



**Newsletter**  
of the  
**ASA & CSCA**  
volume 54 number 4



# Meet the New Fellows!



*Dear Friends,*

As any year comes to its close, we like to take a moment to reflect on what it meant to us—how we spent our time and who we spent it with, what we accomplished and what remains on the list for next year.

For me, much of this past year has been about discovery. Discovering happiness in marriage, discovering more about what I believe and how to be faithful to it, rediscovering family and friends

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## The Director's Corner



NOMA is the acronym for Stephen J Gould's concept of Non-Overlapping Magisteria, his proposal for the way in which science and faith address different domains of questions and therefore do not conflict or interfere with each other. Much has been written about the pros and cons of such an approach. On one hand, it deftly evades any conflict since clashes can be dismissed as addressing different types of reality. On the other hand, it strips religion of any relevance, declaring religious thought to be outside the domain of reality where science rules.

This column will not dig deeper into that discussion but rather will ponder whether Christians are in a sense compartmentalizing different views on science and Christian faith as another NOMA. Books abound with the title "Four Views on ..." related to virtually every topic, including science and faith, no matter that there seem to be thousands of views. One of ASA's objectives is to enable a vibrant dialog among

Christians with a wide spectrum of views. How are we doing?

On one hand, it seems that we are doing quite well. It is not hard to find ASA members espousing almost every variety of ideas on science and faith. We have members who are young-earth creationists, intelligent design advocates, concordists, evolutionary creationists, and all shades in between. Our annual meetings offer a variety of talks reflecting many of these perspectives.

On the other hand, we may worry that each camp is busy digging in their heels and defending their own turf. Passionate advocates of a view form their own magisterium, avoiding any overlapping engagement with others while proclaiming the virtues of their own ideas. Serious discussion aimed at seeking a common, deeper understanding is avoided, replaced by verbal shots fired at short range. It is comforting to remain in one's own magisterium, deriving confidence from the support of like-minded thinkers. The game of identifying flaws in all other views while showing the merits of one's own view can be a thrilling one, except for those observing the carnage.

The pastor of my home church where I was born and raised gave a series of sermons this summer on creation. At one point he referred to "... Christians ...

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in a city I love. Also this year, I feel as if I've "discovered" the ASA. It was around this time two years ago that a friend introduced me to the organization, but I didn't know then just what its members meant to each other, both personally and collectively.

Reading over the biographies of our new ASA Fellows revealed anew how much the ASA and CSCA mean to those who take an active part in its local chapters, annual meetings, and publications. When I asked this year's fellows about their favorite ASA/CSCA memories, the phrase, "my fellow members," preceded by the phrases, "praying with," "talking with," and "spending time with," was a consistent refrain.

Indeed, *it is* the membership of the ASA that makes this organization so special, so unique among societies in North America and abroad. I am continually amazed at the things our members have accomplished, both scientifically and for the church. I am honored by the challenge their commitment to God and science present, and I look forward to learning more about the world around me through their eyes. As we strive to sustain this organization into the 21st century, let us each do our part to help create and foster local chapters, and make an effort to attend this year's ASA Annual Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Emily Ruppel

ASA Associate  
Director of  
Communications



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## The Director's Corner

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so-called Christians ...” who thought the earth was old. With that sentence he managed to cut off dialog between his magisterium and all others. If we cannot acknowledge that Christians in the body of Christ may have differing views of science and faith, we are effectively isolating the magisteria and preventing any productive conversation. The same is too often true from other perspectives where old-earth creationists may deride those who deign believe the earth is young. This is not to say that all views are equally valid. There are well-established criteria for evaluating scientific claims and biblical interpretation and it is important that each view be assessed accordingly.

The ASA perspective would call upon each of us to tear down the walls between these internal magisteria and engage in serious dialog with one another, not just tolerating each other's views but jointly seeking the truth. Our reference points are the orthodox Christian creeds and mainstream science, the latter recognized as a changing body of knowledge through normal scientific methodology. Above all, we must accept one another as members of the body of Christ and allow seeking students to share their views and questions openly. The goal is not to have our preferred magisterium win, but to seek the transcendental truths of God and his creation.



