CELEBRATING
81 YEARS
OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

2022 IMPACT REPORT
OF THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION
**What is the ASA?** The ASA is a scholarly and professional society. We are an international community and fellowship of Christians engaged in the interface of vital faith-science questions.
Dear Friends of the ASA,

Your investment in the American Scientific Affiliation had a great impact during the COVID pandemic years of 2020–2021. Thank you very much for being an active member and friend of this vibrant organization.

The stories and reflections in this Impact Report show how we are serving our members in expressing their vocational gifting and calling from God in service to society, science, the church, and one another.

Treating COVID-19 as an economic and cultural blizzard, winter, and beginning of a little ice age, this once-in-a-lifetime disruption has transformed us as individuals and as an organization. As leaders, we were forced to set aside our current playbook and quickly write a new one that honors our mission and the members we serve and makes the most of the ASA’s assets—our people, financial capital, and social capital—leaning on relationship and trust. In God’s providence, we have become a stronger institution, better equipped to serve the next generation, and positioned to thrive into the future.

As you peruse the pages of this Impact Report, we hope that you are encouraged by how God is using your partnership and support to advance ASA’s mission of interpreting, integrating, and communicating the discoveries of science with insights of Scripture and Christian theology. Thank you very much!

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
–Romans 15:13, NIV

With joyful gratitude in Christ,

Vicki L. Best
Celebrating 81 Years of God’s Faithfulness and the Story of Change

John Wood, Executive Director Emeritus

Today every faith-science organization is preparing for a challenging future. All of us were galvanized by the sudden and unexpected emergence of a disruptive pandemic. Yet Covid was only the trigger in a string of disruptions changing society. The major question leaders are asking is not “how long will this last?” but “in what direction is the vector of change aiming?” Fortunately for the ASA, we had already begun steps toward strategic renewal. Significant bylaws changes were underway, expanding and diversifying our governance structures.

In a 2016 outgoing interview, then Executive Director Randy Isaac identified three prime issues for the ASA. Two changes were structural: our funding model and digital capacity. These changes are well underway. In the summer of 2022, we announced the public phase of a new legacy campaign that is building vital capacity in our renewed business model. Now, over two thirds of the way to our initial $5 million goal for the endowment, we have a sound base for new member services.

The second long-term challenge is transforming ASA “into a true internet-based organization.” Since the mid-1990s, we have been providing digital recording content. A decade ago, we added digital membership services. Today, we have access to cloud-based software and programming designed for member associations and nonprofits. These digital member services give the ASA a national and international reach through the following avenues:

- **A new hybrid meeting model.** The ASA Annual Meeting, an inward-focused service is now paired with the outward-focused Winter Symposium, a fully online mini conference, featuring public intellectuals and leaders in the church who address vital issues of wide public concern.

- **Zoom-based ASA meeting support and advertising,** increasing ASA Local and Student Chapter activities.

- **Scholarship resources,** including Diving Deeper Discussions, Brown Bag Lunches, God & Nature, and a growing catalog of ASA and CSCA YouTube videos.
The third challenge was growing the reputational space as a “high-quality organization with top-credentialed work in both science and theology.” The heart of this challenge is focused on the little word “and” in this dyad. For many participants in the sciences or the church, these worlds are incommensurable and so impossibly immiscible that only a fool would try to bring coherence. Yet, from the outset, this has been at the core of our mission.

The uniqueness of the ASA is centered in our studied intention to maintain “a policy of neutrality and a mission of enabling dialogue among diverse views.” Whether we have been entirely successful over our 80 years remains for others to say. Yet, we know that the need for respect among opposing viewpoints, in these divisive times, is as important to the common good and the witness of the church as ever. From the outset of modern science, Christians in the sciences have always been engaged in interpreting human discovery in the light of our spiritual eternity. And that wisdom comes from listening with humility, grace, and patience, while evidence is sorted and sifted, considering the fullness of historic Christian creeds.

Whatever success the ASA has had in navigating difficult issues of science and faith has come largely from the strength of this fellowship as a community of believers. We intend to be a Galatians 3-type of organization. In the new Strategic Vision Map, we visualize the key organizational elements of the ASA in a three-part redemptive-frame model. It is through the work of our members in their vocational, professional, church, and community callings that the ASA reaches into science and the church.
Report from the Board of Directors

William Jordan, Chair

On behalf of the ASA Board of Directors I am pleased to offer you this report of the American Scientific Affiliation. This report highlights our accomplishments during the past four years.

