

## SUMMERTIME AT ICR!

For many ministries, things slow down in the summer. Not for ICR. While seminars and speaking engagements are fewer, we don't get a breather, for this is when the Graduate School is in full swing.

Students from all over gather at ICR to take courses, not just from the ICR faculty, but also from adjunct professors hailing from other locations too. This means logistic concerns of housing and rent-a-cars, catching up on joint research projects, and brown-bag seminars. Students are busy doing their thesis research and/or defense, as well as "picking the brains" of their creationist mentors. There's lots of electricity in the air.

This summer most of the ICR staff and many of the adjuncts were fine-tuning their papers for the International Conference on Creation in August, and/or extending their RATE research. Perhaps the most exciting aspect is the student research. Usually the topics are selected by the department chairman to fit into a larger project, each piece adding to the whole. Listed below are some of the student research projects. Hopefully you will be encouraged with the prospects.



*Students hard at work on their research projects at the ICR Graduate School.*

**Geology:** One student is using state-of-the-art numerical modeling technique to model a high-density, sub-aqueous sediment flow, and another is mapping the Grand Canyon nautiloid layer in Clark City, Nevada area, extending the range of the layer.

**Biology:** A former pharmacist with an interest in the natural origin of medicines is defending his thesis on Biblical and historical trends in medicine.

**Physics:** Two students are working on understanding the chronology, of tiny layers in ice cores from Greenland and, another is working on the impact of massive "hypercanes" during Noah's Flood.

**Science Education:** Focuses on producing useful materials. One student is writing on "The Sandy Hook Unit of the Gateway National Recreation Area from a Creationist Perspective," part of a virtual tour of National Parks. Others are developing hands-on creation-based lesson plans for student experiments to focus on the Christian worldview.

The only thing that slows down for ICR in the summer is the giving, yet the expenses increase. Your help at this time of year is especially appreciated. ☮

## RESEARCH AT ICR

As I have often related through the pages of *Acts & Facts* and in public forums, I am wholeheartedly committed to Creation research. A strong foundation has been laid for this work over the years by the development of a sound Biblical doctrine of Creation and the reinterpretation of valid scientific observations of others within the Biblical framework. Over the years, much has been accomplished.

We know, for instance, that every form of life exhibits design and complexity far surpassing the ability of natural processes to originate it. We likewise know that there are limits to the variability of living things, and that the fossil record contains little comfort to those who believe in descent from a common ancestor. We also know that the laws of physics place formidable barriers to the origin and innovation of new forms of life.

Hands-on research in more recent days has shown that catastrophism is the rule in geology, and that scientific observations are more compatible with the young earth than the old earth view of the unobserved past. Current research in radioisotope dating has discovered that the past was quite different from the present. Computer modeling of past climates demonstrates how robust the Biblical model really is. The list of research gains could be extended at length.

But questions remain, and much more needs to be done. As the RATE initiative described elsewhere in this issue nears the end of its mandate, we are plotting future projects using the phenomenally successful RATE project as our model. In particular, we are planning to research the nature of the Great Flood more completely, cataloging and integrating evidence for catastrophic processes acting



*Mark Armitage at the electron microscope.*

over wide areas. The rich, new field of genomics likewise beckons, offering insight into the absolute “separateness” of the Genesis kinds, rather than evolutionary inter-relatedness. You’ll hear more of these as time goes on.

In July we acquired access to two wonderful new research tools, which have already been of use in research projects and will be invaluable in the days ahead. Creation colleague and ICR Graduate School alumnus, Mr. Mark Armitage, has agreed to house both a scanning electron microscope and a transmission electron microscope on campus. He has several research projects of his own in progress and has been of great help in RATE radiohalo research. We expect many helpful discoveries to result from this joint venture.

