CELEBRATING 75YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

2017 IMPACT REPORT OF THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION

MISSION AND VISION OF THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION

Mission: The mission of the ASA is to encourage the Christian church and the scientific community to discuss and share discoveries and perspectives about science and Christian faith, while providing a community of fellowship for Christians involved in science and related fields.

This mission is expressed in the following ways:

- Encourage the Christian community to reflect seriously and deeply about the natural world as revealed by science, and consider these perspectives in light of Christian theology and their practical application to real world concerns and stewardship responsibilities.
- Be a bridge, modeling understanding and dialogue among the public, the scientific community, and the church.
- Support Christians in working out their personal vocations in the STEM fields (natural and social science, medicine, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

Vision: When our mission is fulfilled:

- The work of the ASA is recognized within the church, marketplace, educational institutions, and media, providing biblically sound, scientifically thoughtful, and faith-building insight regarding difficult faith-science issues.
- The ASA's membership and leadership are diverse in age, ethnicity, and gender.
- ASA provides value to members by supporting their vocational ministry, faith-science integration, and outreach to their churches and scientific colleagues.
- Through the ASA, students and early career scientists find practical resources, networking and mentoring opportunities, and a supportive community.
- The ASA website, publications, and members are valuable resources for pastors, Christian youth leaders, and campus ministry staff.
- ASA leaders and members are sought out as respected voices and peacemakers, in areas of perceived conflict.
- The professional scientific community will increasingly see the ASA as a partner rather than an opponent in advancing public science literacy.
- ASA is fiscally stable and financially sustainable.



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Leslie Wickman, Executive Director Vicki Best, Director of Operations & Development Lyn Berg, Managing Editor Sharon Carlson, Membership & Outreach Manager

PUBLICATIONS TEAM

James C. Peterson, *PSCF* Editor-in-Chief Esther Martin, *PSCF* Manuscript Editor Emily Ruppel, *God & Nature* Editor Patrick Franklin, Book Review Editor Arie Leegwater, Book Review Editor Heather Looy, Book Review Editor Derek Schuurman, Book Review Editor Sara Tolsma, Book Review Editor

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Jack Hass, Social Media Coordinator Hannah Eagleson, ESN Liaison Terry Gray, Website Resource Coordinator David Fisher, Events Calendar Coordinator Randy Isaac, Director Emeritus, IT Consultant

ASA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Stephen Moshier, President Lynn Billman, Secretary/Treasurer John R. Wood, Vice President Dorothy Boorse, Member Terry Gray, Member Faith Tucker, Early Career Representative

CSCA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND TEAM

Don McNally, Executive Director Janet Warren, President Patrick Franklin, Vice President Arnold Sikkema, Past President Bob Geddes, Secretary/Treasurer Daniel Rüdisill, Early Career Representative Mark McEwen, Project Development Officer

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BY LYNN BILLMAN

On behalf of the ASA Executive Council, I am proud to offer to you the Impact Report of the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA). This report highlights our accomplishments of the fiscal year 2017 (4/1/16-3/31/17), which were made possible only by the providence of God and through our members, our donors and supporters, and our hard-working staff.

You will find highlights of our year in this report, including hiring a new Executive Director, Leslie Wickman, to replace Randy Isaac after his retirement, and expanding the leadership role of Vicki Best, our Director of Operations and Development. We hope that you were personally part of the exciting stories of this past year, such as the record-breaking annual conference at the Azusa Pacific University; the 75th anniversary celebrations held around the country; our local chapters campaign and the start-up of several new chapters; our premier journal, Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith; our NEXUS mentoring forum now on Facebook.

I am also pleased to report that the executive council and the leadership team are in the final stages of an extensive strategic planning process for the ASA. In addition, we achieved a balanced budget due to savvy cost restructuring measures and successful development efforts. By God's grace, we were able to secure two grants: one directly from the John Templeton Foundation and one from the Science and Theology for Emerging Adult Ministries project at Fuller Theological Seminary. I'm very encouraged by our diligent work at achieving fiscal stability and financial sustainability for the ASA.

The ASA is fueled by three vital resources: God's grace, the faithful support of our members, and the sustaining contributions of our donors. We are immensely grateful to each and every one of you who are part of the ASA family, and what you have given to our organization. To God be the glory!

