FROM COSMOS TO PSYCHE

“All things hold together in Christ”
Colossians 1:17

July 25 - 28, 2014

McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Plenary speakers are the following:

**Megan Best**, MD
Bioethicist, Palliative Care Physician
Australia
“Brave New World”

**Rev Alasdair Coles**, PhD
Dept. of Clinical Neurosciences
University of Cambridge, UK
“Brain, Soul and Psyche: Embodied and in Christ”

**Barth Netterfield**, PhD
Director of Balloon Astrophysics Research Group, Depts. of Astronomy and of Physics, University of Toronto, Canada
“Astrophysics: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God”

**Don Page**, PhD
Dept. of Physics, University of Alberta, Canada
“The Optimal Argument for the Existence of God”

**Jeffrey Schloss**, PhD
Senior Scholar, BioLogos Foundation and Distinguished Professor of Biology, Westmont College, USA
“Evolution, Moral Cognition, and the Question of Human Exceptionalism”

Our topical areas for parallel oral sessions are as follows:

- **Physical Sciences**: Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy –Chair: Colin Humphreys
- **Life Sciences**: Biology, Medicine, Bioethics –Chair: Patricia Fitzgerald-Bocarsly
- **Mind Sciences**: Psychology, Neuroscience, Psychiatry –Chair: Heather Looy
- **Environmental Sciences**: Ecology, Geology, Meteorology/Climate –Chair: Don Morton
- **Christian Women in Science and Engineering** –Chair: Gayle Ermer
- **Emergence**: Information Theory, Complexity, Theology –Chair: Arnold Sikkema
- **Science and Technology in Service of the Poor** –Chair: Michael Clifford
- **Science and Theology** –Chair: David Chettle
- **Science in the Academy Regained** –Chair: Russ Kosits
Descriptions of Pre-Meeting Workshops

FRIDAY, July 25, 2014
8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Workshop #1: Origins Today: Genesis through Ancient Eyes    John Walton, Leader
The rift between faith and science in Christian circles today often results in the marginalization of Christians engaged in the sciences, impediments to evangelism, and the attrition of young believers who are told that Christianity is incompatible with the acceptance of evolution or an old earth. This presentation on Genesis 1–3 offers a fresh perspective on this complex issue by seeking to understand the message of scripture within its ancient context. A close reading of the Genesis creation account and an evaluation of its ancient Near Eastern setting raise the question of whether the Bible provides modern scientific information related to our understanding of the natural world (e.g., cosmology, biology, or human origins), or whether it offers a theological, rather than material, framework for thinking about the cosmos—for example, God made everything and is sovereign over it. This question in turn leads us to inquire whether today’s scientific conclusions regarding old earth, common descent, and parentage of the human race necessarily conflict with the Bible or theology. This workshop aims to facilitate a deeper reading of scripture among Christians seeking to take the Bible seriously.

Attendees will receive a free copy of John Walton’s DVD on the same topic.

John H. Walton, professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College, specializes in the ancient Near Eastern backgrounds of the Old Testament, and specifically in Genesis. In recent years he has focused attention on the issue of origins in books such as Lost World of Genesis One (IVP) and Genesis 1 as Ancient Cosmology (Eisenbrauns). He has also contributed to two recent discussion books, Reading Genesis 1–2: An Evangelical Conversation (Hendrickson) and Four Views of Historical Adam (Zondervan).

Workshop #2: Progress and Challenges in Understanding Life’s Origins    Stephen Freeland, Leader
The origin of life on Earth remains one of science’s biggest mysteries. At some point (mainstream science coalesces around an estimate of 3.8+ billion years ago), physics and chemistry became biology on our planet. On the one hand, there is little agreement about exactly how, when, and where this took place. On the other, there have been remarkable advances on related fronts—from evolutionary biologists using DNA to look back ever further in time to geophysicists detecting life’s presence in Earth’s oldest rocks; from astronomers discovering ever more habitable environments within our own solar system and countless solar systems separate from our own to chemists understanding how crucial building-blocks may have arisen. This workshop will present an overview of these topics, with a series of four lectures interspersed by spaces for discussions of the science and theological implications.

