



Local Chapters Project

2016-2018 in Review

Committed to growth in understanding between science and Christian faith

Janet Warren, *President* • Patrick Franklin, *Vice President*

Bob Geddes, *Secretary/Treasurer* • Tim Opperman, *Student & Early Career Representative*

Arnold Sikkema, *Executive Director & Project Leader* • Mark McEwan, *Project Development Officer*

Summary of Highlights

As we conclude our grant-funded Local Chapters Project, we are grateful for the hard work of our local contacts in the 11 chapters holding events from coast to coast. While we had planned to hold 63 events, the actual number was 187! We've been able to encourage thoughtful reflection on science and Christian faith in many different contexts and by considering a wide variety of topics. Our conference was very well received. Close to 30 students were sent to science-and-faith conferences in Canada and abroad. Students met over dinner with scientist mentors in most of our chapters. Our YouTube channel provides a large number of quality audio-visual recordings of lectures. The list goes on!

Read on for highlights and updates for our members and followers.

CSCA Exhibition Booths

On the heels of a very successful 2017 (see network.asa3.org/page/ASANewsletter for details), our Project Team began planning and promotion for our May 2018 CSCA conference with gusto. These efforts included CSCA exhibition booths, where we offered CSCA materials, pamphlets, and conversa-

tions on science and faith. Our first booth was at Missions Fest Vancouver in late January, and our second was at the Apologetics Canada Conference in March. True to our mandate of not taking official positions on controversial issues between Christians, we made a point of displaying books with contrary scientific views side-by-side. We were initially apprehensive about how we'd be received at Missions Fest—especially once we arrived and learned that we were placed next to the booth for Creation Ministries International! However, we got along very well with our CMI neighbours (they



Mark McEwan and Arnold Sikkema at Missions Fest 2018 in Vancouver.

csc.ca | fb.com/csc.ca | twitter.com/CanSciChr | csc.ca/youtube | csc.ca/instagram



This project/publication was made possible through the support of a grant from Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc.

even accepted our invitation for a booth at our conference in May!), and one of the Missions Fest organisers personally thanked us for being there: they found it very refreshing to have a group making space for conversations on science and faith.



Dennis Venema (Biology, Trinity Western) in Edmonton (Feb. 2017). Left to right: Heather Prior (Biology, King's U; local contact), John Wood, Don Page, Dennis, Mark McEwan, and Colborne Kemna.

Project Impact and Outcomes

In early 2016, CSCA began our three-year Local Chapters Project: *Given the unique challenges of the Canadian context, how can we foster and deepen people's understanding of the integrity of science and Christian faith through the activities of CSCA?* At the end of our project, we are pleased by the impact of our project in a number of areas.

From our original three chapters (Vancouver, Edmonton, & Hamilton), we've now grown to eleven, adding Calgary, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Waterloo, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, and Nova Scotia to our number. Our target was to hold 63 local chapter events across the country during our project, but we nearly tripled this with 187 in all!

Major Speakers, Lecture Tours, and Book Launches

After our national lecture tour by Arnold Sikkema in 2016, a number of others spoke at multiple chapters in 2017. These included Dennis Venema (sometimes with co-author Scot McKnight), Chris Barrigar, Stephen Snobelen, Denis Lamoureux, and Mark McEwan. Alister McGrath debated Michael Shermer in Toronto, Fall 2017, and in Fall 2018 he visited Regent College and Trinity Western University.

This Fall, Darrel Falk toured our four prairie chapters, Katharine Hayhoe spoke in Halifax, and David Myers spoke in Ottawa. President Janet Warren addressed Alternative Medicine and Christianity in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and Vice President Patrick Franklin



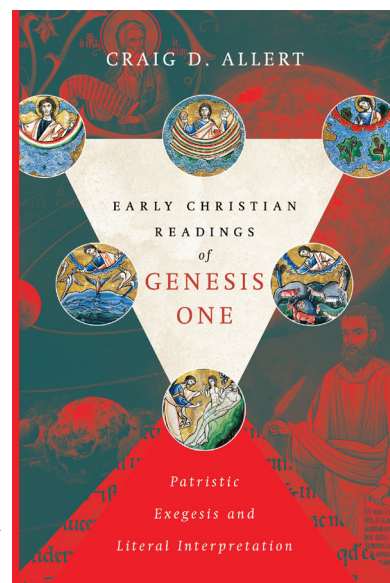
David Myers (Psychology, Hope College) at our Ottawa chapter in November.



