

Acts & Facts



Institute for Creation Research
www.icr.org

Facts
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Vol. 34 No. 2 February 2005

WELL-KNOWN GEOPHYSICIST JOINS ICR FACULTY

To a great extent, the health of the overall creation movement depends on good creation research. While most people, even in good churches, still need to hear the basic creation message, without new understanding and answers to new evolutionary claims, the creation message would quickly grind to an irrelevant, repetitious halt.

Thus, ICR has taken a long-range approach, to reach those in positions of influence and to expand our knowledge through careful and scholarly research, which can in turn be made relevant to the non-technical.

Dr. John Baumgardner fits into both categories. As a young Air Force officer he attended a creation seminar taught by ICR's Dr. Henry Morris and Dr. Duane Gish, and testified that it dramatically changed his outlook on the early chapters of Genesis. He realized the clear evidence in the geological record pointing to the reality of a global catastrophic Flood was crucial to a serious defense of the Bible in the face of the assaults of secular science. He subsequently entered graduate school at UCLA to study geophysics, receiving his Ph.D. in 1983. He then was offered an appointment as a



technical staff member at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

His research has taken him into numerous fields, including the modeling of earth's subsurface movements. He gained particular recognition from his peers for developing the TERRA code, a computer program for studying the dynamics of planet interiors, includ-

ing the earth during and after the Flood. He has published widely in secular journals and his open melding of creation thinking into his scientific research even led to an article about his work in *U.S. News and World Report*, June 1997. As a member of the RATE group, he has made major contributions in showing the radioisotope data supports a recent global Flood and a young earth.

After retiring from Los Alamos National Laboratory this past summer, Dr. Baumgardner joined the ICR faculty on January 1, 2005, with an appointment in the Geophysics Department, finally able to devote full time to his creation research and teaching. Please join the ICR staff in welcoming him and his lovely wife Mary to the ICR family and support him in prayer for true breakthroughs in the months ahead. ☞



President's Column

John D. Morris

At every chance I remind the ICR staff that our mission here involves two prongs—research and communication. In many ways, the job is getting done.

Every month we try to highlight ICR research. Many write in and relate how new creation discoveries encourage them. Of course research costs a great deal, but the ICR supporters make it possible. Now, as the RATE project nears closure, several new projects are taking shape, from research into the nature of Flood weather patterns, to a better understanding of the Flood's geologic processes, to delving into the intricacies of the human genome. I think we'll all be encouraged by forthcoming evidences.

Of course, the information is of little use if no one knows it, so communicating creation truth, both new and old, at scholarly and at non-technical levels, is of primary importance too. So in a variety of venues we teach what we know, always bringing Biblical and scientific truth together, presenting a complete Biblical worldview and the scientific evidences which support it.

Perhaps the communication effort which has borne the most lasting fruit is that of books. Beginning with the publication of *The Genesis Flood* in 1961, books have fueled the creation movement with supporters and new researchers. Thus, one of the signs of the creation movement's health is that new books, on many subjects and at all levels, continue to appear. Let me tell you of several new books by scientists in the ICR family.

Astronomer Dr. Danny Faulkner has written a non-technical but meaty book of the origin of the universe entitled, *Universe by Design*. It exposes the glaring weaknesses of the Big Bang model and honestly evaluates creationist proposals, all the while adhering rigidly to the Biblical worldview.

Dr. Marvin Lubenow has updated and expanded his ground-breaking book, *Bones of Contention*. In it he evaluates every shred of bone ever found which could possibly be used by evolutionists. The obvious conclusion? Man is *not* descended from the apes.

Michael Oard has established the case for only one Ice Age following the Genesis Flood, and in a new treatment, *Frozen in Time*, he strengthens his arguments. In my opinion the post-Flood Ice Age and the frozen mammoths comprise one of the strongest creation arguments.

The list of creation books could be extended, but these demonstrate the health of creation thinking. Creation evidences serve to strengthen our faith in the Bible, answering the questions of the skeptic and removing lingering doubts in the Christian. 🙌



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PUBLISHED BY

INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH
P.O. Box 2667, EL CAJON, CA 92021
619/448-0900 WEBSITE: www.icr.org

To disseminate articles and information of current interest dealing with creation, evolution, and related topics. Sent free upon request.

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SUCCESSFUL ENGLAND TOUR

Dr. Andrew Snelling and Professor Phillip Johnson undertook a lengthy speaking tour throughout Great Britain from late October through mid-November. They spoke to over 8,000 people in 26 different venues. Peter Loose and the Elim churches of the United Kingdom who organized the tour were extremely pleased with the greater-than-expected turnout.

Both public and church meetings were held during the tour. The largest meetings were held at the Kensington Temple Church in London and at Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh.

Dr. Snelling was particularly thrilled to speak to the students at Emmanuel College in Newcastle-on-Tyne. This government-funded school had produced great controversy because it teaches creation. Evolutionists such as Richard Dawkins are indignant. Yet, this school is one of the best in the country, and Prime Minister Blair was supportive of the school in parliament two years ago.

