

The Newsletter of the  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
CHRISTIAN  
APOLOGETICS

Keeping ISCA Members Informed on All Things Apologetic

Summer 2016

## Meeting for 2017 Set!

With the gracious efforts of ISCA Past President Kerby Anderson and ISCA Vice President William Roach, we have secured a venue for our annual meeting. On March 24-25, 2017, ISCA will be meeting at [The Hope Center](http://www.thehopecenter.org) (<http://www.thehopecenter.org>), in Plano, TX (Dallas area). "The Hope Center is a one-of-a-kind ministry home to over 40 Christian nonprofits. ... Our mission impact powerfully extends beyond our four walls. Our Christian Nonprofits are the physical hands and feet of the body of Christ sharing the gospel to people locally and around the world — every single day" (from The Hope Center website). With the tremendous experience we had the last time ISCA was at The Hope Center, it is a privilege to return.

Be sure to reserve the date and plan now to attend. Also, if you are a current member of ISCA, we encourage you to submit a paper proposal for one of the breakout sessions.

Do you know someone who is not yet a member of ISCA? Send them [here](http://www.isca-apologetics.org/how-to-join-isca) (<http://www.isca-apologetics.org/how-to-join-isca>) for information on how to join.

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*ISCA exists "to foster scholarly discussion of ideas among evangelical scholars relevant to the defense of the historic Christian Faith in accordance with the Doctrinal Statement of the Society."*

- ISCA Bylaws

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The Hope Center, Plano, TX

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# 2017 ISCA Conference Info

## Where will the conference be held?

The Hope Center,  
2001 W.



Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75075.

## When will the conference be held?

March 24-25, 2017.

## Does one have to be a member of ISCA to attend the conference?

No. However, only active members are allowed to participate in Q & A and discussion during the sessions.

## Does one have to be a member of ISCA to be a break-out presenter at the conference?

All break-out session presenters must be either full members or student members with dues paid to present.

## How do I submit my paper proposal?

Your paper proposals for the breakout sessions should be sent to ISCA Vice President William C. Roach (Bill) at roawil@gmail.com.

## When is the paper proposal due?

Paper proposals should be emailed to Bill Roach before the end of Jan. 1, 2017.

## When will I know if my paper is accepted?

Decisions on papers will be made by Feb. 1, 2017, with notification by email being sent out to individuals immediately.

## What is the conference theme?

The conference will seek to highlight the vast range of issues that constitute the defense of the faith. To that end, papers can be on any topic that deals with an apologetic issue.

## What is the conference schedule?

The conference schedule is being worked on. When finalized, it will be posted to the ISCA website.

**J. T. Bridges**  
Academic Dean and  
Associate Professor  
of Philosophy,  
Southern  
Evangelical Semi-  
nary, Charlotte, NC

Axe, Doug. *Un-  
deniable: How  
Biology Con-  
firms Our Intuition that Life Is De-  
signed*. New York: HarperOne,  
2016.

Denton, Michael. *Evolution: Still a  
Theory in Crisis*. Seattle: Discov-  
ery Institute, 2016.

Wilhelmsen, Frederick D. *The Para-  
doxical Structure of Existence*.  
New Brunswick: Transaction,  
2015.

**Steve Cowan**  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy and  
Religion, Lincoln Memorial  
University, Harrogate, TN  
Rogers, Katherin. *Freedom and  
Self-Creation: Anselmian Libertar-  
ianism*. Oxford: Oxford University  
Press, 2015.

Girgis, Sherif, Ryan T. Anderson,  
and Robert P. George. *What Is  
Marriage? Man and Woman: A  
Defense*. New York: Encounter,  
2012.

Groothuis, Douglas. *Philosophy in  
Seven Sentences: A Small Intro-  
duction to a Vast Topic*. Downers  
Grove: InterVarsity, 2016.

**Richard G. Howe**  
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and  
Apologetics, Southern  
Evangelical Seminary, Charlotte, NC  
and President of the International Socie-  
ty of Christian Apologetics

Kerr, Gaven. *Aquinas's Way to  
God: The Proof in De Ente et Es-  
sentia*. Oxford: Oxford University  
Press, 2015.