Tim Opperman, Rebecca Dielschneider (Biology, Providence U; local contact), & Mark McEwan at our Winnipeg chapter in October.

interviewed Barth Netterfield in Toronto and spoke at our AGM in Ancaster. Tim Opperman (Student and Early Career Representative) and Mark McEwan did a series of joint-talks in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Chris Barrigar's lecture at a number of chapters was on the topic of his newly-launched book, *Freedom All the Way Up: God and the Meaning of Life in a Scientific Age* (Friesen, 2017). We also co-sponsored book launch events for Dennis R. Venema & Scot McKnight, *Adam and the Genome: Reading Scripture after Genetic Science* (Brazos, 2017), W. Ross Hastings, *Echoes of Coinherence: Trinitarian Theology and Science Together* (Cascade, 2017), and Craig D. Allert, *Early Christian Readings of Genesis One: Patristic Exegesis and Literal Interpretation*



Interpretation (IVP Academic, 2018). Each book launch was filmed for our YouTube channel (Hastings video forthcoming).

Unique Chapter Events

Our project also afforded us the opportunity to hold a number of experimental events, going beyond our standard approach of holding public lectures, dialogues, and panel discussions. Our Vancouver chapter held daytime workshops with John Walton (2016) and George Marsden (2017), and a catered lunchtime lecture with Alister McGrath (2018). Following our May 2018 conference, we partnered with a ministry called Theo's Feast (theosfeast.com), which specializes in using “edible metaphors” in order to communicate a Christian message. Together, we created “Taste and See: An Edible Science and Faith Odyssey” (bit.ly/TasteSeeMenu): a “script” (read aloud at the event) covering themes in science and faith, paired with dishes to help our audience digest the message. In October our Saskatchewan chapter



Tim Opperman and Matthew Morris (far right; local contact; Biology, Ambrose U.) with students at a mentoring meal in Calgary (Sep. 2018).

organised “Science, Faith, and Dessert” at a church in Saskatoon, featuring cheesecake and informal talks by Mark McEwan and Tim Opperman. Our final event of the project was held at Ambrose University, where our Calgary chapter held “The Star of Bethlehem: Comet or Not?” This Christmas-themed event featured Stephen Jeans and astronomers of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. It was followed by an outdoor gathering with telescopic equipment to observe Comet 46P.

Student Mentoring Meals

Another major component of our project was to hold “student mentoring meals,” where students would have the opportunity to interact with a Christian scholar (scientist or otherwise) who has successfully held together science and faith. We held 36 of these meals across the country during our project, with a wide variety of hosts, students, and topics. Meals ranged from informal meetings with a travelling speaker at a restaurant to catered events that focused on a specific topic of discussion. Matthew Morris (Biology, Ambrose University) of our Calgary chapter arranged a series of mentoring meals, focusing on chapters from the science-faith booklet, *When God and Science Meet* (downloadable at nae.net/godandscience).

Scholarships

Our project target was to offer a total of fifteen scholarships for students to attend conferences dealing with science and religion. In the end, we were able to offer eight scholarships in 2016, six in 2017, and fourteen in 2018—when we focused on awards for our own CSCA conference in Langley, BC. Each of our winners submitted reports on their experiences, which we continue to edit into blog posts for our CSCA website. Among our many winners was Stephen Sesink, who attended the



Truitt Wiensz (Physics, Briercrest; local contact) and Tim Opperman at CSCA Saskatchewan's “Science, Faith, & Dessert” evening in October 2018.



2017 BioLogos conference in Houston. Reflecting on the conference, he writes, “Partnership between theology and science should be encouraged within the church; as one trained in theology—and as one who wishes to serve as a pastor—I have found that this opportunity is rarely afforded. ... [I]f we in the church are not willing to come to the table about such matters, then our seat will be filled by another.” (Read Stephen’s full reflection: csc.ca/2017/10/18/2017-ref-sesink)

Website Updated

Thanks to our project funding, our website has been overhauled behind the scenes in many ways. One of the top priorities was making a functional “one-stop” page for each of our local chapters (e.g. csc.ca/vancouver), with local contact, event information, photos from past events, etc. all in one place. We are pleased that Mark McEwan will continue to be available part-time to help ensure that our website and social media outlets continue to run smoothly.