Lynn Billman on behalf of the Executive Council





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear members and supporters—

Just over a year ago Randy Isaac (now Director Emeritus) passed the reins of the ASA to me as Executive Director, and what a year it's been!

The 2016 Annual Meeting on "Brain, Mind, and Faith" at Azusa Pacific University last July was a huge success, with a record number of regular as well as student attendees, and we're on a good path to continue that trend at future meetings.

With your support, Vicki and I have crisscrossed the continent, meeting with both new and existing local chapters, as well as churches, schools, and universities. In addition, I've spoken at a handful of conferences, and done numerous television and radio interviews. You can find all the statistics in this Impact Report.

Just as importantly, as part of our Local Chapters Campaign, we've started new chapters across the country from Arizona to Massachusetts, and we've gotten serious inquiries about starting half a dozen or more additional new chapters in California, northern Colorado, Missouri, Arkansas, Ohio, and northern New England. If you're in one of these locations, be sure to stay tuned for more details to come.

I hope to see you during our upcoming travels somewhere, sometime soon!

With gratitude for the important role you play in the mission of the ASA,

Leslie



REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friends of the American Scientific Affiliation,

It is with great thanksgiving to God that we celebrate the close of a very busy, productive, and fruitful year in the life of the ASA. 2016 was a significant year because it marked a year of leadership transitions as well as the 75th anniversary of our organization. Reflecting upon God's faithfulness over three quarters of a century, it is poignant to see that the mission and vision of the ASA established in 1941 by our founding fathers remains the same today in 2017.

Over the past year, this vision has been solidified and exemplified by all of our faithful team members. Our Executive Council, Administrative Team, Communications Team, and Publications Team are a rich collection of gifted and godly leaders who share our goals and mission. We find great joy in fulfilling our mission together, and it's a great delight to watch God at work through our shared labors of love and service.

We are pleased to provide this 75th Anniversary Edition Impact Report, the first one produced in many years. It is filled with life-changing information about the members, churches, and organizations that we have served, each having distinct stories of how the ASA has been an encouragement to them. On a regular basis, we are serving people who are seeking the rich scholarship, meaningful fellowship, and unique networking that the ASA so distinctly offers. We are happy to report this is happening on a daily basis with our quarterly *PSCF* journal, annual meetings, *God and Nature* publication, newsletters, local chapter and affiliate events, extensive online resources, NEXUS forum, and much more.

As you read the pages of this report, I invite you to rejoice with us at the myriad of ways God is strengthening and multiplying our shared efforts to the body of Christ. Please remember that the important work of the ASA exists today because of the faithfulness of God over 75 years and the ripple effects of prayerful servants, generous gifts, excellent service, and terrific programs. We are honored to share this outstanding report with you, our faithful friends and partners.

With a grateful heart in Christ,

Vicki L. Best





BECOMING PART OF A NETWORK OF CHRISTIANS IN THE SCIENCES BY MICHAEL EVEREST

I am 45 years old. "45? That's not half 91!" my grandfather would have joked. I call that the "2N+1" joke, or—because I teach quantum mechanics to chemistry majors—the "rotational degeneracy" joke.

Although I am only 45, I consider myself an ASA "old-timer." Why? Because I was personally invited to join the ASA by F. Alton Everest, one of the five founders of our organization, and my grandfather. In fact, he did not invite me—he gave me an ASA membership as a gift about the time I started high school. Numerous ASA "old-timers" have told me that they, too, were personally invited by my grandfather to join the ASA. I am proud to be counted among them.

A highlight of being involved in the ASA over the years is the personal interaction I have enjoyed through activities the ASA fosters. While in graduate school, I was fortunate to meet several ASA members in the Bay Area, including Walt and Ginny Hearn, Richard Bube, Ken Olson and Ken Lincoln. Later, in the Pacific Northwest, I enjoyed meeting a new group of ASA members, including one of our 2017 plenary speakers, Anabelle Pratt. I also met Paul and Anita Seely, with whom I would later reconnect after we all ended up in the local ASA section in Southern California. Through my role as local arrangements chairperson at the 2008 ASA Annual Meeting at George Fox, I was delighted to get to know and work with the program co-chairs, John Van Zytveld and Arnold Sikkema.