We have endured some difficult times: surviving a pandemic and going through a leadership transition. The pandemic forced us to do many things differently. We had to reinvent ourselves to stay engaged. This has resulted in an ASA that is firmly committed to our mission, but which expresses this support in new and different ways. We have added online events, such as Diving Deeper Discussions, Brown Bag Lunches, and the Winter Symposium.

The board and I are committed to the ASA remaining a big tent where many issues of Christian faith and science can be discussed in a respectful way. Yet, we do face some challenges.

- **We need more diversity in our affiliation (gender, ethnicity, age, and discipline).**
- **We need to reach beyond our base of faculty from Christian universities.**
- **We need to make the ASA more relevant to early- and mid-career people.**
- **We need to strengthen and grow affiliate groups within us, such as biologists, Christian women in science, engineers, geologists, and theologians.**

During 2022, the ASA Board of Directors concentrated on several key tasks. We were heavily involved with the return to an in-person annual meeting. It was wonderful to meet old friends and make new friends at ASA 2022. The setting at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California, was spectacular.
Over the past several years, we, on the board, began to recognize that we needed to change the structure of the ASA so that we can better support our mission during the next few decades. This led to a change in our bylaws that the membership approved on October 10, 2022. As a result, I am the first chair of the ASA Board of Directors, and I was the last president of the ASA Executive Council. Our new executive director has been named president. This nomenclature makes us consistent with many other nonprofits and professional societies.

The last major task was to select a new executive director (now president). We have been very well led for the last two years by Interim Executive Director John Wood. He expressed an interest in once again retiring. We created a search committee that was diverse in many ways. Three members were men, three women; three were executive council members, three were not; and five were Americans, one was Canadian. The search lasted about six months. Eight applications were received; four of them were deemed viable candidates. The search committee conducted Zoom interviews with each of them, and then individually ranked each one by secret ballot. The vote was unanimous for the first choice, Janel Curry. We were excited to have her join us in this position in October 2022.

It has been a great privilege to serve the ASA as president of the ASA Executive Council (and now chair of the Board of Directors). I believe that the ASA’s best days are ahead of us. I look forward to what God has in store for us.

“We had to reinvent ourselves to stay engaged. This has resulted in an ASA that is firmly committed to our mission, but which expresses this support in new and different ways.”
ASA Highlights for 2019 – 2022

- **Leadership Transition:** Instituted executive team leadership approach; John Wood served as Interim Executive Director for three years and is now in Director Emeritus role; Vicki Best promoted to Executive Vice President; Janel Curry hired as new President

- **Board Governance:** Created institutional change in three key mission areas under new board processes: developed new member services, implemented skillful team-building leadership, expanded member involvement through committee structure

- **Business Model:** Repurposed budget under COVID induced fiscal restraint, secured federal pandemic relief, and expanded revenue streams that not only balanced the budget but built-up modest reserves

- **Legacy Campaign:** Completed silent phase and launched public phase of $5M Legacy Campaign to grow the ASA endowment with gifts/pledges to date of $3.2M

- **Personnel:**
  1. Doubled size of Team ASA; Promoted Becky English and Dana Oleskiewicz to Director roles; Hired Hannah Eagleson as Director of Partnerships & Innovation and Michele Pszenny as Administrative Assistant
  2. Created formal employee handbook; formalized measurable goal setting and performance evaluations

- **Member Services:** Quickly pivoted when pandemic hit to online programming with Diving Deeper Discussions, Brown Bag Lunches, Winter Symposium, and virtual annual meetings; Developed support services for local chapters and affiliates to enable strong member engagement

- **Team Building:** Intentional efforts to create strong team culture, including volunteer opportunities across the organization with board, staff, and our members

- **Strategic Planning:** Completed a three-year strategic visioning exercise adopting a new Strategic Vision Map with renewed historic mission and clarified vision and core values

- **Programming:**
  1. Executed successful in-person annual meeting at Point Loma Nazarene University after a three-year COVID hiatus; Expanded participation of students and underrepresented groups
  2. Implemented new Winter Symposium as an outward facing public event: Francis Collins (2021) and Philip Yancey (2022) drew large, international audiences