God instructed Adam to “subdue” the earth and take “dominion” over the animals (Genesis 1:28), implying that he

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should study Creation (research) and exercise wise stewardship over it for God's glory and man's good. I think He is pleased as we delve deeply into His handiwork, giving Him the credit He deserves for His creative majesty.

We feel He has raised up ICR to continue the job of understanding Creation that He gave to Adam, and then to communicate the truth to those whose brainwashing in wrong thinking leads them to question God's Word. Pray for us, that God would grant us victories in these difficult battles, and that Christians everywhere would be strengthened by the results. And while you're praying, please consider helping financially. Research is very expensive, and we accept no government funding. In these ways you can share in the thrill of discovery and the blessings of lives impacted with the truth. Consider it an eternal investment. ☞



### Illinois

My wife and I have been partners of ICR for two years and have enjoyed *Acts & Facts* and *Days of Praise* immensely. In *Acts & Facts* your Radio Log topics sound like they would compliment all your literature on Creation. I've turned into a Creation fan using it as a witnessing tool to back up the Bible and vice versa. May God bless all your work.

### Pennsylvania

. . . my scientific education all through my many years in school was based solely on the theory of evolution. . . . However, when my church presented a video tape series from ICR several years ago, I was overjoyed. . . . Also, ICR literature was indispensable in helping to raise my children in a secular world permeated with indoctrination in evolutionary thought. ☞



### Los Angeles, California

With its strict adherence to the inerrancy and authority of Scripture leading to its strongly held belief in recent Creation, ICR does not always find itself welcome. This is understandable in naturalistic evolutionary circles, but all-too-often evangelical groups show even greater aversion to its message. Thus it was a pleasant change when ICR's president, Dr. John Morris, was invited to be a Plenary speaker at the April 24–26 National Convention of the Independent, Fundamental Churches of America (IFCA) in Los Angeles.

The IFCA had "resolved" in its 1994 convention "to . . . affirm our belief in a literal six twenty-four hour day creation as clearly taught by Scripture . . ." and the pastors and Christian workers in attendance were openly in agreement. The leaders of the fellowship of churches, however, had surmised that while all believed in Creation and a young Earth, many were not well equipped to deal with the issue, and this resulted in the invitation.

Dr. Morris is presently an elder in Faith Community Bible Church, an IFCA church in the San Diego area. Furthermore, ICR's founder and Dr. John's father, Dr. Henry Morris, has long been affiliated with IFCA, having started a member church in Blacksburg, Virginia, now Harvest Baptist Church whose pastor was present. It was good to be among friends. ☞

## Moving?

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

**Institute for Creation Research**  
P.O. Box 2667  
El Cajon, CA 92021



## RATE GROUP DRAFTS PLANS FOR FINAL REPORT

The eight-year project called RATE sponsored by the Institute for Creation Research and the Creation Research Society to study radioisotopes and the age of the earth entered its seventh year in July. At the annual meeting in San Diego on July 11–12, 2003, plans were finalized for completing the research and drafting the final report.

Each of the seven principal investigators reported progress in their areas of research. Dr. D. Russell Humphreys and Dr. Andrew A. Snelling reported on progress on helium diffusion and radiohalos, respectively. The latest results confirm the tentative reports published in *Acts & Facts* in the fall of 2002. Especially exciting was the final laboratory confirmation of the young-earth helium diffusion model. Dr. John Baumgardner reported results of studies of residual Carbon-14 in coal, and Dr. Steven Boyd relayed his confirmatory statistical study on distinguishing literal from allegorical passages in the Old Testament. Dr. Baumgardner and Dr. Boyd hope to publish *Impact* articles this winter. The research in most areas is progressing towards the goals established earlier in the project.

The final RATE report is planned for release in the fall of 2005 and will contain chapters addressing each of the research goals. In addition, a video documentary and a lay version of the final book are being planned. Each of the RATE scientists will likely participate in various speaking opportunities with “Back to Genesis” and technical conferences in the summer of 2005 and afterward. A set of eight technical papers reporting on some of the preliminary results of RATE will be presented at the 5th International Conference on Creationism in Pittsburgh on August 2–9, 2003. The proceedings of this conference will be available in August and may be purchased from ICR at [www.icr.org/store](http://www.icr.org/store).