Moving to California mid-career provided me with the opportunity to connect with a brand new local "network of Christians in science." Southern California has a vibrant local section which made it easy to connect and get involved right away. It was here that I met local ASA stalwarts Tom Ferko, Jim Buchholz, Sarah Richart, Kathleen Tallman, Jason and Kathy Hine, Bill and Ginny Roundy, and our current Executive Director, Leslie Wickman. Our local section's annual meeting (complete with breakout sessions and plenary addresses) has allowed me to meet scores of additional believing scientists in this area.

As many of you know, the ASA Annual Meeting was held in our local area last year at Azusa Pacific University. Serving as the program chairperson for the 75th anniversary meeting was a great honor. A highlight of that meeting for me was to get reacquainted with Charles Kankelborg, a friend from my days in the InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship chapter at Stanford.

There are so many other fine people I have met and interacted with through ASA local sections and national meetings. Through these activities and individuals, the ASA has been a consistent encouragement to me as a scientist who follows the Lord Jesus Christ, who "is before all things, and by him all things consist." What a privilege to participate in such a stimulating network of Christians in science!

75TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING

AT AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY









AT A GLANCE – ASA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN A NEW HOME FOR THE ASA

At the American Scientific Affiliation, we've always relied on God. From the earliest days in the early 1940s through three quarters of a century, what we've accomplished has gone far beyond our human abilities. During this capital campaign to fund the office condominium purchases, God continued to provide in unexpected and amazing ways. Many people saw the strategic vision and contributed over and above their annual fund contributions. Because of your generosity, we have funded 91% of our goal and have positively positioned the ASA in the following ways:

- This bold and strategic move puts the ASA on a strong financial foundation for the future.
- It significantly reduces our occupancy expenses and frees up operational dollars to utilize for faith and science projects.
- It provides the ASA with the ability to build equity in a tangible asset.

Our four-year campaign ends on March 31, 2018, and we are optimistic of fundraising the remaining \$13,667 by that date. Thank you in advance for your continued and faithful support in helping us reach our goal.





SERIOUS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP STEPHEN O. MOSHIER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION

In this brief space, I wish to assert that American Scientific Affiliation members are serious about scholarship and are guite actively involved in the advancement of science.

Full members of the ASA must have at a minimum an earned bachelor's degree in a scientific discipline, where science is interpreted broadly to include natural, health, and social sciences; technology; engineering; and math. Full membership is also extended to philosophers, historians, Bible scholars, theologians, or other professionals whose vocational activity contributes to the intersection of faith and science. Fellow status is conferred upon full members who are currently or have been engaged in distinctive scientific or related work.

We recently polled our Fellows with the question of what and where they have published peer-reviewed articles in the past year. Of the thirty-seven responses, those Fellows reported eighty-one publications in fifty-five different journals, representing many of the most respected journals in their fields of study.

A condensed list, selected to represent diversity of disciplines, includes the following:

- Biochemical Systematics and Ecology • Journal of Theoretical Biology
- Tetrahedron ٠
- Chemical Engineering Science Journal American Chemical Society
- Journal of Shellfish Research •
- Clinical Anatomy
- Journal of Chemical Physics •

- **Review of Scientific Instruments**
- International Journal of Theoretical Physics

Polymer

New Astronomy

If we had polled both full members and fellows for their contributions to the advancement of science over the past five to ten years, we would discover hundreds of journal articles, widely adopted college- and graduatelevel textbooks, scores of edited volumes of invited papers on special topics, patents for innovative products, and many contributions to dictionaries and encyclopedias. The list would also include books on a variety of science topics for the general public.

ASA members are also involved in scores of professional scientific societies and actively participate in annual meetings with presentations of current research. We work in colleges and universities, industry research and development labs, government labs and science agencies, nongovernment organizations, and just about any entity that employs scientists.

Several ASA members contributed to the new Dictionary of Christianity and Science (Zondervan, 2017). This "definitive reference for the intersection of Christian faith and contemporary science" includes an entry devoted to the American Scientific Affiliation and biographies of many past and current ASA members who made substantial contributions to the faith-science dialogue.