Pamphlets on Science and Faith

During our project, we have produced 10 original pamphlets, written by experts in their fields. Titles include “Purposeful Randomness in God’s Creation,” “Earth Science & Christian Faith,” “Understanding Creation in the Bible,” and “Can We Trust Carbon Dating?” These pamphlets can usually be picked up at local chapter events, and they are available in full colour, or to read as

blogs, at csc.ca/pamphlets. The last five are currently in production.

YouTube Channel

At csc.ca/youtube you can now find over 40 full-length lecture videos, including the plenary lectures (and a few contributed talks) from our May 2018 conference. These make for valuable viewing in local chapter meetings or for personal study. There are also many “highlight” videos, which focus on certain points made by speakers. Please subscribe to the channel and share these (and upcoming) videos with your friends via social media and other means.

May 2018 Conference Summary: “From Sea...to Sky?”

CSCA held its first national conference at Trinity Western University on May 11 – 14, 2018. There were over 160 attendees from coast to coast, including a dozen from the US. Fifty contributed talks within three parallel sessions were complemented by five plenary speakers from a variety of disciplines.

Santa Ono, president of the University of British Columbia, spoke on his openness as a Christian leader, including his approach to science and faith based on his favourite book *Language of God* by ASA member Francis Collins. A highlight of the conference was an off-site *Sky Gala*, where over 100 additional people from the



Arnold Sikkema, Katharine Hayhoe, and Mark McEwan at our Sky Gala.

general public joined the conference attendees to hear *Six Pieces of a Reverberant Cosmos* composed by Janet Danielson, performed by the Isotone Ensemble, and narrated by Dennis Danielson, author of *The Book of the Cosmos*. Following this, Katharine Hayhoe gave an address on faith and climate change. On Sunday night there was a screening of the film produced by Iwan Russell-Jones of Regent College called *Making Peace with Creation*, followed by a panel discussion including the star and author of the film, Loren Wilkinson.

The essence of the conference is perhaps best expressed by first-time attendee Holly Faith Nelson, Professor and Chair of English at Trinity Western University:

I attended and presented at the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation conference, “From Sea to Sea ... to Sky!” held at Trinity Western University between May 11 and 14, 2018. I was not only impressed by the remarkable quality of the research presented during the conference from participants across a number of fields, but also by the sophisticated and innovative interdisciplinary conversations that emerged during the question period after each presentation (and in more informal settings). What really struck me was the brilliant way in which the organizers wove together research from the natural, social, and applied sciences with scholarship from the humanities and with aesthetic practice (in which the scientific and the fine and performing arts daringly intersect). Attending plenary addresses, break-out sessions, and other conference events stimulated nearly every part of my mind, building new ‘neural networks’ as I worked to forge connections between original discoveries and

theories in chemistry, biology, physics, psychology, ecology, computer engineering, theology, philosophy, history, and literature from a faith-perspective. As a professor of English, I was concerned that my work in the history of science might not be welcomed by scholars working in the sciences or that I might feel out of place. To the contrary, I received a very warm welcome and was encouraged to explore how my own research could contribute to larger conversations on science and faith in Canada. This has been one of the most intellectually rewarding, and best organized, conferences in which I have participated during my academic career.

More Post-Conference “Testimonials”

- “I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude for an incredible four days. Your hard work paid off. I valued the chance to get to meet other Christians interested in science-faith dialogue. The talks were enriching, the food was excellent, and the whole event sparked some excellent discussion with the members of the Calgary chapter who attended.”
- “Great conference! I really enjoyed that time I was there. Great presentations on very relevant and interesting issues. I appreciated the feedback and questions I had with my own presentation.”
- “Thank you CSCA. As a pastor I was worried much of the content would be over my head; I have learned much in both science and faith disciplines this weekend and I have been deeply nourished. Well done! I would absolutely attend, support and encourage another CSCA conference.”



Loren Wilkinson and J. Richard Middleton at CSCA 2018.



We were able to award scholarships to fourteen students in order for them to attend CSCA 2018. David Haitel is second from the left.

Scholarship Winner's Reflection

David Haitel (*The King's University, Edmonton*)

This was my first CSCA Conference. It was also my first time visiting the lovely province of British Columbia and the Trinity Western campus. I truly benefited from the experience of enjoying scholarly presentations on the convergence between Science and Faith.

