

RATE FEATURED AT ICC

The RATE project was highlighted at the Fifth International Conference on Creationism in Pittsburgh during August when eight papers were presented on exciting early results. The organizers allowed Dr. Larry Vardiman to open the conference with an overview of RATE. The other RATE members followed with seven technical presentations.

Dr. John Baumgardner presented his exciting results of measurable concentrations of ^{14}C in fossilized organics like coal. Using a new method of Atomic Mass Spectrometry, coal is found to average about one quarter of one percent of modern levels of ^{14}C . Coal which is dated to be on the order of 100 million years old by conventional dating methods should contain none. This is strong evidence for a young earth. See the *Impact* article in this issue for a more detailed description.

Dr. Andrew Snelling described his tabulation of radiohalos in granite at several locations around the world and an updated model for their formation in brief periods of time. Radiohalos are residual evidence of rapid nuclear decay damage surrounding radioactive centers containing Uranium, Thorium, or Polonium in granites. These miniature discolored regions in rock are formed in periods as short as days or weeks only in catastrophic



*Dr. Vardiman responds to questions about RATE.
Photo: Courtesy of Reid Moon.*

events like Creation and the Flood. See *Impact* article #353 in November, 2002, for more detail on radiohalos. Dr. Snelling also presented a paper dealing with the discordance of the estimated ages of rocks at the Somerset Dam near Brisbane, Australia, using the isochron dating technique. This discordance demonstrates that conventional dating is unreliable.

Dr. D. Russell Humphreys presented a major new result of RATE—an estimated date for the Flood, $5,680 \pm 2,000$ years ago based on the Helium content of zircons in granite. The Helium content of zircons embedded in granite is due to the radioactive decay of Uranium. The decay rate of Uranium appears to have been accelerated in the recent past violating the assumptions of conventional dating methods. The accelerated decay left a large

quantity of Helium in the zircons which has not yet had time to escape from the rocks. This is prima facie evidence for a young earth. See *Impact* article #352 in October, 2002, for more detail on Helium diffusion.

Dr. Steve Austin gave an update to the discordance in ages of the Bass Rapids diabase sill in Grand Canyon. Using mineral and whole-rock isochrons, he showed that ages vary greatly using different elements for dating. He also showed that the estimated conventional ages appear to be greater for elements which decay by α -decay compared to β -decay ages and for those with longer half lives.

Dr. Eugene Chaffin presented theoretical arguments for how accelerated decay could occur and its implications. He suggested a possible explanation for the tentative observation that accelerated decay rates may have been a function of half life.

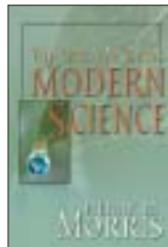
Staff and associates of ICR presented a total of 19 papers at the conference. Van Wingerden and Darry Stansbury presented papers based on research they've conducted under Dr. Austin's guidance associated with their master's theses at ICR.

During the Monday evening plenary session, Dr. John Morris presented his vision for future research at ICR and in the creationist community at large. He suggested that research projects need to address new opportunities in genetics and regional Flood dynamics. The creationist community now has enough researchers with training in these fields to make major contributions. Other fields should be addressed in the future as well.

The conference was charged with excitement by the quality of the presentations and comments were frequent that RATE had made great inroads into the major stronghold of the conventional age for the earth. RATE is a joint research project sponsored by the Institute for Creation Research and the Creation Research Society. The Sixth International Conference on Creationism is tentatively planned for 2007. ☞

Books in Review

The Biblical Basis for Modern Science, by Henry M. Morris



"In the introduction, Dr. Morris defends the scientific accuracy of the Bible, . . . He maintains this uncompromising stance throughout the book. . . . The author develops a logical and Biblical framework for each topic he discusses. Likewise he presents the young earth position throughout the text. . . . He compares the creationist position vs. the evolutionist position on many subjects, using scientific *facts* as a foundation for the creationist stance. . . . Reading this book may also allow Christians who have never before understood the significance of the origins controversy to realize that the creationist position is the scientific one."