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

July–September, 2012

Aguilar, Marco –Nuevo, CA	Jeanguenin, Lisa –Encinitas, CA
Aldridge, Larissa –GyMEA, NSW, Australia	Jennings, Gene –Otsego, MI
Andreasen, Jonathan –Tucson, AZ	Jonker, Anna
Andrews, Cole –Lake Elsinore, CA	Lague, Sabine L. –Vancouver, BC
Andrews, Jasmine –Lake Elsinore, CA	Langley, Chris –Bosque, NM
Ardern, Zachary –Auckland, Windows, New Zealand	Lau, Pui Sai
Baartman, Richard A. –Surrey, BC	Linsley, Alice C. –Versailles, KY
Baekkel, Morgan –Hemet, CA	Martin, Bruce –Lethbridge, AB
Bastin, Andrea –Ames, IA	Martinez, Faith S. –Price, UT
Buchanan, Grace –Flemington, NJ	Mathias, Chenae –Victorville, CA
Burin, Michael J. –San Marcos, CA	McEwan, Mark –Alberta, Canada
Cantrell, Kristi –Santa Barbara, CA	Meuti, Megan –Columbus, OH
Carothers, Linn –Riverside, CA	Moody, Jonathan B. –Bloomfield Hills, MI
Chen, Diana A. –Cerritos, CA	Morgan, Steven –Pasadena, CA
Cheng, Zhen –Eugene, OR	Morrissey, Christopher –Langley, BC
Crowe, Pamela –Newark, DE	Oliver, Matthew –Edmonton, AB
Davis, Joshua –Moreno Valley, CA	Opperman, Tim R. –Vancouver, BC
Dinwiddie, Michael E. –Honolulu, HI	Orlovsky, Andrew J. –Newville, PA
Ford, Patrick S. –Saint Joseph, IL	Parmelee, Byrd F. –Glen Ellyn, IL
Gonzalez, Lauren –Claremont, CA	Paserin, Vlad –Mississauga, ON
Groenenboom, John	Pasiuk, Addison D. G. –Surrey, BC
Gustafson-Brown, Cindy –San Diego, CA	Peck, Robert –Mwanza, Tanzania
Hammer, Rick –Abilene, TX	Pemberton, Wendy J. –Henderson, NV
Hargis, Jonathan –Bloomington, IN	Peranio, Louis J., Jr. –Baton Rouge, LA
Heath, Jesse –Enid, OK	Phillips, Fred M. –Socorro, NM
Hennessey, Felisha M. –Riverside, CA	Pimentel, Sam –Langley, BC
Ho, Michelle –Taipei, Zhongzheng Dist., Taiwan	Powell, Kimberley –Risco, MO
	Ray, Stephen –Chicago, IL
	Richmond, Elliot –Austin, TX
	Ridge, Kelly C. –Menifee, CA

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS! (CONTINUED)

Ridge, Rolanda –Menifee, CA  
 Robinson, Kerryanne –Alta Loma, CA  
 Ryan, Hannah E. –Santa Barbara, CA  
 Sabir, Theodore –Upland, CA  
 Schuurman, Derek –Ancaster, ON  
 Serbanescu, Claudiu ON  
 Shirk, Carl D. –Pigg’s Peak, Bulembu Swaziland  
 Sikkema, Valerie –Langley, BC  
 Sloots, James –Hamilton, ON  
 Stallings, William J. –Wilson, NC  
 Stewart, Kyle –Riverside, CA  
 Struble, Wesley H., Jr. –Troy, ID  
 Tabladillo, Mark –Atlanta, GA  
 TerBeek, Kenneth J. –Saukville, WI  
 Thomas, Richard C. –Walnut Creek, CA  
 Vanden Heuvel, Greg –Wheaton, IL  
 VanPool, Christine –Columbia, MO  
 Varner, Gregory A. –Siloam Springs, AR  
 Wang, Jing –Hamilton, ON  
 Wehrmann, Caleb –Mechanicsburg, PA  
 Wenger, Bill –Auburn Twp., OH  
 Wheeler, Richard B. –Houston, TX  
 White, Charles J. –Hamilton, ON  
 Wing, David A. –Jackson, TN  
 Winyard, David C., Sr. –Henrico, VA  
 Wood, Ian –Albuquerque, NM  
 Wright, Adam –Stanford, CA  
 Wu, Brian –South Pasadena, CA  
 Yi, Shiya –Brookline, MA  
 Ziyang, Hao –Beijing, China

## Meet the New ASA Fellows!

*Inducted at the 2012 ASA Annual Meeting*

**Dorothy Boorse** is the chair of the biology department at Gordon College and has been an active ASA member since 2004.