I grew up as an ardent Young-Earth Creationist and with an acute sense of conflict between the Scriptures and Science. In recent years I have prayerfully resolved this tension by accepting Evolutionary Creationism and the fact that the books of God's Words (scripture) and Works (nature) are not in conflict but, when taken together, reveal God in a clearer and more complete way. I appreciate the way the speakers engaged their work in light of their faith and revealed the harmony they experienced in their studies and research areas.

I enjoyed the presentations by Santa J. Ono, president of UBC, and Dennis Venema ("Human Origins and the Species Problem"). It was great to speak to Dr. Venema after his lecture and have him sign my copy of *Adam and the Genome*! I had looked forward to his talk and was not disappointed. He demonstrated how genetic researchers have shown how humanoids arose through

an evolutionary process from a population of not less than 10,000 individuals. He explained how populations became genetically separated over time and that evolutionary biology is a theory in the scientific sense: it is a broad explanatory framework that makes accurate predictions and has never (yet) been falsified. It is clear that humans evolved through a God-ordained and sustained process.

As an ordained minister preparing to become a High School teacher (Social Studies and Biology), I very much enjoyed Dr. Paul Chamberlain's talk, "Naturalism: Obstacle or Benefit to Christians Working in Science?" Dr. Chamberlain provided me with tools to engage my students and people I minister to on a regular basis. Most notably, science must be more engaged with and tempered by wisdom, and all nature must be connected with the good and not simply science as physical facts—also the need for a more holistic framework that breaks the hegemony of scientism (exclusion of faith) and instead embraces the truths of Scripture as well as those of science. This would create a complementary relationship between faith and science instead of the conflict and tension seen on campuses and in the world today.

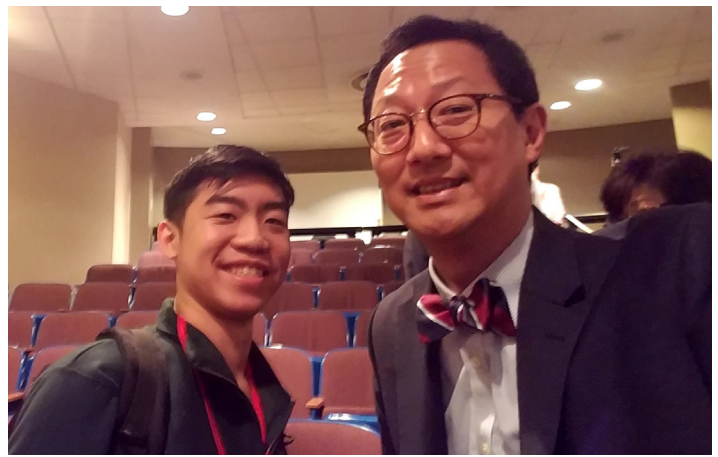
I appreciated the opportunities to hear these scholars present their research and also answer my questions in

the time afterwards. The time spent around the meal tables during breakfast, lunch and supper was a great opportunity to get to know other conference attendees and share our experiences exploring science and our faith journeys. During the conference sessions, I obtained valuable information regarding the interaction between science and faith on topics, such as Artificial Intelligence, Origins, Physics, Ecology, and how to bring Science into church settings. It was truly rewarding to share my experiences with others and hear their stories about how exploring Science and Faith has impacted their lives. I have met many wonderful people and made lifelong friends at this conference.

Thank you CSCA for making these scholarship funds available.

Other Excerpts from Student Reflections

- “One of my favourite things about the conference was how everyone’s opinion was respected and the openness everyone had to discussing different viewpoints. Instead of everyone trying to respect each other by not talking about the things we disagreed on (a very Canadian way of dealing with conflict by avoiding it), we talked about them and learned so much from one another. It was science and religion in their truest forms, a form of learning, of being prepared to give an answer to the reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15 NIV). It was full of scientific inquiry, learning by working alongside



Scholarship winner Jonas Yeung with Santa J. Ono (President, UBC), one of our plenary speakers at CSCA 2018.

one another. I truly believe that is the best way to learn.” – Rachel

- *The spiritual lives of students become more theologically whole. They can feel unified in their beliefs:*
- “As a Christian, and a scientist in the making, it often feels like I have to split myself; when I am around other biologists, I can’t talk Christianity, and when I am around other Christian people, I can’t talk science. This conference was great because, when surrounded by all these people, I was able to be a fully integrated version of myself and deal with faith and science issues and questions head on.” – Angelle
- “I made quite a few friends and had the pleasure of being in and observing really amazing conversations at my tables. Having professors that have vastly more experience than me want to be in my



More student scholarship recipients at CSCA 2018 at Trinity Western University in Langley, BC.