About 200 senior students at the Boswell's School in Chelmsford sat spellbound and absolutely attentive during Dr. Snelling's lecture and asked very probing questions during the question and answer period. Afterwards, a group of students stayed behind to ask further questions, which quickly turned to philosophical and spiritual issues.

Although approaching their subjects from somewhat different perspectives, Dr. Snelling and Professor Johnson found that they could minister well together. Profes-

sor Johnson emphasized that evolutionists do not have any mechanism which explains how macroevolution would have happened, and that all their anger expressed over creationism is a smokescreen to hide this lack of evidence, which suggests that they are really defending a religion, not science. Dr. Snelling presented evidence for a young earth from the RATE project, for the Flood from geological evidence, and then finished with the relevance of these issues to the Gospel.

Theistic evolution is a big stumbling block in the churches of the United Kingdom. It seems to have a stranglehold on the spiritual climate there. Dr. Snelling and Professor Johnson made major progress this past fall in helping many in the United Kingdom return to a high view of God's Word. ☩

ACSI CONVENTIONS

Several ICR staff members attended the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) teacher conferences in Portland, Sacramento, Anaheim, and Dallas last fall. The ICR booth provided teachers with information about the ICR Graduate School and other ministries allowed the ICR staff to advise teachers about their educational needs for their classrooms as well as their needs for further professional training in creation science.

The booth was just the tip of the iceberg, for several workshops were presented by the staff. In Anaheim, Dan Criswell presented a seminar on "Stem Cell Research" and Frank Sherwin spoke on "Teaching Creation Science in the Christian Classroom." In Dallas, Patti Nason presented a seminar on "Our Private Universe: Battle for the Mind."

Many Christian school teachers have a vague belief in creation, but most have received training from secular universities. Even Christian liberal arts colleges often teach theistic evolution, making the ministry of ICR even more vital. ☩

ICR Graduate School

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2005 SUMMER SCHEDULE

Listed below are the courses offered by the ICR Graduate School this summer. Interested students should write or call as soon as possible for further information and application forms. Details can also be found at [<http://www.icr.edu>].

Department	Course #	Course Name
Suppl. Crs.	501 (0)	Orientation and Seminar
MODULE A 6/13/2005-7/1/2005		
Biology	506 (3)	Advanced Ecology
Geology	501 (3)	Advanced Physical Geology
Physics	501 (3)	Classical Mechanics
Sci. Ed.	502 (3)	Advanced Educational Psychology/Lab
Sci. Ed.	504 (3)	Applied Science Education Research
MODULE B 7/4/2005-7/22/2005		
Biology	501 (3)	Comparative Biochemistry
Biology	509 (3)	Laboratory Studies in Biology
Geology	505 (3)	Geochronology
Physics	506 (3)	Intro to Theoretical Meteorology
Sci. Ed.	503 (3)	Instructional Design/Production
Sci. Ed.	506 (3)	Curriculum Implementation in Science
MODULE C 7/25/2005-8/12/2005		
Biology	503 (3)	Biosystematics/Lab
Geology	503 (3)	Stratigraphic Analysis
Physics	503 (3)	Quantum Mechanics and Relativity
Sci. Ed.	501 (3)	Applied Statistics for Scientists
Sci. Ed.	505 (3)	Curriculum Design and Analysis in Science
MODULE D 6/14/2005-8/12/2005		
Biology	505 (3)	Biological Concepts
Biology	510 (3)	Field Studies in Biology
Geology	506 (3)	Geological Field Studies
Suppl. Crs.	502 (3)	Advanced Studies in Creationism-Distance

TRACS ACCREDITATION UPDATE AT ICRGS

As a masters degree granting institution, ICRGS received continuing accreditation for the remaining five years of the ten-year cycle by the Accreditation Commission of TRACS on November 9, 2004. ICR was also granted approval for a distance-learning program through the internet for their MS degree in Science Education. This is currently under development.



BUTTERFLIES VS. MACROEVOLUTION



Perhaps there is no other group of animals that are more ornate and beautiful than the butterflies. Butterflies are insects, of course, belonging to the class Insecta. They, in turn, belong to a much larger group of animals called the arthropods. What was the *origin* of this very substantial phylum? Three authors recently concluded the following:

As Darwin noted in the *Origin of Species*, the abrupt emergence of arthropods in the fossil record during the Cambrian presents a problem for evolutionary biology. There are no obvious simpler or intermediate forms—either living or in the fossil record—that show convincingly how modern arthropods evolved from worm-like ancestors. Consequently there has been a wealth of speculation and contention about relationships between the arthropod lineages.¹


Butterfly “evolution” is usually discussed in terms of disruptive selection and mimicry, both of which count as but minor variation among these stunning creatures. Clearly, they remain butterflies. What of the origin of insect wings?

The wing **may have** evolved as a flap-like extension of the dorsal upper leg, according to Kukalova-Peck, and hence **may have** been articulated and moveable from the start² [emphasis mine].