Knasas, John F. X. *Being and  
Some Twentieth-Century Tho-  
mists*. New York: Fordham Uni-  
versity Press, 2003.

Sunshine, Glenn S. *Why You Think  
the Way You Do: The Story of  
Western Worldviews from Rome*

## What's On Your Nightstand?

*Books Your Fellow Apologists Are Reading*

*to Home*. Grand  
Rapids:  
Zondervan, 2009.

**D. Scott Hender-  
son**

Associate Profes-  
sor of Philosophy  
and Apologetics,  
Luther Rice Col-  
lege and Seminary, Lithonia, GA

Scruton, Roger. *The Soul of the  
World*. Princeton: Princeton Uni-  
versity Press, 2016.

Fernandez-Morera, Dario. *The Myth  
of the Andalusian Paradise: Mus-  
lims, Christians, and Jews under  
Islamic Rule in Medieval Spain*.  
Wilmington: Intercollegiate Stud-  
ies Institute, 2016.

**Mark Hudson**  
Adjunct Instructor, Metropolitan Com-  
munity College, Kansas City, MO  
Qureshi, Nabeel. *Seeking Allah,  
Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim  
Encounters Christianity*. Grand  
Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

**Daniel Lacaria**  
Operations Supervisor, FedEx Freight  
Calvin, John. *Faith Unfeigned*.  
Grand Rapids: Reformation Herit-  
age, 2010.

**Jason Moore**  
Ph.D. Student, Columbia International  
University  
Priest, Robert J. and Alvaro L.  
Nieves, eds. *This Side of Heaven:  
Race, Ethnicity, and Christian  
Faith*. Oxford: Oxford University  
Press, 2006.

**Juan Valdez**  
Reasons for Hope Ministries  
Polkinghorne, John. *Exploring Re-  
ality: The Intertwining of Science  
and Religion*. New Haven: Yale  
University Press, 2007.

Richardson, Don. *Eternity in their  
Hearts*. Minneapolis: Bethany  
House, 2006.

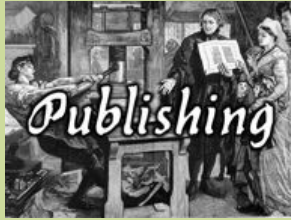
Carey, Nessa. *Junk DNA: A Jour-  
ney Through the Dark Matter of  
the Genome*. New York: Colum-  
bia University Press, 2015.



## What's Happening in the World of Apologetics

- Aug. 18-20, 2016.** Cross-Examined Instructor Academy, Costa Mesa CA.
- Sep. 10-11, 2016.** Burningtown Music & Arts Festival, Franklin, NC.
- Oct. 1, 2016.** Apologetics Conference (in Spanish), Iglesia Casa Sobre la Roca, Orlando FL.
- Oct. 13, 2016.** Southern Evangelical Seminary National Christian Apologetics Women's Conference at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC.
- Oct. 14-15, 2016.** Southern Evangelical Seminary National Conference on Christian Apologetics, "The Defense Never Rests" at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC.
- Nov. 5-6, 2016.** Women Teaching Women Conference, Long Branch Covenant Church, Long Branch, NJ.
- Nov. 12, 2016.** Veritas Evangelical Seminary National Apologetics Conference "Unchanging Truth for Changing Times: 1 Chronicles 12:32" at Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, CA.
- Nov. 15-17, 2016.** Evangelical Philosophical Society, Grand Hyatt and Marriot Rivercenter, San Antonio, TX.
- March 2017.** Apologetics Conference at The Orchard, Tupelo, MS. Details forthcoming.
- Mar. 24-25, 2017.** International Society of Christian Apologetics Annual Conference at The Hope Center, Plano, TX.