Dorothy became a Christian as a child and was baptized at a young age. Her parents were Christian, and she was surrounded by people who loved Christ and loved learning. During her Christian school education, Dorothy was taught a great deal about the Christian faith. In college, Dorothy went through a crisis of faith, followed by a reevaluation period during which she became renewed in her beliefs, which are now best described by the Apostles’ Creed.

Dorothy has attended church in a range of denominations and is currently active in an evangelical Episcopal church. Her Christian experience with Mennonites helped form for Dorothy a sense of the Christian call to service.

Her experience in the reformed tradition helped emphasize the life of the mind as a part of the faith journey.

The bulk of Dorothy’s Christian experience has been shaped by trying to come to terms with the problems of pain and evil, and our Christian responses to a hurting world. To that end, she recently authored a study booklet called “Loving the Least of These: Addressing a Changing Environment,” which separates the climate change discussion from its political underpinnings and places it in the context of Christian discipleship.

**Jimmy Davis** is the Hammons Chair of pre-medical studies at Union University and has been an ASA member since 1999.

Jimmy was raised in a rural, devoted Baptist home and the church has always been a part of his life. During his first year of high school, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, and has been striving ever since to fulfill Jesus’ calling for his life: teaching science in a Christian context.

Jimmy feels a great passion for helping the church to understand how nature, as observed by contemporary science, reflects its Creator in a complex

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and observable way.

Throughout his career as a chemistry professor, Jimmy began exploring questions at the interface of science and faith. As soon as he began this exploration, he realized the need to join the ASA to receive a current perspective on science and faith issues.



Jimmy has since encouraged fellow colleagues and students to join ASA and to read *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*. PSCF has provided valuable resources for Jimmy's scholarship, resulting in four books and many presentations on science and faith. *The Designer Universe*, one of the books Jimmy co-wrote with Hal Poe, was Winner of 2003 *Christianity Today* Award of Merit.

**Robert Fay** is a science textbook author and professor emeritus at Cornell University. He joined the ASA 15 years ago, after subscribing to *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* for 15 years prior to that.

Bob came to faith in Christ at a young age, in part due to the faith of his Christian parents, who explained the gospel to him and modeled what it means to follow Jesus.

When Bob went to study at Oberlin College, where there were very few Christians, he was challenged to reexamine the foundations of the faith he had accepted as a child. Through serious study of the gospels and with the help of the ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Bob became convinced that the claims of Christ were credible. Christ became very real to Bob at Oberlin, and he began to wonder if God's call for the future was in teaching chemistry or, perhaps, in pastoral ministry.



A year as a teaching fellow in the chemistry department at Wheaton College made clear that God was leading Bob into an academic vocation. For the past 50 years, he has had the great joy and privilege of serving the Lord at Cornell. In teaching, research, writing, and interactions with students and

colleagues, he has sought to be faithful. And God? He is always faithful.

Among his ASA activities, Bob coordinated John Polkinghorne's three-day visit to Cornell in April 2004, where Polkinghorne presented several lectures and seminars, including a Templeton/ASA Lecture to some 450 students and faculty.

One of Bob's favorite ASA memories was the history tour of England, Scotland, and Ireland after a joint ASA/CiS meeting in Cambridge. The tour was a wonderful learning experience and a rich time of fellowship with other Christians in science.

**Allan Harvey** is a chemical engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and has been an ASA member since 1996. Throughout his career, Allan has had about 60 publications in refereed journals, co-edited two books, and was lead author for one computer database.

Allan grew up in a nominally Christian family, and went to church about every other week. In high school, he started thinking about bigger issues and recognized that if his faith was to be meaningful, he had to own it personally. This realization, along with participation in the youth ministry of his church, led Allan to make a commitment to Christ his junior year.

While Allan experienced some disillusionment in college, he got involved in good fellowship while

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in grad school at Berkeley, where he heard sound preaching and developed a more mature, Christ-centered faith. Allan's subsequent journey has involved a slow realization that he is called not just for his own individual salvation, but also as part of the Body of Christ to participate in God's mission of reconciling the world through Jesus.