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by Dr. John Morris

At the International Conference on Creation held in August, the ICR research was prominent, particularly the RATE research on Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth. I was honored to give the opening plenary session of the conference, in which I reminded the creationists gathered of the remarkable resurgence of Creation thinking in the last forty years and suggested a winning focus for the future.

Creation thinking was essentially dead when the groundbreaking book, *The Genesis Flood*, was published in 1961. For the very first time, the early chapters of Genesis had a credible, scientific defense. A snowball started rolling, leading to the Creation Research Society and the Bible-Science Association being formed in 1963. Soon ICR was launched as the first organization staffed by professional scientists, whose mandate it was to research and communicate Creation truth. Subsequent years have produced thousands of creation scientists and scores of creation organizations, most of them spawned and staffed by those influenced by ICR writings, and/or graduates of the ICR Graduate School. The Creation movement, especially with the recent effectiveness of Answers in Genesis and Master Books, has fully matured.

Research, too, is so strong. All of the “big-picture” arguments point to Creation, from the fossils, to the laws of science, to the design of living things, to the lack of a mechanism for evolution, to the evidence for catastrophism in geology, etc. In so many ways we are winning! Now we must go on to full victory.

Full victory involves reaching people with the message. Today, many speakers representing many organizations are carrying this message to many different venues. Some focus primarily on churches,

some on schools, some on more technical audiences. Home school and Christian schools are clamoring for creation materials, and numerous new books and videos are going to market. More scientists are equipped and willing to accept formal debates. In all this, ICR rejoices.

With the increased availability of creation information I’ve noticed a shift in those attending ICR seminars. While there will always be the need for basic Creation truth to be covered, attendees desire a higher quality of information—not necessarily more technical, but fresher, more detailed, more reliable, than they may have received elsewhere. With the cutting edge research we are doing here, and our commitment to truth, we can supply those new arguments like no one else.

As the RATE initiative comes to an end with the publication of the second technical book and non-technical summary in 2005, the RATE scientists are looking to “hit the road” with their discoveries. Plans are being made to include them at the non-technical “Back to Genesis” seminars and at “second dose,” more technical conferences.

Furthermore, in an ongoing attempt to meet the various demands, ICR is currently planning and developing a new type of family seminar featuring live animals to teach the incredible design God has placed in His creations. We’ll be doing videos with this theme too. There’s just no end to ways to communicate.

Meanwhile, we continue to schedule a variety of seminars and conferences with a number of speakers. Plenty of dates are still available for the coming school year. The information is fresh and the arguments are strong. There has never been a better time to bring the enlightening and motivational message of Creation to your community.

To schedule a seminar or speaker contact Mr. Hamilton Richardson at 619/448-0900, ext. 6041. ☞

Meeting Highlights

Tampa and Brandon, Florida

An alligator in church? Add a lemur from Madagascar. Surely this doesn't happen. Yet it did happen on July 20 as ICR's Dr. John Morris was joined at Cornerstone Baptist Church, by animal trainer, Dan Breeding, and "friends."

ICR and Mr. Breeding plan to produce a series of videos entitled, "Creature's of Creation," using live animals to illustrate the marvelous design God placed within His creatures. Properly understood, they are marvelous teaching tools. Young and old were equally captivated by the ani-



mals, and many took this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have their picture taken while "holding" a seven-foot alligator. Wouldn't you?

Your chance may come soon! ICR is now fine-tuning a series of speaking events with Dan Breeding and his amazing animals. Be sure to watch your *A & F* Outreach section to see when those events will be offered.

Earlier that morning Dr. Morris spoke to Bayside Community Church, whose steadfast Creation stance and friendship for ICR is much appreciated!