Our Waterloo chapter made a special trip to the McGrath-Shermer event (Toronto, September 2017). From the left: Joshua Kuehnel, Andrew Reeves, Robert Mann (Physics, UWaterloo; plenary speaker at CSCA 2018), and Rachel Pryce (who later won a scholarship to CSCA 2018).

company and hear my thoughts was such an honour, and I can hardly wait to see some of them at the next CSCA conference I get to attend.” – Sarah

- “...the greatest highlights of this conference would have to be the brief conversations with people who are passionate about their research and faith. It is inspiring to see people united in their love for science and God, despite the vast differences in their disciplines and background. After talking to my friends about the conference, there were some who expressed interest in attending a conference like this.” – Jonas

Membership

Many people joined as CSCA members during our project: taking into account both new and expired memberships, the cumulative, net membership change is an increase of 33% (35% paid membership increase; 30% student membership increase). We now have 268 members, including 131 student members.

Select Chapter Reports from Local Leadership

Montréal - Chris Barrigar

Over the years, Christians in the sciences in Montréal have organized ad hoc events on a very irregular basis. However, the initiative to launch a Montréal Chapter of the CSCA has proven immensely helpful for providing an organizational focus to these efforts, and thereby providing increased regularity and continuity in these efforts. We have been pleased with attendance at our

various events since the chapter was launched, ranging from a dozen to over 50, depending on the particular event. I would describe local interest in CSCA offerings as high; the difficult side, however, has been recruiting leadership. It seems the people interested in these matters are also very busy with responsibilities in other spheres of life as well! For this reason, it has been invaluable having the support of Mark McEwan. The support role provided by the position is immensely helpful, and Mark himself has done an excellent job.



Chris Barrigar (local contact) speaks for our Montréal chapter in June 2017.

Waterloo - Dayna Nelson

The Waterloo chapter has been fortunate in the running of a number of successful events over the period of this project. Most of our events were lectures hosted at the University of Waterloo. Our varied topics included “Science and Religion: From Cave Paintings to Quantum Physics,” “Complex Systems, Emergence, and God,” “Is the Mind a Machine? A Christian & Naturalistic Perspective,” and “Science, Faith, & Original Sin.” We were fortunate to have among our speakers professors from Oxford University, Queen’s University in Belfast, and the Darmstadt University of Technology in Germany.



Mark McEwan, Tim Opperman, Dayna Nelson (local contact for Waterloo), Patrick Franklin (CSCA Vice President), and Steve Hewko (local contact) at Wycliffe College for a CSCA Toronto event in November.

We leveraged our connection to our sister organization in the UK, Christians in Science (CiS), to host some of these international speakers. Our chapter committee conceived and contributed to what became a major, multi-organisational event, featuring Alister McGrath and Michael Shermer on the topic, “Is God a Figment of Our Imagination?” (See ASA/CSCA 2017 [Newsletter](#) vol. 59, no. 4 for a fuller report on that event.)

These three years have not been without their challenges, but we have been enormously blessed to make the strides we did. We were thrilled to have access to the many speakers we hosted as well as to engage in debate and discussion in illuminating ways. We are motivated to continue the momentum that the Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc. grant has given us.

Saskatchewan - Arnie Berg

For years I attempted personally to drive home the message in my church and community that our faith has to be better aligned with our understanding of scientific evidence, with little impact. The introduction of the Saskatchewan chapter of the CSCA has leveraged my efforts and allowed us to have a much bigger impact. Being able to bring in high quality scientists and theologians who walk closely with the Lord has given the message great credibility. We have received feedback

comments like “If only I had known this earlier...” and “This has given me a lot to think about.” As a promoter of these events, I feel much better being a small fish in a big pond, rather than the only fish in a fishbowl.

Project Development Officer’s Reflection

Mark McEwan

I joined CSCA as a student member in September 2012, shortly after attending a Vancouver chapter event at Trinity Western University (where I am a student at ACTS Seminaries). I was immediately hooked on science-faith events, continuing to attend lectures at CSCA Vancouver, featuring John Walton, Peter Enns, Alvin Plantinga, and others. Through these events I met Arnold Sikkema, to whom I am grateful for encouraging me to apply for this position.