Allan is a member of a Presbyterian Church (USA), where he has served one term as an elder. Allan's hope is that his primary commitment in life is to be centered in Christ in all things, which, in his opinion, helps avoid some of the problems (including science/faith problems) that come from being centered in other things, like the Bible, theological systems, or a certain side in the culture wars.

Among his activities with ASA, Allan participates on the board of the Rocky Mountain Local Section and has reviewed about 10 books for *PSCF*. He is also a co-leader for his church's involvement in the Templeton Foundation "Scientists

in Congregations" program.

**Ron Larson** is the GG Brown Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Michigan and has been an ASA member since 1996. At the University of Michigan, Ron's research interests include the structure and flow properties of "complex fluids," such as polymers, colloids, surfactant-containing fluids, and biological macromolecules such as DNA. He has written two books on these subjects and has co-authored a third book. Ron also does research into the dynamics of protein interactions with DNA, including the amazing process by which proteins reliably find target sites along millions or billions of possible binding sites along genomic DNA. He is the author or co-author of around 300 peer-reviewed articles, including papers in *Physical Review Letters*, *Nature*, *Science*, and *Proceedings of the American Academy of Science*.



Ron has been an active Christian since the 1970s, when he made a commitment through the campus ministry of the Navigators. He

served as an elder at Long Hill Chapel Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Chatham Township, New Jersey, 1994–1996, and is currently an elder at Knox Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Ron has led Bible studies since he was a student at the University of Minnesota, through which multiple seekers have come to faith in Christ. Because of his interest in science, he has dealt with the question of science/faith compatibility in the Bible studies he leads and has also developed a Sunday school course on "Science and Christian Faith," which he taught in 2009 at Knox Presbyterian Church to an audience of 50–70, and at the Stadium Village Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis to an audience of around 30.

The Sunday school class was very well received, and introduced a broad range of topics, including philosophical ideas, history of science/faith interactions, cosmology, the enigma of consciousness, and evolutionary science, including a presentation of genetic evidence for common ancestry of humans and apes. (The course materials in Powerpoint format are available upon request). His interest on this topic led Ron to write articles for *PSCF* and for secular literature.

Ron says the most rewarding aspect of his membership in the ASA has been reading *PSCF*. Thoughtful articles in *PSCF* have helped Ron appreciate the richness of God's interaction with creation and his grace in giving us capacities to study and explore the world he has created.

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## ASA Recent News

### Thorson Inaugurates Herrmann Lecture Series

**Robert Herrmann**, executive director of the ASA from 1981 to 1993, established a close relationship with Sir John Templeton in the 1980s. Bob wrote several books, some co-authored with Sir John, and helped found the John Templeton Foundation (JTF). Now JTF has recognized Bob by establishing the annual Robert Herrmann Lecture Series at Gordon College.

The inaugural lecture series was held on November 7–8, 2012, with ASA Fellow **Walter Thorson** as the speaker. He gave three lectures on the theme “Intelligent Design or Naturalism in Biological Science?” He asked, “Is there more to biology than physics and chemistry?” offering a tentative affirmative answer. In his first lecture, he emphasized the consistency of nature as revealed in the Bible, leading to a firm foundation of methodological naturalism. In his second lecture, he indicated why he felt that an indeterminate intelligent designer was not an adequate scientific, philosophical, or theological answer. Nor did he support a return to Aristotelian “Forms.” In his final lecture, he showed why he felt that there was a teleological aspect to biology that had not yet been adequately identified or understood but would be essential for a complete understanding of biological systems.

Six respondents, four of them ASA members, offered comments in response, two for each lecture. Biologist **Craig Story**, Gordon College, reiterated the importance

and success of methodological naturalism in biology. **Karl Giberson**, Stonehill College, concurred that the standard intelligent design philosophy was inadequate. ASA Executive Director **Randy Isaac** countered that teleological perspectives require an a priori concept of information, yet, in biology, such information does not exist until the system is able to reproduce and organisms respond to their environment. This requires a more dynamic, a posteriori concept such as emergence of form and complexity. **David Lahti**, evolutionary biologist from Queens College, City University of New York, and Gordon College alumnus, emphasized the practice of evolutionary biology and underscored the random relationship between causes of mutation and the desired effect, again de-emphasizing the teleological nature. The comments generated stimulating discussion.