In the past year, our own peer-reviewed Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith (PSCF) featured sixteen scholarly articles on various topics, ranging from archeology to cognitive science and included provocative essays on theodicy (the theological problem of natural evil). PSCF editor-in-chief James Peterson describes elsewhere in this annual report that our journal is listed on a growing number of distinguished citation indices and that journal articles have been guoted in the mainstream media.

Yes, ASA members are committed to the organization's mission of integrating and interpreting the discoveries of the natural and social sciences with the insights derived from scripture and Christian theology. Some of us get to do that as part of our professional vocations. But more of us are in the trenches (or rather ... the field, laboratories, and clinics ...) doing science every workday with the desire to advance our understanding of the created world.



A COMMUNITY OF BELONGING BY SE KIM

As followers of Christ, we often seek God's direction in our life's calling. Pursuing a scientific career for me was no different. What I did not know when I began my journey in the sciences was how being a scientist as a Christian could sometimes be a lonely path. Faith rarely entered into a conversation with scientific peers, since everything else beyond lab is generally kept outside of the lab. And science rarely made an appearance at church, since a pastor's wife/scientist (particularly in a conservative, immigrant church) makes for a rare and unusual breed in a congregation. Over time, science and faith mostly compartmentalized into two segregated boxes of my life. After all, how do you know what to look for if you really don't know what you are missing?

I first heard about the American Scientific Affiliation four years ago through my boss, who is an ASA Fellow and past president, and someone I personally admire very much. My first ASA meeting was a wonderful discovery of friends who loved God and also science. It is indeed an indescribable feeling when one finds a place to belong! I distinctly remember my first Sunday worship service with ASA members. As I paused during a song to listen and reflect, I remember feeling grateful for having found such a unique fellowship of believers but also feeling bittersweet for not having found it sooner.

Growing up, I was blessed with parents who encouraged both joy and humility when seeking discovery. While I have had my small share of struggles in trying to consolidate science and faith issues, I have benefited from those who shared their own stories with me. I still have unanswered questions, but my heart now lies in making the science and faith journey easier for others.

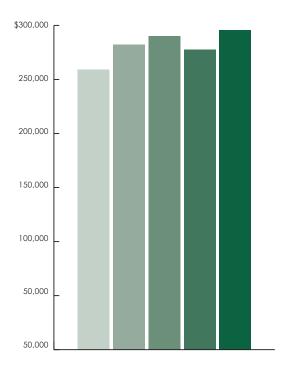
Plenty of social studies demonstrate the need for the church to do more. Particularly well known is a 2011 study by the Barna Group, which found that a perceived conflict relationship of science and religion is one of six predominant reasons for which nearly two-thirds of young Christians walk away from their faith. As a communion of scientists, I believe ASA can fill a unique and important role for the church.

Since my first ASA meeting, I have tried to attend as many annual meetings as possible. The 2016 annual meeting at Azusa Pacific University (APU) was particularly memorable because of the events surrounding ASA's 75th anniversary, in which many long-time members were invited and celebrated. I realized that ASA was built on the prayers and hard work of so many people. Looking forward, my hope for ASA is for it to continue growing and flourishing, for its presence is much needed in today's world.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

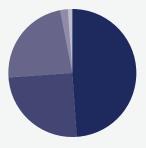
Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV

FACTS & FIGURES



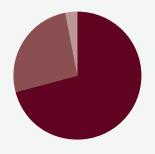
ENDOWMENT FUNDS





FY17 UNRESTRICTED REVENUES BY MAJOR SOURCE

 Contributions & Grants Program Revenue Dues & Subscriptions Investment Income Other Income 	\$218,200 \$112,969 \$100,228 \$7,358 \$3,675	49% 25% 23% 2% 1%
Total Unrestricted Revenue	\$442,430	100%



FY17 EXPENSES HOW FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED

Program ServiceGeneral & AdministrativeFundraising	\$314,124 \$115,031 \$ 13,272	71% 26% 3%
Total Expenses	\$442,427	100%



* Please note that upon printing of this report, figures are still unaudited. A complete copy of our reviewed financial statements will be available at www.asa3.org by August 31, 2017.



REPORT FROM PERSPECTIVES ON SCIENCE AND CHRISTIAN FAITH

BY JAMES C. PETERSON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

While PSCF was largely alone in its field when it started in 1949, there are now multiple competitors for author compositions and reader attention. We continue to pursue and develop four issues a year of content that is new, accurate, well informed, clear, on mission, and important for our readers.

