, edited by Robert K. Johnston and worked with him on the revision of his book, *Reel Spirituality*. Currently she is working on a PhD in philosophical theology and film at Kings College London. She is on the Reel Spirituality Committee at Fuller Seminary and on the boards of City of the Angels Film Festival (past director). Rebecca created the Miracle Mile Art Walk, sponsored by L.A. County Museum of Art and Mid City WEST Community Council, and until recently was elected head of the arts council in that area of Los Angeles. She was a pastor for 14 years, developed arts ministries and urban ministries while a pastor, and planted a church for artists. Rebecca was president of the interfaith council for the Wilshire area of Los Angeles for four years. She received her Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and BA in philosophy with Highest Honors from Bethel University.



Panelists:

DEAN BATALI

Dean worked as a writer on *That 70s Show* for seven years, serving as an executive producer for the show's final season. He wrote for the initial two seasons of *Buffy, The Vampire Slayer*, and has written for *Duckman, Hope and Gloria, The Half Hour News Hour*, and *The Adventures of Pete and Pete*. Recently, he was executive producer and showrunner for two seasons of the Family Channel's *What's Up, Warthogs*. Before coming to Los Angeles, Dean worked as an actor and playwright for Taproot Theatre Company in Seattle, Washington, and has written and produced numerous musical theater productions. He is a graduate of the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and lives in La Crescenta with his wife of 25 years, Beth, and two daughters, Erin and Katharine.



Saturday Night Panel. continued...

CHARLES B. SLOCUM

Chuck Slocum works as Assistant Executive Director at the Writers Guild of America (WGA), West, which represents screenwriters in Hollywood. He is credited with finding the solution to end both major writers' strikes in Hollywood, saving the Writer's Guild over \$200M.

Slocum is currently pursuing a PhD at Fuller Theological Seminary in theology and culture. He previously received an MA in theology and the arts from Fuller, pursuing an incarnational view of film. He also holds an MBA in strategy from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in television and radio from the Newhouse School at Syracuse University. Prior to the guild, Slocum worked in finance at Paramount Pictures, as a game show judge for NBC Television, and in audience research at ABC Television.

KOREY POLLARD

Although Korey began as an actor (*Stand by Me*), he has been an assistant director (first and second) non-stop since 1999, including such films as *Scary Movie 2*, *Spy Movie 2*, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, *Thirteen*, *Down with Love*, *Halloween*, and TV shows such as *CSI*, *Deadwood*, *House*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Monk*, *Life*, *Lie to Me* and *Rizzoli and Isles*. Korey also manages speaking engagements and teaching in his spare time.



CHRISTINA LEE STORM

Christina is an international independent producer who has collaborated with filmmakers from around the world predominately in Asia and the US. Her most recent producing credits include *The Least of These*, *To Save A Life*, and *Flesh: Bought & Sold in the US*, a documentary about the widely overlooked, yet widespread practice of human trafficking in the United States. Christina was Production Supervisor for the highly acclaimed, 2012 Oscar-winning film *The Artist*.

As VP of International Production at Hong Kong based film studio Milkyway Image, Christina helmed the development department working with local writers & directors and setting up co-productions. Christina's experience in visual effects working at Rhythm & Hues has allowed her to provide studio-wide production management support for films including *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe*, *Happy Feet*, *Garfield 2*, *Superman Returns*, *Night at the Museum*, *Evan Almighty* and most recently *Mr. Popper's Penguins*,

Big Miracle, *Chronicle*, *Hunger Games*, *Snow White and the Huntsman*, *RIPD*, and *Life of Pi*. She is currently a Manager of Digital Production at Rhythm & Hues and works closely with visual effects producers and digital producers to schedule, staff, and build appropriate teams of digital artists for each in-house production.

Christina also has unique experience working in foreign sales, acquisitions, and distribution. As Overseas Manager with Hong Kong-based foreign sales company Golden Network Asia, she has worked with major buyers and studios selling films for all territories at various film markets including Cannes, the American Film Market and the Hong Kong Filmart. Christina's passion lies in producing films with distinctly profound themes. An alumna of the Act One Writing Program and Advisor for the Executive Program, Christina is an active member of the Producers Guild of America and serves on its National Board of Directors.



Download our poster from the ASA website!

2012 ASA Annual Meeting
 at Point Loma Nazarene University
 July 20 - 23

Science, Faith & the Media:
 Communicating beyond Books

Plenary Speakers:

- Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparran
- Jack Johnson
- Dean Nelson
- Chris Perez
- Ralph Winter

Field Trips
 Fellowship
 Workshops
 Networking

Register now at: asa3.org!

Saturday Movie and Panel Discussion

From the Dust: Conversations in Creation is a new documentary film on science and Christian faith from Highway Media and the BioLogos Foundation. With fresh insight from some of the great theological minds of our day and a candid examination of the biblical creation narrative, *From the Dust* creates an unflinching context in which to interact with new ideas and ancient narrative. The film was crafted to frame the story of humankind's origins in a larger dialogue of how we read the scriptures, how we regard scientific discovery, and how a person's search for his or her place in the universe often leads down the narrow road of absolutes. Director Ryan Pettey and producer Dean Smith hope that *From the Dust* stirs a renewed vigor in the search for truth—both scientific and spiritual—and that fruitful conversation and spirited dialogue will result from viewing the film.

Panel

David Vosburg, moderator

Associate Professor of Chemistry at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California and consultant with BioLogos for use of *From the Dust* in campus ministry.

Kathryn Applegate, panelist

Program director at BioLogos, administrator of the Evolution & Christian Faith grants program, and computational cell biologist.

April Maskiewicz, panelist

Associate Professor of Biology at Point Loma Nazarene University and featured in *From the Dust*.

Dean Smith, panelist

Producer of *From the Dust* and pastor of The Highway Community in Palo Alto, California.

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Send Coming Events information to David Fisher, dfisherasa@gmail.com

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MOVIE NIGHT at the ANNUAL MEETING!



FROM THE DUST

conversations in creation

A new documentary film from
BioLogos and Highway Media