Costa Mesa, California

ICR zoologist, Frank Sherwin, spoke on the unique features of bats August 2 at the Calvary Chapel Creation Fellowship. Frank discussed bat sonar, their history in the fossil record, and other amazing bat features. 🦇

Radio Log

This month on "Science, Scripture, & Salvation":

Weekend of: Title/Topic:

Oct. 4 Wild Animals

We love them, we fear them, and we misunderstand them. What are they? They are God's wild animals! If you've ever wondered why and how our furry friends became wild, and what separates us from them, tune in to find out!

Oct. 11 Earth's Core

The earth's core has been the object of science fiction books and movies for decades. But what really is down there in the center of the earth? Is it really possible for man to explore earth's core? Stay tuned!

Oct. 18 Life from Outer Space?

Secular scientists claim they've found a new reason to believe that life could have come from space. What they're talking about is carbon found in a meteorite that landed in Mexico over thirty years ago. Did they really find "life" in this space rock?

Oct. 25 No Fear

Fear. It's a very strong emotion. It sometimes keeps us up at night and may even prevent us from following our dreams. But it can also keep us safe. So, where did fear come from and what does God's Word have to say about it? Tune in this week and find out! 🦋

Moving?

Please mail your new address along with your old mailing label to:

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P.O. Box 2667

El Cajon, CA 92021



BAT-TASTIC BATS

Bats are fascinating members of the order Chiroptera. They even exceed rodents in abundance. It's unfortunate that bats have such negative connotations and superstitions associated with them for if it weren't for their pollination, we may never have had balsa wood, bananas, plantains, or peaches. Bats are certainly more effective in insect capture than the energy-draining and noisy "bug zappers" hung on porches that seem to draw insects from a tri-county area right into your front yard. Truly, a gray bat can effectively vacuum up 8,000 insects per night—just one more reason to construct a "bat box."

Where did bats come from? "All bats alive today descend from a common ancestor that could fly"¹ says evolutionism. But as far as real observational evidence is concerned, this statement—and statements like it—is based on faith. The same article in *Discover* admits, "The genealogy [i.e., evolutionary ancestry] of bats is a murky matter, though, and has inspired some pretty exotic ideas"² and ". . . bats pose one of evolution's supreme puzzles."³ Notice that secular science cannot provide an answer to bat origin and therefore one's imagination must take over, ". . . you can craft all sorts of plausible scenarios for how bats came to be."⁴ Regardless, evolutionists maintain that bats evolved from small, non-flying mammals, even though, "There are no known intermediate stages between bats and insectivores."⁵

Creation scientists claim God created bats as bats and they are testimony to His creative hand (Romans 1:20). One of the especially designed features of bats is their amazing sonar. Bats send out a pulse at 100,000 cycles per second—or hertz (Hz) that, within just a fraction of a second, can drop down to 30,000 Hz (In comparison, the upper limit for human hearing is 20,000 Hz). Bats could very well deafen themselves if it weren't for a special muscle the Creator placed in their middle ear. It contracts rapidly to "freeze" the bone associated with hearing as the impulse is sent out—but relaxes just in time to receive the echoes of previous impulses.

How effective is this sonar? It is quite likely that bats can mentally "sense" with their ultrasonic sonar pulses as well as you and I can see with our eyes!⁶ Rather than acknowledging such sophistication as due to the Creator's hand, secularists rob God of the glory by saying, "Frequency-modulated pulses *appear to have evolved* in bat echolocation because the wide range of frequencies makes them suitable for target description and accurate ranging" (my emphasis).⁷ Creation scientists would say, "Christ created the bat's ability to produce frequency-modulated pulses because the wide range of frequencies makes them suitable for target description and accurate ranging." But our research doesn't stop there—it begins there! Creation scientists attempt to "think God's thoughts after Him" and research continues.

1. *Discover*, November, 1998, p. 114.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 114.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 112.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 114.

5. Colbert, *Evolution of the Vertebrates*, 2001, p. 333.

6. Hickman, Roberts & Larson, *Zoology*, W.C. Brown, 1997, p. 611.

7. Simmons & Young, *Nerve Cells & Animal Behaviour*, Cambridge U. Press, 1999, pp. 144–45. 



FLORIDA CREATION CAMPS!