But if the origin of butterflies and insect wings remains an evolutionary enigma, certainly the incredible change from caterpillar to the adult winged insect rates as one of the fascinating evidences of creation. Metamorphosis to the adult stage is nothing less than a biological miracle. Complex molecules called enzymes are released that literally digest the caterpillar while it is ensconced in the chrysalis, converting it into a rich soup of disjointed tissues and cells—which after four days becomes an adult butterfly. But how? Detailed metamorphosis studies done on different insect species shows only that the ways organ systems are formed are quite varied. This is not what evolution would predict. A non-creationist laments,

... no stage or aspect of this physical process can be accounted for or even guessed at with our current knowledge of chemistry, physics, genetics, or molecular biology, extensive though they are. It is completely beyond us. We know practically nothing about the plan or program governing the metamorphosis, or the organizing agency that executes this plan.³

Research continues in this fascinating field, pointing not to the gods of time, chance, and genetic mistakes, but to a Master Designer’s hand that is “clearly seen” (Romans 1:20).

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1. Osorio, Bacon & Whittington, *American Scientist* (vol. 85, May/June 1997), p. 244.
 2. Gerhart & Kirschner, *Cells, Embryos, and Evolution*, Blackwell Science, 1997, p. 555.
 3. Milton, R., *Shattering the Myths of Darwinism*, Park St. Press, 1992, p. 220. 

THE FIRST ICR RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETS

Full-time ICR researchers attended the first all-day meeting of the ICR Research Council on December 10. The Council was organized to develop plans to fund and report on multiple research projects which are planned to follow the completion of RATE, the highly successful, large research project on Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth. RATE ends in 2005 but several other research efforts in both the physical and life sciences will continue after it ends. This Council will focus those efforts.

The purpose of the first annual meeting was to address three questions—(1) What research should ICR be doing? (2) What research would each scientist like to do? and (3) How much would the research likely cost? Fifteen-minute presentations were made by each attendee in the morning session. In the afternoon, a round-table discussion was held to discuss how funding would be achieved, how results would be reported, and how the projects would be administered. An executive committee composed of Dr. Larry Vardiman, ICR Research Coordinator; Dr. Dan Criswell, Acting Chairman of the Biology Department; and Dr. John Baumgardner, a newly employed Associate Professor of Geology and Geophysics were selected to help administer the enhanced research effort.

Research by full-time research faculty members will be evaluated and funding solicited during the next year to begin multiple projects at levels heretofore not attempted by ICR. These new research efforts will be described in future issues of *Acts & Facts*. With this new initiative, ICR will more effectively fulfill the mandate of *research* implicit in its name. ☪

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”:

Weekend of: Title/Topic:

- Feb. 5** **Mimicry**
One amazing aspect of creation is mimicry, where plants and animals imitate their environment or other organisms. But how can one species look like another, or change its color to match its surroundings? It has to be the Creator!
- Feb. 12** **Marriage Made in Heaven**
Marriage was created by God in the beginning. And although marriage brings joy and fulfillment, it’s not without its struggles. God has outlined different roles for husbands and wives; but are they being followed? Stay tuned!
- Feb. 19** **Love and Marriage**
The Bible tells us that love is of God, and that He instituted marriage in the beginning with Adam and Eve. But, what about the evolutionary claim of chance processes? If evolution be true, where did love and marriage come from?
- Feb. 26** **The Truth About Kinsey**
Charles Darwin’s influence on the world didn’t stop at evolution. Many of his followers made false scientific claims that marred society. Perhaps the most damaging of all is the fraudulent science of Alfred Kinsey. Stay tuned! ☪

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A SERIOUS PROBLEM

Regular *Acts & Facts* readers are surely aware that the western educational system is dominated by an evolutionary (and therefore humanistic) worldview. Public institutions are nearly totally saturated with this anti-god philosophy. But more alarming every year is the growing invasion of this insidious influence in “Christian” schools.

Teaching faculties have been indoctrinated (often subconsciously) ever since the days of Horace Mann and John Dewey. Teachers have great influence of the young people they teach—and these teachers are usually required to get post-graduate degrees in secular colleges which steep them further in naturalism.

A CRITICAL NEED

Most teachers believe that some form of evolution has been proven by natural science, which in turn, impacts the social sciences and humanities as well. George Barna notes that more than 67% of Christian young people lose their faith by the time they graduate from college.

There is an especially urgent need for teachers and textbooks in the natural sciences supporting the true Biblical worldview of history and reality. It is not enough to merely impose Biblical texts on standard evolutionary premises. Teachers, writers, researchers, and Christian leaders need to understand and be able to teach the details in a creation/redemption context. As Dr. John Morris has said: “We want not only to convert scientists to a Biblical worldview, but more importantly to convert the sciences themselves to true scientific creationism.”

YOU CAN HELP

Yes, ICR needs and prays for your current support. Without your generous gifts we would not be able to function. But this is also a multi-generational mission. Training graduate students in the sciences is a monumental task that requires larger endowments than ICR possesses. Conducting the kind of research that will impact science for truth demands more specialized personnel and resources than we have.

Would you consider including us in your estate? Do you have appreciated assets that you can share with us? ICR is poised to make a major impact in the years ahead. Help us wage this vital war.



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR Executive Vice President for Strategic Ministries.
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