- **Digital Content:** Hired digital content specialist Mark McEwan; Created a large YouTube library of rich resources; Continued website and data base enhancements
Reflections on Scholarship and the ASA

Robert Kaita, ASA Fellow

When I reflect on scholarship and the ASA, it is easy to think of the impressive accomplishments of its large membership in a broad diversity of scientific fields. Their outstanding work in the physical and life sciences, social sciences, and engineering is widely recognized by their peers. What is unique about the ASA is that good scholarship is not our ultimate goal. Rather, it is the result of our calling in accordance with the gifts God has given us. This is because we are Christians who have become scientists as a manifestation of good stewardship, rather than scientists first who happen to be Christians.

This is not to say that we ignore the norms of good scholarship accepted by the broader scientific community. They are part and parcel of the professional organizations to which nearly all of us belong, and they are enforced by the standards of the publications on which academic recognition is based. Membership in such organizations is thus seen as central for professional development, and their existence for nearly every conceivable scientific field demonstrates their importance.

What, then, is the purpose of the ASA? It is also to encourage good scholarship, but because of how we are obedient to Christ. Unlike other organizations of scientists, a statement of faith is at our core. With the humility it instills, we are encouraged to follow our research wherever it might lead. Perhaps new results question the grounds on which our scientific reputations were built. While hard in practice, we have the potential to accept such consequences as they are not the ultimate basis of our self-worth.

The ASA thus supports good scholarship by focusing on the way it is done, rather than looking solely at the end product as other scientific organizations are prone to do. By encouraging ourselves and each other to “see what we missed,” our foundational approach to good scholarship helps us “advance our fields” in the most profound way. As a network of Christians in science, we become the “great cloud of witnesses” for each other, to paraphrase Hebrews 11:1, so that we can “throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, [and] let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” as scholars in our chosen professions.

Just as importantly, the principles the ASA espouses are our legacy for young Christian scholars. We can demonstrate that for good scholarship, expressing yourself clearly and listening carefully are more important than “winning debates” with colleagues by whatever means we can. Encouragement for such attitudes is not common in scientific organizations, and being apologists for Christ frees us from being the kind of apologists for our professions that discourages critical thinking. I have often claimed that being a Christian is essential for me to be a good scholar, and I have found no better support for this than the ASA.
Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith

James C. Peterson, Editor-in-Chief

At Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith (PSCF), our contributors and primary audience are thought leaders in the interaction between the best of the sciences and Christian faith. We provide articles and reviews that are accurate, well informed, clear, new, and important. Crucial to that service, we help current and future authors develop their skills and knowledge to meet those goals.

To achieve the above at the highest level we can, we count on and appreciate expert, double-blind, peer review. Most of our writers who can meet such a standard are full-time professors, though quite importantly, many also serve in research institutions, government, and the professions. The home institutions of article authors, since the last report, have included fifteen state universities, twelve CCCU colleges and universities, eleven other private universities, nine dedicated research institutions, and four graduate professional schools.

As to breadth of specific expertise, authors since the last impact report have had their primary training in analytical chemistry, anatomy, artificial intelligence, astronomy, astrophysics, biblical exegesis, biochemistry, biology, climate, clinical psychology, computation, ecology, engineering, epidemiology, ethics, genetics, geology, history, mathematics, medicine, microbiology, neuroscience, pharmacology, philosophy, physics, physiology, psychology, religious studies, and theology. Across the board, ease of use has been expanded with the addition of keywords at the start of each article, and now, full DOI citation.

PSCF is also an international effort. Since the last impact report, we published thirty-four articles from authors in the US, nine from Canada, two from France, two from New Zealand, two from Switzerland, and one from each of England, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Scotland, and the Netherlands. It has crossed our desk that complete articles from the journal have been translated of late into Italian, Polish, and Portuguese.

The above description of sources and reach is just from surveying the journal articles. There is yet far more diversity of expertise and contribution in the communications, book reviews, editorials, and letters that are so valued in each issue. We greatly appreciate, for example, our book review editor and subject area editors who track and commission reviews of the most important books as they are published.