Hands-on science workshops, fossil hunting, and field trips in FABULOUS FLORIDA are offered for families (ages five and up), high schoolers, college students, and teachers by ICR's Dr. Gary and Mrs. Mary Parker. Week-long and half-week programs are scheduled at their Creation Adventures Museum in sunny Arcadia, Florida, during "spring break" weeks before and after Easter, 2004 (April 4–10 and April 11–16), and in March, 2004 (March 7–12 and March 21–26). There is a special home school CLEP test preparation program and science lab options with Dave and Laurie Callihan October 27–31, 2003.

Call 863/494-9558
or e-mail creation@strato.net

Dates may be requested for senior trips and for college field study courses in paleontology, ecology, earth science, or creation apologetics. College and CEU credit may be arranged. Those who qualify can earn ICR graduate credit. ☛



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From Kansas

I was very active in my local church up until about age 50 when I dropped out. I drifted away from God's Word. Quite some time ago I learned about your book, *The Genesis Record*. It would be extremely difficult to express how immeasurably my faith has been bolstered by this work. Since becoming a creationist, I have once again become active in my local church; filling in at the organ and substitute teacher of an adult Bible class.

From Texas

Your books and ministry have been an important part of my life. . . . The highlight was attending a "Back to Genesis" seminar in Texas. . . . For the past five years my wife and I have been working with our church youth group. . . . My two favorite resources to work with are *The Defender's Study Bible* and *The Genesis Record*. . . .

While I want to thank you for the education you provided me at Virginia Tech, I especially want to say thank you for the greater education you have provided and are providing me through ICR.

From Massachusetts

Your ministry has been a blessing in many ways. I utilize the devotional *Days of Praise* daily, have used excerpts from it when I'm teaching, and quoted from *Acts & Facts* when discussing the absurdity of evolution. I thank you for the dedication to this needed work.

From North Carolina

This [web] site has really blessed me, I once was a firm believer in evolution until Christ came into my life. This site has helped me answer those tough questions that once puzzled me about Creation. ☛



Ripples and Riptides

All of us have seen ripples grow in concentric rings from a pebble plopped in a pond. And most of us are familiar with horrific stories about riptides pulling swimmers to their death, undermining seawalls, and eroding beaches. Both the poet and the six o'clock newscaster love ripples and riptides. But they also make good illustrations of what atheistic and naturalistic science does to truth.

Ken Ham developed a clever cartoon that, while humorous, is a serious challenge to the Bible-based Christian community. In the cartoon, two castles are shown at war. The "Christianity" castle is shooting at balloons of "abortion" and "homosexuality," etc., that are flying *above* the "Humanism" castle—not doing much damage to that worldview. The "bad guys," however, are shooting most effectively at the *base* of "Creation," destroying the foundation of the entire "Christianity" castle.

Foundations, Leaven, and Tree Roots

The Bible uses a number of illustrations about the importance of getting rid of the *source* of the problems. The Psalmist cries out for strength when he sees the enemies destroying the foundation (Psalm 11:3). Jesus warns about the leaven of false doctrine (Matthew 16:12; see also Galatians 5:9), and the prophet notes that if the stump is left, the tree will grow again (Daniel 4:23,26; contrast Luke 3:9). These illustrations warn us to focus on the *cause* of the error, not the *symptoms*.

It is tempting to go after the symptoms. The pain of the many effects (abortion, pornography, flagrant promiscuity, easy divorce, etc.) are very real and terribly destructive. But the core rationale (in the educated Western world) for all these anti-God, anti-righteous, anti-authority beliefs is atheistic, naturalistic science.

ICR is searching for Cures to the "Disease."

We are researching to uncover evidence that will expose the atheism in naturalistic science. We are training Christian leaders to expand that research and to teach others. That work is extensive, time-consuming, and expensive. We cannot function without your financial support. We must have your prayer support. Please consider co-laboring with us.



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