This job has been a blessing in many respects. As a Canadian, I’ve had the privilege of visiting all ten provinces during the project, which has informed my understanding of Canadian culture and geography in many ways. As a student, I’ve had the deeply satisfying experience of learning how rigorous science and robust theology can be in harmony across a wide range of topics—regularly communicating with authors and speakers as I’ve edited lecture announcements, CSCA pamphlets, and You-

Tube videos. I've also cherished the opportunity to give lectures on my own research at most of our local chapters, with valuable feedback and interaction from people around the country. As a Christian, I've had the joy and encouragement of fellowshiping with like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ. I was especially impacted at ASA 2016: there they were, Deborah Haarsma (BioLogos) and Hugh Ross (Reasons to Believe)—not merely *tolerating* each other, but *worshipping* in the same room, as believers.

ASA/CSCA is not merely a space for respectful discussion amidst disagreement; it is a community of people who are bound together by something deeper than any intellectual (dis)agreement. It is a shared commitment to contextualize areas of present disagreement in an ultimate hope, even joy. It is my deep desire that no student, no Christian, would feel as though they must choose between science and faith—between intellectual honesty and Jesus Christ; it has been my privilege to work with CSCA toward that outcome.

I am very grateful to our many local chapter leaders for their indispensable works of service, to the Executive Council for hiring (and retaining) me, and to God for his faithfulness in making this project a success. I look forward to serving CSCA in a part-time capacity in the coming years.



Michael Robertson (Physics, Acadia University) helps with events in Wolfville, NS. Left to right: Nancy Robertson, Michael, Mark McEwan, and Krystal McEwan in Wolfville, following Mark's lecture there in June.

Brief Report on ASA 2018 Meeting in Boston

Janet Warren

Seventeen Canadian members attended this summer's ASA meeting at Gordon College, Wenham, on July 27–30, 2018. Our representation spanned from Victoria, BC, to Charlottetown, PEI; including students and first-time attendees, and almost all Council members. Many of our local chapter contacts were there: Heather Prior (Edmonton), Chris Barrigar (Montréal), Helen Lau (Nova Scotia), Patrick Franklin (previously Winnipeg), and myself (interim for Hamilton). We enjoyed a lunch together in the dining hall.

Special congratulations to members who received a certificate of fellowship in the ASA: Bob Geddes, Don McNally, and Heather Prior. Bob also led morning devotions (complete with a paper airplane demonstration) and, on a last-minute basis, led the pre-conference geology tour to Halibut Point State Park. I missed this one because I was whale watching in Cape Ann—yes, we saw humpbacks close up!

A highlight of the conference was the lecture by Francis Collins who spoke to an audience of about 500 on the joyful complementarity of science and faith; he shared his genetic research, his faith journey, and his musical talents. This plenary was preceded by a New England style clambake, complete with clam chowder, cornbread and, of course, edible red crustaceans.

The overall theme was bioethics and biotechnology, which included some stimulating presentations and



Mark's office in Trinity Western University's Neufeld Science Centre.



CSCA Member's lunch at ASA 2018 in Wenham, MA. In the foreground are Helen Lau (local contact, Nova Scotia) and Janet Warren (CSCA President).

discussions on artificial intelligence, gene editing, the definition of self, human flourishing, and much more. Parallel sessions were also held on evolution and faith/science education; there were sessions for students and for local chapter formation. The little free time available could be filled with morning bird-watching walks around the pond, volleyball, baseball, a coffee house, and an ice-cream social (I didn't miss this one!).

Overall, another successful meeting; we look forward to the 2019 conference to be held at Wheaton College near Chicago.

Don McNally Retires as Executive Director

Bob Geddes

This past April, the Executive Council of the CSCA received a message from Executive Director Don McNally. He expressed his desire to step down from that position, which he has held for the past 15 years. As the CSCA was holding its first national conference in May at Trinity Western University, it seemed fitting to use that occasion to make a formal announcement of Don's decision and have a time of well-deserved recognition. With the members of the Executive Council gathered



CSCA's Executive Council presents outgoing Executive Director Don McNally with a gift at our conference in May. Left to right: Janet Warren (President), Bob Geddes (Secretary/Treasurer), and Don.

on the stage on Friday evening, after Don's historical review of the organisation, words of deep appreciation were shared, and a book was presented to Don.