Science is a growing power in the world, and the Christian tradition is the most widespread and influential global movement today. Where the two meet is the insightful and strategic place of our service at PSCF.

“...we published thirty-four articles from authors in the US, nine from Canada, two from France, two from New Zealand, two from Switzerland, and one from each of England, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Scotland, and the Netherlands.”
“ASA leaders have committed to innovation over the past three years, helping us to support early career members and grow our partnerships and programming for the future.”

Student/Early Career Report

Hannah Eagleson, Director of Partnerships and Innovation

Six years ago, the ASA was just beginning to imagine a regular student/early career track at the Annual Meeting. In 2022, student/early career track participants are leading in the ASA and beyond: sharing ecology research in *Smithsonian* and *The New York Times* (Veronica Frans), leading the Silicon Valley chapter as president and vice president (Esmond Lee and Evan Laksono), and crafting new faith and science material at BioLogos and Science for the Church (Ciara Reyes-Ton). ASA leaders have committed to innovation over the past three years, helping us to support early career members and grow our partnerships and programming for the future.

The ASA is delighted to partner with InterVarsity’s Emerging Scholars Network (ESN) on the student/early career track—we launched it as a joint event and have continued growing the partnership ever since. ESN is a digital-first focused ministry within InterVarsity serving thousands of early career Christian scholars.

We also launched new awards celebrating early career scientists and campus ministers who model helpful engagement with science by Christians. We were thrilled to honor early career scientists Heidi Fuqua Haviland (2021) and Esmond Lee (2022) and campus ministers Wendy Quay (2021) and Denise-Margaret Thompson (2022).

When we finally met in person for the annual meeting in summer 2022, the growth and innovation of the past few years were evident. Here is one of many examples: astronomer Jennifer Wiseman and planetary scientist Heidi Fuqua Haviland joined a group of students in related fields for a meal. Seeing such rich connections happening spontaneously among ASA leaders at different career points was just one example of the amazing connections this year. We look forward to building on those connections for an even more amazing future.
US Local Chapters

Arizona State University, AZ
Baylor University, TX
Boston Area, MA
California Baptist University, CA
Colorado Christian University Student, CO
DC Area, MD
Gordon College Student, MA
Grand Canyon University Student, AZ
Houston Area, TX
Nashville, TN
New Jersey
New Mexico
North Star
Northern California
Ohio
Oral Roberts
Philadelphia, PA
Prairie Chapter
Red River Valley
Rocky Mountain
Silicon Valley, CA
Southern California
University of Georgia Student, GA
West Michigan
Wheaton (Chicago Area), IL

Canadian Local Chapters

Vancouver, BC
Calgary, AB
Edmonton, AB
Saskatchewan
Winnipeg, MB
Waterloo, ON
Hamilton, ON
Toronto, ON
Ottawa, ON
Montreal, QC
Nova Scotia

LOCAL CHAPTERS MAP AND ACTIVE MEMBERS

ASA MEMBERSHIP WORLDWIDE

USA 1,124
Canada 151
International 84
Total: 1,359

ACTIVE MEMBERS
Member Type
Fellow 199
Regular 928
Associate 42
Friend 16
Student 280
Subscriber 140
Supporters 82
Followers 2,274
Total Active Members: 3,961
Thriving Local Chapters and Affiliates

Dana Oleskiewicz, Director of Chapters and Affiliates

Serving as ASA Director of Chapters and Affiliates for the past four years, I have offered support to the local leadership teams organized by geographic region or by discipline. Initially, my focus was on assisting established ASA chapters and cultivating new chapters when an interest was expressed. More recently, my attention has shifted to include strengthening the affiliations and fostering the emergence of new affiliate groups.

We have seen tremendous growth in the last few years, both in the number of chapters that are engaged and the amount of people who have been participating. At ASA regional events, beginning in 2021, we formally tracked attendance and demographics such as male, female, people of color (POC), and 65+ years old. Over 1,500 attendees at a total of 64 outreach events hosted by the ASA chapters included 60% male, 40% female, and 7% POC. Twenty-six of the 36 ASA/CSCA chapters held a meeting in 2021.

We have welcomed new chapters such as the Red River Valley and North Star Chapters in the mid-West. Chapter leaders have been innovative in how they interact with their local groups such as through online seminars, potluck dinners, nature walks, and student-faculty meetings.