Funding for RATE has been good throughout the project and about \$100,000 is still required to complete the project. There are several other short term projects which have been identified recently which could also be conducted if additional funding were available. Contact Dr. Vardiman at 619/448–0900 if you wish to obtain more information about this work. ☛



*RATE members and observers at the July 11-12 Meeting.*

*L to R front:*

*Dr. Kenneth Cumming; Dr. Larry Vardiman; Dr. Donald DeYoung; Dr. Steven Austin*

*L to R back:*

*Dr. Eugene Chaffin; Dr. Steven Boyd; Mr. William Hoesch; Dr. John Baumgardner; Dr. Ed Holroyd; Dr. Andrew Snelling; Dr. D. Russell Humphreys; Dr. John Morris*



## REHEATING THE PREBIOTIC SOUP

A number of secular science reports have been supporting the creationist position. For example, a 2003 report in *Science*<sup>1</sup> shows the famous “origin of life” experiment in Chicago in the early 1950s to be suspect. Authors Bada and Lazcano give a glowing review of Miller’s experiment, but they also note some problems. Other evolutionists are not at all certain of Miller’s work, and for good scientific reasons—

The difficulties start to become clear when we look to see what building blocks were actually formed in the course of the simulation experiments of Miller and others. Robert Shapiro, professor of chemistry at New York University, pointed out in his 1988 book, *Origins*, that, contrary to what is sometimes stated, there was no synthesis of nucleotides and, indeed, only two of the component bases (adenine and guanine) were produced to any significant extent. Also, only two of the required 20 amino acids were formed in appreciable amounts, which was reduced to one when the experiment was repeated later with a less reducing atmosphere, reflecting changing views about the primeval Earth.<sup>2</sup>

A “reducing environment” is an atmosphere rich in the element hydrogen. For decades secular science classes taught the “early earth” had this hydrogen-rich environment, *without any scientific support*. Evolutionists had no choice but to hold Miller’s experiment in high esteem because without it, how does the secularist explain our origin? They certainly wouldn’t consider The Alternative! Fortunately, some Darwinists have been seeing that an ancient reducing atmosphere was theorized only because evolutionism demanded it

But is the “prebiotic soup” theory a reasonable explanation for the emergence of life? Contemporary geoscientists tend to doubt that the primitive atmosphere had the highly reducing composition used by Miller in 1953.<sup>3</sup>

Recently, many evolutionists have been throwing out the “warm little pond” idea of Darwin in favor of something extreme—life arising in scorching heat, since bacteria have been found in places such as hot springs and deep sea thermal vents. Evolutionists have formulated a new biological domain (a taxonomic classification) called Archaea, to contain these unique and robust bacteria—our supposed ancestors. They have a bizarre metabolism and an even stranger “diet” of sulphur and hydrogen sulphide. But how did life arise from nonlife? The atheist must start with a sterile planet composed only of rock and water, heated by sterilizing radioactivity from below and sterilizing ultraviolet radiation from above, and blasted by volcanic activity and massive lightning strikes on the surface—hardly conditions for the spontaneous formation of that delicate entity called life. Like all macroevolutionary hypotheses, the alleged evolutionary ancestry of this unique domain called Archaea and other life forms is both controversial and uncertain, “Both the origin of life and the origin of major groups of animals remain unknown.”<sup>4</sup>

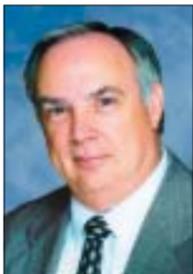
1. Bada & Lazcano, Prebiotic Soup, *Science*, May 2, 2003, pp. 745–46.