The book is entitled *Dictionary of Christianity and Science: The Definitive Reference for the Intersection of Christian Faith and Contemporary Science*. Edited by Paul Copan, Tremper Longman III, Christopher Reese, and Michael Strauss, it was published in 2017. Conference participants were invited to sign the book and offer personal congratulations to Don at the reception which followed. Don has reported that he is enjoying the book very much, and that the dictionary format allows it to be a gift "that keeps on giving."

We would extend our deep sense of gratitude for Don's sacrificial leadership over the past 15 years, and for his very long and productive association with the CSCA, going back to its infancy. We are pleased that Don will remain as an archivist (and no doubt advisor) for the association, and also remain active as a member of the planning team for the Hamilton Chapter. Blessings, Don on your time ahead, especially in the new role as a grandfather.

Arnold Sikkema Appointed as Executive Director

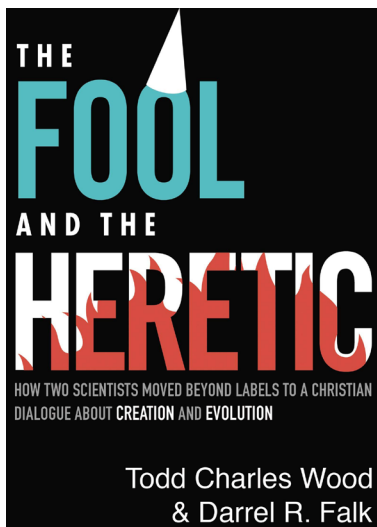
At the 9 November 2018 Annual General Meeting, the membership affirmed the Executive Council's appointment of a new Executive Director, namely Arnold Sikkema. A physicist at Trinity Western University near Vancouver, he has served on the Council for seven years (Vice President 2011-13, President 2013-16, Past President 2016-18). We have decided to operate without a Past President on the Council until Janet Warren completes her term as President in 2019. You can read his reflections on the value of CSCA at csc.ca/2018/12/12/value-of-csca.

Looking Ahead

Our grant funding has come to an end, but a number of new events are already planned for the coming year. The ASA office will be involved in supporting Canadian chapters alongside the rest of the growing list of ASA chapters in the US. Our [Vancouver chapter](#) has a number of events planned for January, including a visit from Robert Mann. In early March, we will again have a booth at the [Apologetics Canada Conference](#). The following week, Darrel Falk will be joining Todd Wood for a number of events focusing on their upcoming book,



CSCA President Janet Warren congratulates Arnold Sikkema in his new role as Executive Director at our November 2018 AGM in Ancaster, Ontario.



The Fool and the Heretic: How Two Scientists Moved beyond Labels to a Dialogue about Creation and Evolution (Zondervan, 2019). In Toronto, we are partnering with Wycliffe College on a major event happening on January 25th: “[What Does it Mean to be Human? Ghosts and Machines.](#)”

Donations

Now that our grant-funded project has come to an end, our local chapters no longer have grant funding. They will be relying mostly on donated funds for holding events, bringing speakers in, refreshments, etc. To donate to your local chapter (or to the CSCA in general), please visit csc.ca/donate. CSCA is a registered charitable organisation in Canada, so donations of \$20 or more are tax deductible.



CSCA is pleased to announce that we are co-sponsoring a conference on science and faith organised by the Canadian-American Theological Association in Rochester, NY, October 25-26, 2019. Details will appear at cata-catr.com/conferences in the months ahead, but you can also address questions to J. Richard Middleton (one of our 2018 conference plenaries) at middleton_richard@roberts.edu. Preliminary information is available at csc.ca/oct2019, and CSCA President Janet Warren and Vice President Patrick Franklin are on the conference planning team.



Student Member Krystal McEwan made special CSCA-themed Christmas cookies for our Vancouver chapter.

Merry Christmas from all of us at CSCA!



Janet Warren (President), Mark McEwan (Project Development Officer), Patrick Franklin (Vice President), Arnold Sikkema (Executive Director), Bob Geddes (Secretary/Treasurer), and Tim Opperman (Student and Early Career Member) at a meeting in November, on the morning after our 2018 AGM in Ancaster, ON. Photo by Don McNally.