One indicator of success has been the number of indices that have added our journal this year or are actively considering doing so. Inclusion in these indices not only alerts more readers to our content, it also provides essential credentials for authors in institutions where only articles in certain indices count toward tenure. Another mark that we are doing well in developing reputation and audience, is seeing *PSCF* cited in wider circles. A recent example is a citation in text of our journal in the February 3, 2017, issue of The Atlantic.

Over this last year *PSCF* has included a theme issue on ASA at its 75th anniversary, communications highlighting examples of how ASA members are living out their vocation as scientists from curriculum development to president of a major university, and article series such as on both biblical hermeneutics and on natural evil. An invitation for a theme issue on the science of addiction is currently calling for submissions. The invitational essays spur interest and raise submission quality by setting out key issues and context. We anticipate continuing to produce one or two theme issues per year alongside the more wideranging issues.

Our teams of peer reviewers, book reviewers, book review editors, editorial board members, and copy and managing editors, all seek to be constructive for both established and newer authors. Encouraging our fellow scientists and Christians to their best thinking and writing for the kingdom is one of our most important services at *PSCF*, for both our readers and beyond. Thank you to all who make that happen.





CSCA REPORT

BY DON MCNALLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The CSCA is a high impact organization whose influence far exceeds its size. Current membership, including all categories, sits at 270, with 11 local chapters active across Canada.

Our vision is bold: We seek to shape the science-faith dialogue in Canada on a national level, and position the CSCA as a thought leader in this field. Our areas of activity span a wide range of institutions from major universities to Bible colleges and discussion groups and local churches in various cities. We are also engaged in using social media to reach a wider audience, and leverage our close relationship with the ASA to expand our influence.

This past year has been one of exciting developments for the CSCA as we complete our second year of the Local Chapters Project, generously funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation. Through this project we have been able to extend the presence of the CSCA local chapters from coast to coast in Canada. Currently we have chapters active in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Waterloo, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Halifax.

The work of the CSCA has been greatly assisted by having a full-time Project Development Officer in the person of Mark McEwan to serve as the central communication point person and coordinator with the Executive Council for all of our initiatives across Canada.

As part of the Local Chapter Project, we have also been able to sponsor a series of scholarships for CSCA student members. In 2016 nine such scholarships were awarded, and six so far for 2017. These scholarships are an important means for the CSCA to help shape career decisions of students, particularly in the field of faith and science, and help nurture future leadership for the CSCA.

The CSCA website www.csca.ca continues to provide updates to events and access to a wide range of resources on faith and science. We will also be distributing multiple copies of the booklet, *When God and Science Meet*, to all of our local chapters in the interest of furthering conversation and dialogue.

As we transition toward the final year of the Local Chapters Project, planning is underway for a major conference on faith and science in Canada to be held at Trinity Western, May 11–14, 2018. Mark the date and plan to attend if you can. It promises to be a very innovative and informative culmination to work done through the Local Chapters Project.

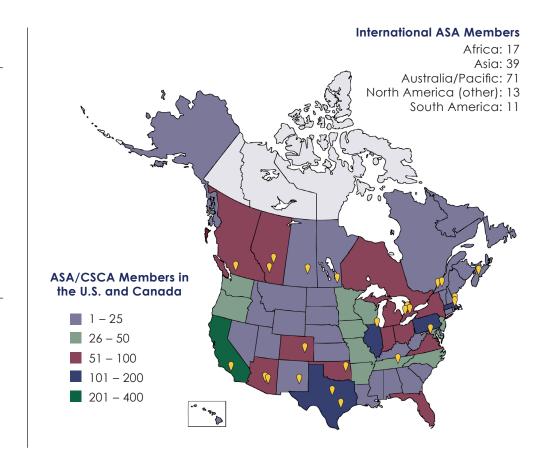
ACTIVE MEMBER AND LOCAL CHAPTERS MAP

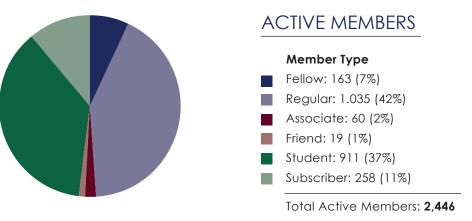
U.S. LOCAL/STUDENT CHAPTERS

Arizona State University, AZ Baylor University, TX Boston, MA Gordon College, MA Grand Canyon University, AZ Houston, TX Nashville, TN New Mexico Oral Roberts University, OK Rocky Mountain, CO Southern California Washington, DC Wheaton-Naperville, IL

