

# Announcements

IRAS  
The Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

**Purpose**—IRAS is an independent society of scientists, philosophers, religion scholars, theologians, and others who want to understand the role of religion in our dynamic scientific world.

**Activities**—each year IRAS holds a week-long conference on Star Island, ten miles off the coast of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Topics are selected to be relevant to current scientific thinking and to fundamental religious questions. (IRAS members pay a reduced rate for conference registration.)

IRAS organizes events at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). IRAS has sponsored more than two hundred fifty meetings at universities, colleges, and theological schools.

**Publications**—*Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* and *IRAS Newsletter*. IRAS members receive subscriptions to these publications free of additional charge.

**Special Relationships**—Affiliated Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Member, Council of Societies for the Study of Religion (CSSR).

## Membership Dues

\$60.00 Individual Member

\$65.00 Joint Member (two memberships but one set of publications)

\$40.00 Student Member (requires copy of student ID)

\$110.00 Institutional Member (supports IRAS's work: \$54.00 is tax deductible)

Overseas members are assessed a surcharge to cover mailing costs.

**Invitation to Join**—If you are in accord with the purposes of IRAS and would like to become a member, please submit an application to the IRAS Council, which reviews and votes on applications at biannual meetings in February and July. For an application write to:

Nancy Anschutz, 26 Turning Mill Road, Lexington, MA 02173

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The Fiftieth Annual Star Island Conference  
Saturday, July 26, to Saturday, August 2, 2003

### Ecomorality

The international Earth Charter states that “the protection of the Earth’s vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.” In this conference we will explore the thesis that such a trust will best flourish if it is taken as a moral commitment—an ecomorality—infused with such qualities as mindfulness, empathy, fairmindedness, courage, reverence, and shared responsibility. This thesis generates three core questions:

1. What are human moral sensibilities and from where do they come?
2. What motivates a person to make moral choices even when such choices appear to be contrary to self-interest?
3. Why, or in what sense, should choices about protection of the Earth be considered moral choices?

During the plenary sessions, ethologists, neurobiologists, and philosophers will consider what is known and posited about the evolutionary roots and psychodynamics of human moral experience and motivation; religionists will consider how moral experience and motivation are conceptualized and celebrated in the understandings of Abrahamic, Buddhist, Confucian, Hindu, and indigenous traditions; and artists will invoke our ecosensibilities. Our goal will be to articulate ways to foster an abiding moral orientation toward the Earth, in ourselves and in our children. Afternoon sessions will focus on political and economic responses to particular environmental concerns such as population, habitat and species preservation, climate, and distribution of global resources.

Inherent in our approach throughout the week will be an orientation in the Evolutionary Story and its emergent understanding that creatures are deeply interrelated in their genetic histories, their life cycles, and their dependence on an Earth in balance.

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS: **Ursula Goodenough**, **Brian Swimme**, **Mary Evelyn Tucker**.

SPEAKERS: **Terrence Deacon** (University of California, Berkeley), how humans experience their minds; **Ursula Goodenough** (Washington University), human moral experience and moral beauty; **Paul Woodruff** (University of Texas, Austin), Greek moral philosophy; **Barbara Smuts** (University of Michigan), pro-social emotions and community in animals; **Stephanie Preston** (University of Iowa), the psychology of empathy; **Michael Kalton** (University of Washington), the Abrahamic traditions; **Brian Brown** (Iona College), Buddhism; **David Haberman** (Indiana University), Hinduism; **Mary Evelyn Tucker** (Bucknell University), Confucianism; **John Grim** (Bucknell University), indigenous traditions. *Chapel speaker*: **Brian Swimme** (California Institute of Integral Studies); *Minister of the week*: **Marjorie Davis**; *Coordinator of afternoon sessions*: **Andrew Millard** (University of Connecticut).

PROGRAM FOR YOUTH: Professionally designed and led program for ages 3 to 17.

COST: Conference fees are \$125/adult, plus a \$100 room deposit per person; \$100/child including children’s program (\$100 for IRAS members who register by March 10 and non-members who apply for membership by March 10), maximum/family \$500. Children under 3 are free, but parents are responsible for their care at all times. Room and board are payable on the island and are estimated to range from \$483 to \$626 per adult, and \$105 to \$411 per child (prices now include the 15% gratuity).

For further information and registration, contact:  
Bonnie Falla, Registrar, 810-1/2 No. 9th Street, Allentown, PA 18102  
(610) 432-8711 • mebjf01@moravian.edu  
or visit the IRAS web site at [www.IRAS.org](http://www.IRAS.org)