1. An overview of the challenge: where geoscience, chemistry and biology meet;
2. A Biological and geological perspective of life’s origins;
3. A chemical and geoscientific view of life’s origins;
4. Current progress and challenges

All participants will be given copies of the lectures, a selection of articles from PCSF that relate to these themes, and a guide to other resources with which to learn.

Stephen Freeland is an evolutionary biologist who studies how and why life on our planet evolved a system of genetic encoding. He is director of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He received a Bachelor’s degree in zoology from Oxford University, a Master’s degree in computing and mathematics from the University of York, UK, and a PhD from Cambridge University’s Department of Genetics before crossing the Atlantic to pursue a scientific career in the USA. He has particular interests in the interface of science and religion and in using the full spectrum of creative arts to visualize and communicate social science, natural science, and engineering. Stephen’s personal research uses theory and computers to explore how and why genetic coding came into existence with the particular features we see today.
Niagara Falls Field Trip
The Niagara Falls trip will include an “up close” cruise to the base of the falls. There will be free time to explore views of the Falls, always the most complete from the Canadian side and check out nearby shops and attractions. Also included will be a walking tour of some key War of 1812 events, including the Battle of Lundy’s Lane, fought exactly 200 years to the day, on July 25, 1814, then finishing with some time to sightsee and shop in historic Niagara on the Lake. Bus departs at 8:30 am and will return to McMaster by 4:00 pm. Box lunch included; gratuity not included. It will be led by Maxima Tours.

Geology of the Niagara Escarpment and Gorge
This trip will explore the Paleozoic rock sequences and scenery of the feature known as the backbone of Southern Ontario. It will feature visits to escarpment rock sequences of the Niagara Escarpment, including the Devil’s Punchbowl and the buried “St. David’s Gorge.” It will also include views, hikes, and discussions at various spots along the Niagara Gorge, including Niagara Glen, the famous whirlpool, and a view of the Falls themselves. There will be some hiking and modest climbing. Bus will depart at 8:30 am and return by 5:00 pm. Box lunch included. It will be led by Ken VanDellen and Steve Moshier.
**Royal Botanical Gardens**

The “RBG” is the largest botanical garden in Canada. Its mandate is to strengthen the relationship between the world, society, and the environment. This tour will feature the “Best in Bloom” Garden for that particular day, plus some time in a second garden location with senior scientist David Galbraith, who will explain various science and research projects ongoing at the RBG. The bus will depart from McMaster at 8:30 am and return by noon. The tour will be led by RBG guides and members of the RBG science department.

**McMaster Campus Tour**

This walking tour will feature two research activities unique to McMaster: the Nuclear Research Reactor and the Origins Institute. The reactor began operating in 1959, as the first university research reactor in the British Commonwealth. It has become a world leader in the production of critical radioactive isotopes and a renowned base for research in nuclear medicine.

The Origins Institute (OI), founded in 2004, features trans-disciplinary approaches to the most fundamental topics in science. Topics range from the origins of space-time through to the origins of humanity. A member of the Canadian Astrobiology Training Program, the OI runs the Collaborative Graduate Program in Astrobiology. The “tour” will include a presentation of the Institute’s work in their specifically designed meeting and research room.

The tour will commence at 1:30 pm and be completed by about 3:00 pm. It will be led by various McMaster faculty members.
Field Trips

FROM COSMOS TO PSYCHE
Field Trip

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ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS
www.rbg.ca
Field Trip
Field Trip

Geology and Scenery of the Niagara Escarpment
Proposed Self-guided Tours

FROM COSMOS TO PSYCHE
Sites and Sights of Toronto: Canada’s largest city, and commercial/cultural capital

Proposed Self-guided Tour
Proposed Self-guided Tour

Perimeter Institute in Waterloo: occasional home of Stephen Hawking
Lockport, New York: Home of “This is my Father’s World”

Proposed Self-guided Tour
Local Arrangements Chair:
Bob Geddes

Program Chair:
Robert Mann

CSCA Executive Director:
Don McNally

CSCA President:
Arnold Sikkema