CANADIAN LOCAL CHAPTERS

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



















LOCALCHAPTERSCAMPAIGN

Both the ASA and CSCA have launched local chapters campaigns around the USA and Canada. These campaigns are focusing on strengthening and encouraging existing chapters and starting new ones, with a special emphasis on universities and churches to engage students and young adults. This focus on students and emerging adults goes all the way back to the establishment of the ASA in 1941. From the very founding, the mission was about helping students wrestle with how science and faith fit together, as well as helping them productively work through challenges to see that science and faith are allies. We are encouraged that the passion of the current leadership team for students and emerging adults resonates so completely with the founders of the ASA.

One of the ASA's strategic priorities is to broaden ASA's reach at the local level, particularly in the engagement of emerging adults and those who influence the next generation of Christians in science. To that end, ASA's purpose and vision for the local chapters includes the following:

- 1. Increase Active Local Chapters—ASA encourages the establishment of new local chapters around the US and Canada. Our goal is to intentionally engage ASA members who desire to start a new chapter and to provide guidance and support.
- 2. Serve Current ASA Members—Members of local chapters find meaningful connections for their spiritual and professional journeys, and find opportunities to serve out of the depth of their experience. Our goal is to provide encouragement and support to already thriving chapters.
- 3. Engage Emerging Adults—Local chapters will engage in very intentional ways with the church and academic communities to ensure that students and young science professionals are participating in the important faith/ science dialogue and developing relationships that will facilitate their personal and professional growth. As these emerging adults progress in their professional careers, they will become future leaders in science and the church, and in the organization of the ASA itself.
- 4. Influence the Influencers—ASA's broad and diverse national membership base and local chapter structure provide an exceptional opportunity to bring together and enrich the science, academic, and faith communities. It is our hope to make church communities more aware of issues of faith and science integration and more willing to enter into these conversations, to equip educators with resources to prepare students to be future leaders in the faith/science dialogue, and to support ASA members in their professional lives to confidently pursue scholarship and research informed by a Christian worldview. Our goal is to influence the influencers in order to expand the reach of the ASA.

The local chapter campaign efforts across both countries have been a huge success thanks to God and your active partnership and support. We are pleased to share with you some encouraging statistics that reflect these successful endeavors.

ASA HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2016

- Leadership Transition: Retired Randy Isaac and hired Leslie Wickman as new Executive Director and promoted Vicki Best to Director of Operations and Development.
- Celebrated our 75th Anniversary with three special events around the country in Azusa, California; Wheaton, Illinois; and Berkeley, California.
- Launched Local Chapters Campaign and started five new chapters in the US and eight new chapters in Canada.
- Executed an annual meeting at Azusa Pacific University with a recordbreaking attendance, including 22 VIPs (40 plus-year members) and 57 students. In addition, we used the opportunity of our 75th-anniversary milestone to have a special VIP symposium; personal testimony of stalwart and 66-year member, Walt Hearn; pilot student track; and anniversary dinner.
- Strengthened the organization to achieve fiscal stability and financial sustainability through development efforts, including securing two external grants and cost restructuring measures.
- Strengthened our ties and sense of community with intentional cultivation and communication.
- Broadened our outreach to and partnering with faith-based organizations and churches, including but not limited to eleven local chapter trips, four church presentations, eight university and high school visits, seven TV/ radio interviews, seven conference attendances, and five para-church organization meetings.
- Began rebranding of print and online look and logo, including revising our website in the next fiscal year.
- Moved NEXUS mentoring forum to Facebook platform.
- Continued strategic planning process with the goal of releasing a threeyear plan in the coming months.
- Published a 75th ASA anniversary theme issue in our journal, Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith.