Partnering between chapters to cohost has been very productive. The Rocky Mountain Chapter joins with the Colorado Christian University Student Chapter each month to offer a seminar. The East coast chapters have successfully come together at various times for programming such as Washington DC and Philadelphia, New Jersey and Princeton, and Boston and the Gordon College Student Chapter. Last fall, the West Michigan Chapter partnered with the Christian Women in Science (CWiS) on an event that was held live at Calvin University as well as virtually. The ability to reach viewers in person, online, and now as hybrid events has greatly expanded our impact in sharing science and faith topics with ASA members and a broader audience. We have even seen an increase in attendance from around the world through the magic of joining together online.

CWiS has been active throughout the year, including a virtual Christmas party filled with cheer and festive conversation among group members. CWiS has also joined with the Women Scholars and Professionals for events and has a connection to InterVarsity’s Emerging Scholar Network. The Affiliation of Christian Biologists has new strong leadership with great ideas for re-energizing in the coming year. We also welcome the efforts of the newly created theology-clergy-philosophy affiliation.

We have been encouraged by the excitement surrounding the efforts of the ASA chapters and affiliates. The leadership of these groups has been strategic and effective. We will continue to seek out innovative means to enhance the impact of what we do at this organizational level. Engagement locally and by discipline are critical to the ASA mission.
ASA in Action
The CSCA serves the many ASA members living in Canada, and Canadians living abroad, by adding a Canadian perspective in terms of leadership and resources on science and faith. Our eleven chapters from coast to coast (whose leaders have designated CSCA Executive Council liaisons) engage in public lectures at public and Christian universities and churches. Lectures are driven by local chapter leadership and/or we partner with institutions hosting a speaker. Developing connections and mentorship opportunities helps students establish as Christians in the sciences with an existing network.

Our YouTube channel csca.ca/yt continues to grow as a popular repository for many lectures given at local chapters as well as our very successful May 2018 conference held in Vancouver. All available audiovisuals (and YouTube links) from CSCA 2018 are now available on ASA’s resource page alongside ASA Annual Meetings. Thousands of copies of our ten *Faith and Science, eh?* pamphlets have been distributed since their 2018 production; these are typically featured at local chapter events and conferences that we cosponsor (and are online at csca.ca/pamphlets).

In the second week of March 2020, our Vancouver, Waterloo, and Toronto chapters held in-person events, and on November 29, 2021, we held a hybrid (online and in-person) event in Vancouver. Between those pandemic-bracketing dates, 32 local-chapter and national events were held via Zoom; after that, events have continued with in-person, online, or hybrid formats.

CSCA was a cosponsor for the October 25–26, 2019, Canadian-American Theological Association conference “God’s Wisdom and the Wonder of Creation: Exploring the Intersection of Scripture, Theology, and the Sciences” held at Northeastern Seminary as well as for Wycliffe College’s conference “What Does it Mean to be Human? Scientific, Theological, and Moral Dimensions,” held on June 8–9, 2022.

CSCA was established in 1973 after discussions among a number of Canadian ASA members attending the 1972 ASA Annual Meeting that was held in Canada at York University. We have formed a CSCA 50th anniversary celebration committee chaired by Rebecca Dielschneider and Judy Toronchuk, tasked with suggesting, planning, and delivering a number of exciting online and in-person activities throughout the year. Our goals are to promote the CSCA, encourage our members, learn about our members, celebrate our past, and discuss our future.
The Christian Women in Science (CWiS) affiliate group of the American Scientific Affiliation was founded in 2013. Women members of the ASA rose dramatically after the establishment of CWiS. In 2010, the ASA had 160 female members, and by 2020 the number of women members rose to be over 650.

The work of CWiS over the past three years has continued to provide opportunities for women (and some men) to join together, to learn together, to pray for one another, and to connect with each other. Some of the activities have included regular programming via zoom (CWiS LIVE) as well as annual online Christmas gatherings. CWiS LIVE began in February 2020, welcoming all women members of the ASA interested in or working in science. Since then, quarterly meetings have been occurring via zoom each year, hosted up to two times per quarter on a Sunday and Tuesday of a given week.

