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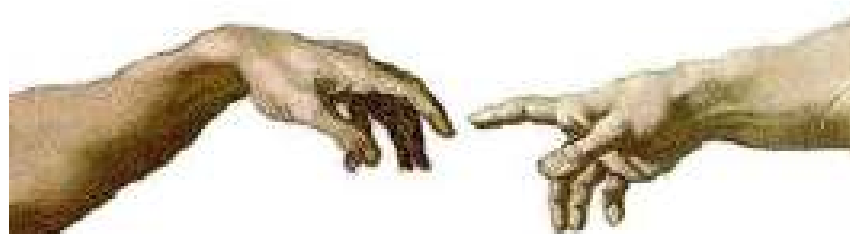
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Rochester Academy of Science
BULLETIN

"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"



November, 2007 - Vol. 61, #9



**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
NOVEMBER 2007**

Calling all members for the Fall Paper Session

Two years ago, I attended my first fall paper session. I have really been impressed with the level of the guest speakers that have come to this event. This year we will hear a presentation entitled "Intelligent Design: Scientific Creationism's Next Generation. Faster, Smarter, and Still Wrong." I think this is something that all good scientists should hear and be able to explain in any discussion on the subject. Please plan on attending this even if you don't come for the entire paper session.

But I would like you to consider coming for the entire session. I'd love for you to consider presenting or having a poster session on any work that you have completed that would be of interest to others in the Academy. I know research is going on in the areas you have an interest in, and I would like to get more people to present at this forum. It is a pretty accommodating audience. I know it is getting close to the cutoff date for signing up, but

they will accept any presentations from members that come in late. If you have a friend, we would love to have them present also. There are enough different presentation rooms that you only have to attend short lectures on titles you like.

Last year there were about 80 poster sessions. I skipped over some that had little interest to me and spent more time on some of the ones more in my fields. I expect that we will have a number of geology posters this year.

It's just a great day to come, learn and spend time with RAS members and students from the upstate area. Bring any science-oriented friends with you. The day is free except for a small fee if you want the lunch provided there. If you get a chance, pre-register to attend so they will have things ready for you. But call in to do a presentation or poster board.

You can go to our web site www.RASNY.org for maps and detailed information.

Stan Spector
President, RAS

**34th ANNUAL FALL
SCIENTIFIC PAPER
SESSION**

The thirty-fourth Annual Fall Scientific Paper Session of the Rochester Academy of Science will be hosted by SUNY Geneseo on Saturday, November 10, 2007.

Registration opens at 8:30 AM in the atrium of the Integrated Science Center at SUNY Geneseo (directions below) with the opening address at 9:00 AM. Oral presentations will run until 11:00, followed by a poster session until Noon.

After lunch, Dr. Charles E Mitchell will deliver this year's Lawrence J. King Memorial Lecture, titled:

**Intelligent Design: Scientific
Creationism's Next Generation.
Faster, Smarter and
Still Wrong**

Dr. Mitchell is SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and Departmental Chair of the Department of Geology at SUNY Buffalo.

His talk examines the continuing controversy about the teaching of creationism in public schools in the United States, this time in the form of Intelligent Design (ID), and the lack of support for evolution among the general

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ABOUT THE **ACADEMY** - The Rochester Academy Of Science, Inc. is an organization which has been promoting interest in the natural sciences since 1881, with special focus on the western New York state region. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in science. Dues are minimal for the Academy, and are listed in the membership application. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings.



For applications and/or more information contact membership chairman Stephen Busschaert, 54 Keswick Rd., Rochester, NY 14609; by telephone 288-5683; or by e-mail <sbusschaert@msn.com>.

The *Academy* Internet web page is <http://www.rasny.org>

The *Astronomy Section* Information phone number is (585) 987-5330. The *Astronomy Section* Internet web page is <http://rochesterastronomy.org>

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population. This reflects deep philosophical divisions within our society and a resulting political struggle for control of the stories we tell about ourselves and the Earth.