# ISCA Intelligence Report: What Your Fellow ISCA Members are Up To



**Jason Crowder.** Adjunct Instructor of Religion, Butler Community College, El Dorado, Kansas; Faculty Mentor, Columbia Evangelical Seminary, Ph.D. candidate, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. *Philosophy, Who Needs It? A Layman's Introduction to Philosophy.* Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2016.

**D. Scott Henderson.** Associate Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics, Luther Rice College and Seminary, Lithonia, GA. "Picking Up the Pieces: Recovering the Radical and Revolutionary Cosmology of the Judeo-Christian View of Sexuality." *Journal of Faith and the Academy*, VII, No. 2.

**Shawn Lazar.** Grace Evangelical Society, Editor, *Grace In Focus* magazine. "Jewish Genius and the Existence of God." *Journal of the Grace Evangelical Society* (Spring 2016): 19-39.

**Tricia Scribner.** Ph.D. student, Southern Evangelical Seminary. "A Thomistic Response to James Rachels' Moral Autonomy." Forthcoming Spring 2017, *Christian Apologetics Journal*; "An Examination of the Knowledge of God in a Theistic Evolutionary Framework," forthcoming, Fall 2017 *Christian Apologetics Journal*; "A Critical Analysis of Theistic Evolution's Claims to Mitigate the Problem of Evil," forthcoming, Fall 2017 *Christian Apologetics Journal*.

**Several ISCA Members.** *I Am Put Here for the Defense of the Gospel: Dr. Norman L. Geisler: A Festschrift in His Honor.* Terry L. Miethe, ed. Eugene: Pickwick, 2016.

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**Kathryn V. Camp.** "Silent No More: How to Keep Your Children from Being Silenced into Submission" Southern Evangelical Seminary National Conference on Christian Apologetics Women's Conference, Charlotte, NC Oct. 13, 2016. "Defending the Deity of Christ Against the Muslim Claims of Prophet Only" and "In Defense of Tolerance" at the Southern Evangelical Seminary National Conference on Christian Apologetics at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC. Oct. 14-15, 2016.



**Richard G. Howe.** "Why I Don't Have a Biblical Worldview (And You Shouldn't Either)" and "Rethinking the Moral Argument: How Does Morality Depend On God?" at the Southern Evangelical Seminary National Conference on Christian Apologetics at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC. Oct. 14-15, 2016. "James, Dead Faith, Salvation, and Justification: James 2:14-26" and "Having Done All These Things: A Look at Hebrews 6:4-6a" at the Free Grace Alliance National Conference, Sheraton Arlington Hotel, Arlington, TX, Oct. 10-12, 2016. "Aquinas on Existence and the Essence/Existence Distinction" at the Evangelical Philosophical Society, Grand Hyatt and Marriot Rivercenter, San Antonio, TX. Nov. 15-17, 2015

**Tricia Scribner.** "LifeGivers Apologetics: Women as Naturally Designed Defenders of the Faith" and "Can General Revelation Save?" at the Southern Evangelical Seminary National Conference on Christian Apologetics Women's Conference, Charlotte, NC Oct. 13, 2016.

# “Howe About That!”

## Musings from ISCA President Richard G. Howe



o one told me that I couldn't use my tenure as President of ISCA in as self-serving a way as I wanted. With that in mind, because I am by training a philosopher (not unlike some of you) and by motivation an apologist (just like all of you), I thought I'd muse on how I see the role that sound philosophy must play in some of our thinking as apologists and, by extension, in some of our thinking as Christians who inevitably do theology.

In the interest of full disclosure, my thinking here has been pinched off from what I've been teaching for some years and what I have been writing lately with the aim of finishing my book on the subject, the working title of which is *Defending the Handmaid: How Theology Needs Philosophy*. My title (which may not survive the publisher, if I even get that far) was inspired by Winfried Corduan's important book *Handmaid to Theology: An Essay in Philosophical Prolegomena* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981).