CWiS members have also gathered as special groups during ASA online events (Summer Something 2020, Winter Symposium 2021, 2022) and in-person at the ASA annual meetings and occasional local chapter meetings. CWiS has also been recognized and invited to join events hosted by other organizations such as Emerging Scholars Network and Women Scholars and Professionals from Intervarsity.

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, CWiS established the Marie H. Berg Award, in honor of a woman member of the ASA who has led to the advancement of ASAs’s mission. The inaugural women awardees were honored at the 2022 annual meeting.

ASA Fellow Ann Hunt, for her role as the first woman elected into the ASA Executive Council in 1983 and for becoming the first woman President in 1986. She was also a leader in the various ASA chapters near where she lived.

ASA Fellow Sara Miles, who was elected to the ASA Executive Council in 1995 and served as President in 1998, was recognized for her broad engagement in speaking and organizing activities related to the history of science in the ASA, and for initiating the first conference for Christian women in science.

ASA Fellow Dorothy Chappell, who was elected to the ASA Executive Council in 1999 and served as President in 2002, was recognized for her passion for bringing students into the ASA, and for the longevity of her leadership, including her service all the way from the executive council to the CWiS leadership team.
TOTAL DONORS
435 DONORS gave $296,620 IN GIFTS

GIVING BY DOLLARS
Annual Fund $242,377
Student Scholarships $7,171
Capital Fund $10,575
Memorial Fund $396
Endowment Fund $25,626
CSCA $10,475

TOTAL GIVING $296,620

YOUR IMPACT IN 2022 BY THE NUMBERS
Thanks to your generosity, 2022 was a year of continued blessings

FY22 UNRESTRICTED REVENUES BY MAJOR SOURCE

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<thead>
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<th>Source</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Revenue</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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TOTAL UNRESTRICTED REVENUE $529,040 100%

FY 22 EXPENSES: HOW FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED

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<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>%</th>
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<td>General and Administrative</td>
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<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
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TOTAL EXPENSES $344,205 100%

ENDOWMENT FUNDS
Fellowship and Community in the ASA

Louise Huang, ASA Fellow

Being a learner of science and a follower of Christ can be lonesome and often misunderstood because fellow scientists will not agree why Christian principles instead of scientific ones undergird everything. On the other hand, fellow Christ followers may not understand how science and faith can be in harmony. It is at this junction that the ASA provides much needed support and encouragement.

In my first experience with the ASA at a Southern California Christian Winter Symposium (SCCWS), I was warmly welcomed by ASA members Steve Contakes, Tom Ferk, and Kathleen Tallman. Since then, I have attended annual meetings, coordinated the SCCWS, and hosted local gatherings when special guests such as Vicki Best and John Wood visited Azusa Pacific University. Yet, the most memorable experience has been serving on the 2022 Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

Amidst the time difference and extremely packed schedules of the committee members, I always looked forward to the bright early meetings in our “Hollywood squares.” It was quite remarkable how we were able to build community virtually. Not only were we able to plan a conference in the midst of an ongoing pandemic with many constraints and uncertainties, we have grown to know and work with each other in winsome ways. At the end, we were gratified to see the finished project: a well-attended conference with numerous meaningful exchanges.

While one can easily adhere to the successful product, it was the process that was most meaningful to me. I cherish the time spent at every meeting when the committee members earnestly prayed for each other and for God’s provision; I learned so much when different perspectives and opinions were frankly shared and received; I was inspired by the generous giving of time, talent, and treasure.

Even though it was a distinct experience to plan a conference, it is not different from other ASA experiences. With every experience, I would walk away more enriched and encouraged because the ASA allows me to be fully who I am: a Christ follower who is fascinated by God and science. The more I learn about science, the more I see God’s handiwork. The more I see God’s handiwork, the more I want to share it with others.

Through the ASA, I met wonderful colleagues such as Carol Hill and Veronica Frans. Due to similar interests, Carol, Veronica, and I are collaborating on a project. Since we met virtually during the pandemic, it was absolutely delightful to finally meet them in-person at the 2022 ASA Annual Meeting. We connected very well right away, as if we have known each other for years.