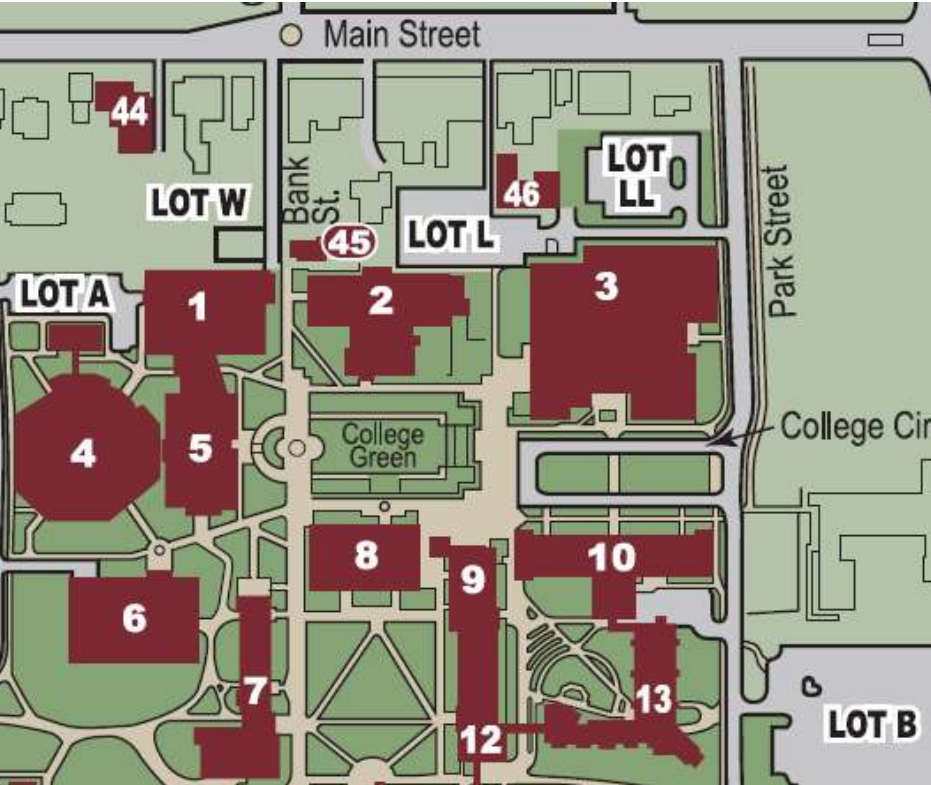
Discussion of contrasting scientific and the religious approaches to knowledge and their underlying philosophy is essential to resolving the conflict. Whether evolution is in conflict with religious faith depends on one's choice of metaphysical propositions and is not inherent in either methodological naturalism or religious faith. With this understanding we may be able to accept the complementary and incommensurate nature of scientific and religious worldviews. There is not one true story of us — rather there are

many true stories, stories that each capture particular aspects of who and what we are.

For lunch reservations, contact Dr. Kristina Hannam at hannam@geneseo.edu or 585-245-5790. Lunch will be \$8.50, which can be paid at registration.

Directions from Rochester:

Take I-390 South to Exit 8, turn right (West) on Rt. 20A. After approximately five miles; turn right at the third traffic light onto Main Street (Route 39); take the first left off Main Street onto Park Street. Take the first left off of Park Street. Park in lots L or LL, or in Lot B, further down on the right. The Integrated Science Center is Bldg. 5 on the map, below, located at the North end of the College Green



Map of the SUNY Geneseo Upper Campus, showing the Integrated Science Center, Bldg. 5, site of the Paper Session

EVENTS for NOVEMBER 2007

(For updates to events, check the Academy web site, <http://www.rasny.org>, or appropriate Section web site.)

