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Creationism as Science

A symposium of three free lectures sponsored by The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science

Featured speaker: Dr. Todd Wood, Associate Professor of Science, Bryan College (Dayton, TN), and director of the Center for Origins Research



It is commonly assumed that creationism is merely a social movement by a fringe group of Christian fundamentalists intent on controlling public school education. What few people appreciate is that creationism has a long (and evolutionary) history of its own that exists independently of the activism of modern fundamentalists. This “other creationism” bears the hallmarks of an emerging approach to science, complete with journals, conferences, and genuine progress in research. These lectures will explore that progress over the past five hundred years.

10:00 am. The Failure of Creationism. At the emergence of modern science, many individuals treated Genesis as an historical document. Today, that is obviously not the case. At the heart of this shift is a particular mode of scriptural interpretation that allowed the historicity of Genesis to be set aside. An alternative creationist approach to science and scripture is developed in this lecture.

1:00 pm. The Progress of Creationism. A sampling of creationist ideas from the foundation of science to the present will be examined, with particular emphasis on the debates within creationism that have improved creationist understanding of nature.

3:00 pm. The Challenge of Creationism. Creationism has come far over the past five hundred years. Where will it go next? In addition to the need for further professionalization among creationists, three outstanding problems will be presented: starlight and the age of the universe, radiometric dating and the interpretation of the fossil record, and the meaning of homology in biology.

Saturday, 10 April 2010, from 10:00 am until 4:30 pm.

Location: Frey Hall, room 110, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Directions and a campus map are here
<http://www.messiah.edu/visitors/direction.html>.

Dr. Todd Charles Wood is Associate Professor of Science at Bryan College and director of the Center for Origins Research. His research interests include systematics, comparative genomics, and the history of biology. Dr. Wood has authored or co-authored more than 30 technical articles, two monographs, and the textbook, *Understanding the Pattern of Life* (B&H Publishing Group, 2003). In his spare time, he enjoys blogging and watching classic movies.

The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis (tdavis@messiah.edu), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.

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