Seemingly, for 81 years, the ASA has a way of connecting those who are like-minded. Countless friendships like Carol, Veronica, and mine were, have been, and will be formed because of the ASA. Such edification blesses and glorifies our God. And for that, I am so grateful for the ASA and how it continues to position itself to fulfill the unique purpose of bringing harmony between science and faith.
“As for the future, we will continue to encourage and publish material that celebrates compatibility and harmony between science and faith, and we look forward to continuing to provide an entertaining and informative magazine for all.”

God and Nature

Sy Garte, Editor-in-Chief

God and Nature continues to publish essays, photoessays, artwork, and poetry on a quarterly basis. Over the past four years, we have maintained a steady output, with a fairly fixed format. Aniko Albert (my wife) took on the role of managing editor, which helped improve the literary quality of the magazine. A number of students have joined the ranks of the contributors, and each issue has at least one student or post-doctoral scientist on the list of authors. The Summer 2020 issue, at the height of the pandemic, was dedicated to COVID-19, with four essays and eight shorter reflections on the medical, scientific, social, and religious impact of the disease. Feedback from readers about this issue was both positive and encouraging.

In the winter of 2021, we ran the first-ever retrospective issue, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the beginning of God and Nature, originally a blog. Historical perspectives were provided by Tom Burnett (the original blog writer); Randy Isaac, who as Executive Director shepherded the magazine in its formative years; and Emily Ruppel Herrington, the founding editor-in-chief. We also reprinted original essays from 2011 through 2015, including one by the late, great Walt Hearn, who has also been a strong supporter of God and Nature and of Emily in the first few years. Aniko and I contributed a photoessay (photos by Aniko), and I wrote a few words describing the photos, including “Sometimes, when all we see is the cold, dead despair of winter, if we look more closely at what is before us, we can find signs of life, beauty, and hope.” Reading those words now, I remember those dark days of fear, illness, and death, anxiously waiting to get the newly available vaccine, and think of the importance of hope in the face of despair as exemplified by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As for the future, we will continue to encourage and publish material that celebrates compatibility and harmony between science and faith, and we look forward to continuing to provide an entertaining and informative magazine for all.
Reflections on Professional Development and the ASA

Janel Curry, President

Professional development is one of the key areas in which the American Scientific Affiliation serves its members. The pandemic created the opportunity to expand these opportunities and move into new formats.

More traditional, in-person formats of professional development took place at the annual meeting in San Diego in July of 2022. The professional development opportunities included gatherings of younger scholars and graduate students from the InterVarsity’s Emerging Scholars Network, to discuss the challenges of graduate school and early-stage careers. The student/early career lunch at the 2022 Annual Meeting featured an interview on faith and career with Heidi Fuqua Haviland. Heidi is a planetary scientist who has worked with Northrop Grumman and now works at NASA. She is also the ASA 2021 Early Career Scientist Award recipient. She shared insights into connecting career and faith. Additional training for all members of the ASA came in the form of a half-day workshop on skills needed to facilitate productive conversations across differences.

Over the past three years, other opportunities for professional development came in the form of Brown Bag Lunch discussions. One addressed the personal and faith development of members through the presentation of a talk by Mark Strand on “The Health Benefits of Forgiveness.” Training around difficult conversations came with the presentation by Erin Smith on “Data Don’t Speak, People Do.” An increased focus on issues of diversity were also addressed in a Brown Bag Lunch, leading members to explore this issue more deeply in a session by Frank Robinson on “Asymptomatic Racism: The Silent Contagion of Hatred in Us All.”

CWiS also had a series of events for men and women to better understand the issues of gender and science. On November 13, 2021, CWiS and the ASA West Michigan Chapter held a joint event for viewing of NOVA film, Picture a Scientist, followed by a panel discussion. The panel was facilitated by Janel Curry and included Dorothy Chappell, Jennifer VanAntwerp, Stan Haan, and Ryan Bebej. As a follow-up to this session, on October 2 and 4, 2022, Jennifer gave a presentation on her book, Sex, Gender, and Engineering, and offered practical solutions to the issue of sexual harassment. CWiS also held gatherings over the past several years that allowed for sharing and prayer around the challenges of women in the working world, career development in the sciences, and the challenges of women in the church. CWiS also cosponsored online professional development conversations with InterVarsity’s Emerging Scholars Network and Women Scholars and Professionals. Turnout has been strong and we are interested in developing further joint events with these key partners.

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