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY



VIPs at Azusa Pacific University

Front row (left to right): John Wood, Walt Hearn, Martin Price, Ken Olson, Ken Touryan, Phil Ogden Back row (left to right): Harold Stephens, Stanley Moore, Jack Swearengen, Randy Isaac, Leland Williams, Terry Morrison



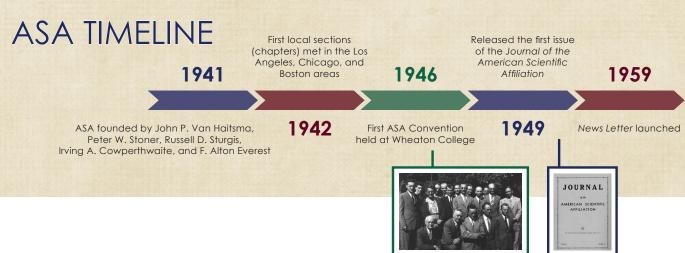












OUR 75-YEAR LEGACY

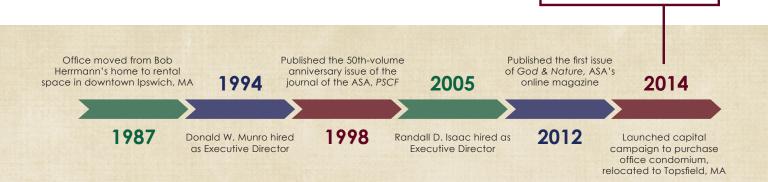
SPECIAL THANKS TO JACK HAAS, TERRY GRAY, AND TED DAVIS FOR THEIR RESEARCH

The ASA was established in 1941 and we have just celebrated our 75th anniversary in 2016. The ASA was formed so that "science teachers who are Christians" could help ministers and evangelists who are dealing with scientific subjects as well as to help college and high school students confronted with secular textbooks and instructors.

But the story of the ASA actually begins in Los Angeles around 1931 at the Montecito Park Union Church. Montecito Park's young pastor, Irwin Moon (Biola educated), was seeking to reach the youth of his community through a series of scientific demonstrations designed to illustrate biblical truths, and to set the stage for a call to Christian commitment. Moon's scientific presentations at Montecito Park Union Church attracted great interest and as his fame spread, he became flooded with requests to take his "Sermons from Science" show on the road.

The next step in the birth of the ASA took place in late 1937 when Moody Bible Institute president, Will Houghton, viewed a Sermons from Science presentation at the Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles. Houghton invited Moon out for a late night snack, and asked him to join Moody Bible Institute. The two shared a passion to reach high school and college students with their message of the compatibility of science and faith as allies.

The next important person in our history was Alton Everest who held degrees in electrical engineering from Oregon State and Stanford University, and was then on the faculty at Oregon State. He had heard about Moon through his wife, who had been a fellow student at





Biola in the late 1920s. Everest had seen Moon's Sermons from Science while he was at Oregon State and had constructed and delivered the equipment to Moon in late 1940 during a Sermons from Science series in Salem, Oregon.

Houghton, Moon, and Everest were concerned about the challenges to faith that young Christian students faced when they went off to college and the inability of the church of that day to help them. They concluded that an organization of scientist-Christians would be the best way to formulate a strategy to offset these faith shattering encounters.

In June 1941, Houghton sent an invitational letter spelling out the vision of the goals and membership requirements for the new organization. Ultimately, five people would attend the ASA's founding meeting that was held in September 1941. They were a mixed bag geographically, as well as in terms of academic discipline. In addition to Everest, there were Peter Stoner—astronomer and mathematician at Pasadena City College, Russell Sturgis—chemist at Ursinus College, Irving Cowperthwaite—chemist living near Boston, John Van Haitsma-biologist at Calvin College.

The ASA founders soon identified within their group a fundamental difference in approach from other organizations of their day. Instead of coming together on the dual basis of a shared faith plus fixed interpretation of science and scripture, the ASA membership shared a basic Christian faith plus a desire to seek the truth between the many conflicting scientific and scriptural interpretations.

Less than a year after World War II ended, the very first ASA conference was held at Wheaton College in 1946. And we have been holding annual meetings ever since—this summer's meeting will be our 72nd!

Thousands of ASA members over the last 75 years have benefitted from our mission to integrate, communicate, and facilitate properly researched science and theology in service to the Church and the scientific community. And we look with great anticipation to what God has in store for the ASA for the next 75 years.



AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION

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