Fri 02 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM at RIT, Gosnell Hall, room A300. This month's meeting will feature Dan Green from CBAT, the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams, plus short talks by members. This meeting will include the election for 2008 officers. Visitors are always welcome. Come early and socialize. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or [<cosmos@rochester.rr.com>](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com)

Sat 03 ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

7:30 to 9:00 PM at Mendon Ponds Park on Hopkins Point Road (off closer via Canfield). Join us for views of deep sky objects in members telescopes. No need to bring equipment or a deep understanding; just come and enjoy the views. Dress warm as evenings may be cool and you may want to stay a while. For more information, contact Jim Seidewand at 723-6225 or cell 703-9876

Tue 06 FOSSIL MEETING

7:30 at the Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., in the downstairs Community Meeting Room. Steven Mango, Worldwide Technical Manager, NDT Solutions at Kodak, will speak on "CR and Dinosaur CSI: The Leonardo Project." Steve gave this talk last year at a different venue and received rave reviews.

Sat 10 ANNUAL RAS FALL SCIENTIFIC PAPER SESSION

Hosted by SUNY Geneseo. Look for more information elsewhere in this issue.

Sat 10 MINERAL FIELD TRIP

7 AM to Noon to the Penfield Quarry, Dolomite Products Group, Whalen Road, Penfield, Please arrive at 6:45 AM to sign in. Minerals that may be found are Fluorite, Calcite, Celestine, Sphalerite, Gypsum, Gypsum variety Selenite, Dolomite, and other minerals. Personal protective equipment is required: hard hat, steel toed shoes, safety glasses and long pants. Posted safety rules must be obeyed. For information, call Chuck Hiler at 924-7496 or check the Academy web site <http://www.rasny.org> for updates.

Thur 15 RAS BULLETIN

Articles and event notices due for the December, 2007 newsletter.

Thur 15 LIFE SCIENCE HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, in the basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC, direction available by request). No experience needed! Possible activities include filing herbarium specimens returned from loans, repairing and re-mounting of specimens, and entering data on specimens into our computer. The herbarium

contains an amazing variety of plant specimens, some collected in the 1800's. Plan to come and help with this valuable collection – and learn about plants in the process. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator (334-0977 or epixley@rochester.rr.com). You can either bring a lunch or purchase food at the RMSC café.

Sat 17 ASTRONOMY TELESCOPE WORKSHOP

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Strassenburgh Planetarium. Here's your chance to help fledgling astronomers start off with the right kind of telescope. Bring a commercial or home-built telescopes of any size and type, or a display of astrophotography or other astro-related activities you enjoy. Chat with interested planetarium visitors and help guide them to a telescope that won't just gather dust. For more information, contact Frank Bov at frankbov@rochester.rr.com or call 385-1518.

Tue 20 MINERAL MEETING

7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., in the Auditorium, first floor. Speaker to be announced. Refreshments. Visitors welcome. For information, call Chuck Hiler at 924-7496 or check the Academy web site <http://www.rasny.org> for updates.

Wed 21 RAS BOARD MEETING

7:00 PM Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., in the Stage Conference Room. Everyone welcomed.

COMING EVENTS

Sat Dec 1 LIFE SCIENCES DINNER MEETING

2:00 p.m.. Karen Wolf's home, 1397 Five Mile Line Road, 670-9709. We will have a workshop to learn how to prepare gifts/table centerpieces for Christmas, with pines, dried flowers, grasses, etc. Karen will walk us through the many ways to use natural materials to make a variety of gifts and centerpieces. All materials will be furnished from Karen's gatherings over the year(s). Dinner at 6-6:30 will be turkey cooked by Karen and a dish to pass from all other participants to compliment the turkey. Please call Karen Wolf to reserve a place at the decoration table and dinner table. .

ONGOING EVENTS

Sat 03, 10, 17, 24 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC TELESCOPE VIEWING

Dusk to 10:30 PM every clear Saturday night at the Strassenburgh Planetarium. Call the planetarium box office 697-1945 after 7:30 if in doubt about the skies or contact Jim Seidewand at 723-6225 for general info.