Not too long ago, I was accused by another apologist (who, by the way, is not associated with ISCA, and who, in all likelihood, would consider himself more of a theologian than an apologist) of being an elitist—or at least making apologetics or theology itself elitist. If philosophy was necessary for apologetics or theology and, further, if philosophy was surely out of the reach of many Christians (which is to say, if not many Christians would have the opportunity or, indeed, the desire to pursue academic philosophy), then it would follow (so my accuser contended) that apologetics or theology would be out of reach of many Christians. They could only be done by the expert philosophers.

At the time, I wasn't quite sure what to make of the accusation. Having thought about it, this is what I should have said in response to my friend. While I might appreciate his concern, it stems from a misunderstanding of exactly what I hold to be the relationship of philosophy to apologetics and theology.

To illustrate what I am (and am not) saying, consider a child whose mother asks her to go pick a flower and bring it to her. The child knows what a flower is. She knows that there is a difference between the flower and her mommy. However, to delve deeper into the physical nature of a flower, one would need to understand botany (which would certainly be out of reach of the child). To delve deeper still into various aspects of the flower and the plant on which it blooms (for example, its photosynthesis), one would need to understand chemistry. Finally, to delve deeper still, one

would need to understand physics to grasp the workings of the plant at the atomic and sub-atomic levels.

Now suppose we wanted to account for a number of other aspects of the flower and the person of her mommy. What makes a flower a flower and makes a person a person are their respective natures (or essences). At least this is what I would maintain philosophically (though here, without argument). This would take us into the philosophical discipline of metaphysics (the study of the nature of reality). We can know beginning with our senses that one is a flower and the other is a person. This would take us into the philosophical discipline of epistemology (the study of the nature of the knowledge of reality). We value the person over the flower because of the different kinds of things they are. This would take us into the philosophical discipline of ethics. We insist that others value the person over the flower and hold them accountable when they don't. This would take us into the philosophical discipline of political philosophy. We can know that both the flower and the person cannot account for their own existence but are created by God. This would take us into the philosophical discipline of philosophy of religion.

So the upshot here is this. It's not so much that whenever one is doing apologetics or theology, he is *ipso facto* doing philosophy. Rather, there are elements of both apologetics and theology *the deeper analysis of which* requires philosophy. Anyone who wants to pick a flower is free to do so. Such activity is not reserved for the elites. But if one insists on commenting upon the deeper physical dimensions of the flower, he must take on the responsibility of these deeper natural sciences. By analogy, anyone who wants to defend the faith is free (and encouraged) to do so. Such a noble activity is not reserved for the elites. But if one insists on commenting upon the deeper philosophical dimensions of apologetics and theology, he must take on the responsibility of doing sound philosophy. †



### Your Fearless ISCA Leaders

**Richard G. Howe, President, Conference Coordinator, and Newsletter Editor**  
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Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics  
Southern Evangelical Seminary, Charlotte, NC  
Personal Website: richardghowe.com

**William C. Roach, Vice President and Journal Editor**  
Ph.D., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Dan Guinn, Treasurer**  
Founder and owner, Francis Schaeffer Studies  
Institute of Biblical Defense: instituteofbiblicaldefense.com  
Personal Website: danguinn.com

**Phil Fernandes, Secretary**  
Ph. D., Greenwich University  
Institute of Biblical Defense: instituteofbiblicaldefense.com  
Personal Website: philfernandes.org

**Tim Adkisson, Webmaster**  
Software Engineer

*New festschrift in  
honor of ISCA founder  
Norman L. Geisler!*

# I Am Put Here for the Defense of the Gospel

*Dr. Norman L. Geisler: A Festschrift in His Honor*



edited by  
Terry L. Miethe

**With personal tributes to Dr. Geisler and articles covering apologetics, biblical studies, philosophy, ethics, other religions and cults from contributors such as J. Kerby Anderson, John Ankerberg, Winfried Corduan, Wayne Detzler, F. David Farnell, David Geisler, Mark Hanna, Joseph M. Holden, Richard G. Howe, Thomas Howe, Walter C. Kaiser, Terry L. Miethe, William E. Nix, Paige Patterson, R. Phillip Roberts, Patty Tunnicliffe, Donald T. Williams, Ravi Zacharias, and more!**