The speaker for next year’s series will be ASA Fellow **Owen Gingerich**. Mark the dates on your calendar: October 2–4, 2013, and note the URL: <http://www.gordon.edu/herrmannlectures>

### New ASA Chapter in New Mexico

A new ASA chapter in New Mexico has launched a science and faith lecture series, the first talk of which was given by **Jennifer Wiseman** in late September. It was attended by 60–65 students, professors, and church members from the community.

### Read the Latest CEST Newsletter

Please find the Fall 2012 issue of the ASA CEST Newsletter at this link: <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/cest/CESTfall2012.pdf>

### New Book by an ASAer

**Davis A. Young**, Professor of Geology, Emeritus, Calvin College, is pleased to report the publication of his latest book, *Good News for Science: Why Scientists Need God*, available on Amazon.com. Malis Press, which is owned by **Gregg Davidson**, published the book.

Young regards *Good News for Science* as the most important book that he has ever written. It is an evangelistic and apologetic book that is addressed primarily to non-Christian scientists, science students, science teachers, and folks who just love science. It is his prayer that Christian scientists and other Christian leaders will make good use of the book, adding it to their evangelistic “arsenal.”

### ASAer Attends Conference

**Wendee Holtcamp** was recently selected to participate in the Medicine in the Media course this October in Potomac, Maryland. Run by the National Institutes of Health, the program helps journalists evaluate and report on medical research.

Holtcamp has been a freelance science writer since 1998, focusing mostly on wildlife and conservation issues, and has recently moved more toward reporting about environmental health issues, or how toxins and other aspects of the environment affect human health. She now writes regularly for *Environmental Health Perspectives* on everything from “obesogens” (chemicals that make us fat) to science denial. She also teaches an online writing class for people who want to write about science, nature, and travel for the general public. See <http://www.wendeeholtcamp.com> for more info.

## Congrats, Long-time Members!

### 50-Year Members:

Ronald L. Barndt  
Kenneth J. Van Dellen  
Leland H. Williams Sr.  
Martin M. LaBar  
Donald W. Munro  
George Giacomakis Jr.

C. Richard Terman  
Daniel Andersen

C. Henry Bradley  
William H. Venable  
Eduard H. Schludermann  
Merville O. Vincent

### 55-Year Members:

John W. Haas Jr.  
Frank Walmsley

Norman G. Wheeler  
Robert L. Herrmann  
Charles W. Crown  
John A. McIntyre  
Harold M. Spinka  
John W. Zimmerly  
Robert L. Greenhow

### 60-Year Members:

Raymond H. Brand  
Norman L. Lofgren  
Dewey K. Carpenter  
Herbert L. Hergert  
John M. Osepchuk  
Stanley M. Parmarter  
William D. Pletcher  
Donald E. McDowell

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**Arnold Sikkema** is a professor of physics and chair of mathematical sciences at Trinity Western University and the vice president of the CSCA.



Arnold grew up attending a rural Ontario immigrant church in the Dutch Reformed tradition, and had ten years of Christian schooling. The grace that flowed through p. 8

this home-church-school triangle transformed Arnold into a believer. While he was baptized as an infant and professed his faith at 18, Arnold was reticent to share that faith with others (including other Christians!) until he and his wife moved to Vancouver for graduate school.

In Vancouver, Arnold was guided into a broader ecumenical and evangelical tradition by academic Christian friends, and connected with his own denomination's Reformational heritage.

During an eight-and-a-half-year sojourn in the United States, Arnold, his wife, and three children participated in a number of Reformed and Presbyterian churches. They are now back in a Canadian Reformed church, where Arnold is an elder and heavily committed to Christian educa-

tion at all levels. For him, the most important and comforting Christian doctrines are God's sovereignty and providence, the Trinity, and the covenant.

Arnold has given numerous talks and presentations for ASA/CSCA events, and was co-chair of the 2008 ASA meeting at George Fox University in Oregon. Since 2008, Arnold has been Trinity Western University's representative at the Vancouver Area Science & Religion Forum, a local chapter of the CSCA, which organizes an annual speaker series, and for a few years ran an essay competition. Arnold typically reviews one physics-related book annually for *Perspectives in Science & Christian Faith* and is constantly promoting ASA/CSCA among friends, colleagues, and students. He has been a CSCA member since 1995.