2. Palmer, *Controversy—Catastrophism & Evolution*, Kluwer, 1999, p. 266.

3. Bada & Lazcano, p. 746.

4. Fisher, *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, 2003 (fossil section). 

## HENRY MORRIS III TO SERVE ON TRACS COMMISSION



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR's Executive Vice President for Strategic Ministries, will begin a three-year tenure with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools this fall. He was elected Commissioner by the presidents of the TRACS-accredited schools this past spring and will serve on the 18-member Commission which evaluates new colleges for accreditation and periodically reviews member colleges.

Dr. Henry Morris III assisted his father to organize the accrediting association some twenty years ago when TRACS was first getting started. He replaces Dr. Larry Vardiman who represented ICR for about ten years and Dr. Henry Morris II before him.

TRACS now accredits almost 50 colleges and continues to grow in numbers and influence. It is the only accrediting association which explicitly evaluates colleges on their efforts to integrate Scripture into the curriculum and teach from a literal, creationist perspective. Plans are currently being developed to extend its accreditation efforts to secondary education and international colleges and schools.

TRACS is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is a member of CHEA (Christian Higher Education Association). 



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

### Weekend of:      Title/Topic:

#### Sept. 6      **Comets**

Astronomers have captivated all of us with beautiful pictures of objects that make up our solar system. And some of the most fascinating and exciting have been comets. What do they tell us about our world? Tune in to find out!

#### Sept. 13      **The Coral Reef**

The many coral reefs around the world are beautiful scenes of clear, pristine waters housing many colorful and vibrant creatures. Could all these diverse creatures working together in this underwater community be a product of time and chance? This week, learn how God has set every one in its own place to preserve the coral reefs.

#### Sept. 20      **Scientific Errors?**

The Bible says in Proverbs, chapter 30 verse 5: "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him." However, secular evolutionists claim that there are scientific errors in God's Word. But where? Stay tuned!

#### Sept. 27      **Northern Lights**

Bright, beautiful glowing lights in the dark winter night! Shimmering curtains of green, red, and blue float through the midnight sky displaying God's wondrous and incredible Creation! These are commonly called the Northern Lights. What causes this mysterious phenomenon? Find out this week! 

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## Madonna to Write Children's Books

Several magazines have reported that Madonna plans to release a series of children's books beginning in September this year. One can hardly imagine the very adult reputation of this celebrity having helpful things to say to young children. Yet, assuming that she can control her propensities to promote raucous behavior and write stories that will pass the most liberal of editors, how can she not promote her own core beliefs?

*For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit (Luke 6:43).*

One of the unalterable principles of creation is the physical limitation on the "kinds" of God's creative work. Jesus extended this axiom to apply to the heart in man. A corrupt heart will produce corrupt deeds (Matthew 15:18–19). Since we cannot "see" into a person's heart, we are told "*by their fruits ye shall know them*" (Matthew 7:20).

### "What can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3

Several of the Psalms express this frustration (Psalms 2;10; 13; 35; 37; etc.), yet all end with the same answer. Do what is right anyway. Trust God's Word. Seek His will. Don't worry about the bad guys, you put His kingdom first and God will take care of the rest.

There is an often repeated anecdote about how the federal agents are trained to recognize counterfeit money. They are given extensive analysis of the real attributes of currency so that they will more easily and quickly see the false. It's no different for the Christian life. "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:32). The Madonnas of our society will continue to spew out their philosophy. We can individually do little to stop them. But we can proclaim the truth. We can turn over the rocks under which they hide. We can clear the ground of the "weeds" of the world's counterfeits. We can, together, make such a stand that many will "see" their fruit and turn from it.

### ICR Needs Your Help

ICR is called especially to turn over the rocks and clear the weeds of the atheistic and naturalistic science that so dominates our Western society. We cannot function without your help. We need your financial support. We need your prayer support. Please consider an extra gift this month.



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