



A PROFILE OF TRANSFORMATION



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Hometown: New York City (now in Lansing, MI)

Profession: PhD Student (Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, Michigan State University)

ASA Affiliation: Christian Women in Science

Hobbies: Languages, travel, photography, board games

Favorite Pro Sports Team: New York Yankees

When did you first discover the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA)?

I first heard about the ASA during my undergraduate years at Messiah College. Discussions on science and Christian faith were normal there, and many of my professors were ASA members. Upon graduation, I was encouraged to join, so I signed up.

How has your personal and spiritual life been changed because of your involvement with the ASA?

Although I have been an ASA member since 2008, I was not very active for a long time. I advanced in my work and education, but along the journey I kept feeling like something was missing. I truly missed the dialogues we had at Messiah College—those deep conversations on environmental stewardship, defining our vocations, pondering meaning in the patterns we see, etc. Visits with my mentor, Joseph Sheldon, always helped fill that gap, but I needed something more. It was when I started my PhD program that Joe gave me a nudge to be more involved in the ASA, and I finally attended my first Annual Meeting in 2019. I found what I was missing all along! I made new lifelong friends and was encouraged as I listened to speakers with so much knowledge, faith, and experience. Graduate school is a time of self-discovery and growth, and I realized that being a part of the ASA is also essential in this process.

What is the tangible evidence of the growth you have experienced?

Since becoming more involved in the ASA, my perspective on my research has changed; I was reminded of my calling as both a Christian and an ecologist. I am now an active member of Christian Women in Science (CWIS), and I attend their new monthly CWIS Live sessions over Zoom. I am also working hard to strengthen my foundations as a believer, aspiring to be like other ASA members who engage with Christian communities for creation care. Here at Michigan State University, I started a student organization called Every Nation @ MSU, which stemmed from two campus God's Not Dead events, and we are building a community focused on discipleship, leadership, and apologetics. I also am involved in another ASA member's organization, The Cross Impact, exploring how religious communities can accelerate sustainable development progress. In the fall, I will start my Au Sable Graduate Fellowship, where I will join monthly sessions on environmental stewardship. These pathways for growth and involvement have all been sparked by my interactions with ASA members.

How long have you been a member/donor and what has the ASA meant to you?

I have been an ASA member since 2008, but it feels like my membership really began last year. The ASA means so much to me now because graduate school can be such a struggle! One of my saving graces has been the ASA's effort to help us younger members, such as by CWiS Live sessions and student / early career tracks at Annual Meetings in partnership with InterVarsity's Emerging Scholars Network. ASA members are also so welcoming and accessible—no matter who they are or how busy they seem. I am never shy to ask questions about others' journeys in academia and faith. The ASA is a safe environment as I develop professionally and spiritually. I hope to be an ASA member for the rest of my life.

What do our friends and financial partners need to know about how the ASA is making a difference?

I am so grateful to all supporters of the ASA! If student membership and Annual Meeting attendance were not affordable, it probably would have taken me even longer to become involved. I really appreciate the ASA's special care for us students and early career members. I hope to one day give back and make an impact as an ASA member in the future.