

# Evolution Learning Community Meeting

## April 20, 2005

**Attending:** Almeida, Cahoon, Dutton, Galizio, Gessner, Kelly, Kubasko, McCall, Noland, Peterson, Roer, Sawrey, Schmid, Song; several reported out of town or could not attend

**Basic accomplishments:** (1) initial plans for curriculum, education, and events program; (2) initial steering committee formed.

**Note:** these plans will require significant administrative support. Committee will need to finalize goals, meet with Provost and Chancellor in Fall semester before we can move forward. This is an ambitious agenda, and will need commitments from a number of people to take on discrete elements in the project.

### 1. Announcements

- **2 to Chatauqua:** Larry Cahoon and Dennis Kubasko will attend the U of Dayton Chatauqua on "Evolution and Creationism" May 4-7. KCB's office providing support, as well as Biology and Ed School. They will get back to us about their experience.
- **Resource Page/Website:** Elizabeth Peterson will begin construction of an "Evolution LC Resource Page". Please forward to her URLs and titles of sites you think should be on it. For starters—she'll probably develop more rubrics as we go on—please assign them to
  - i. general Evolution sites and organizational sites that address evolution issues;
  - ii. Research, if possible according to a subheading like "evolution and genetics" or "early human evolution" or "evolution and Social Darwinism" or "Creation science in high schools?"
  - iii. Research by UNCW professors and/or students;
  - iv. If you have 'favorite facts' you would like to contribute to a possible "Did you know?" section, pass them on also please

### 2. Committee Reports:

- **Curriculum**
  - i. **Classes:** Set of *Evolution Learning Community* courses similar to *Brown v. Board* model
    1. taught in many different departments
    2. several linked LC-type courses, team-taught and cross-listed
    3. involve SHS, MALS program
    4. develop interdisciplinary "Basic Studies-Natural Science" course called "Evolution of the Universe and Life"
  - ii. **Campus dialogue:** encourage discussion of (1) current place of evolution in UNCW education (2) misconceptions (esp. connection bet. evolution & Social Darwinism)
  - iii. **Other possible elements:**
    1. Student debates on various topics relating to evolution
    2. Friday faculty/grad student seminars
    3. SIGMA PSI involvement
    4. Public Service outreach
- **Education**
  - i. **For local teachers:**
    1. Develop an educational packet, incl. curricular materials linked to standard course of study, to share with teachers -- Fall, 2007 -- packet preparation
    2. 4-5 wk 1 day Sat seminars (inc. interdisciplinary) for local teachers on campus w/ renewal credit; with SMEC; for: Secondary/Middle School science
  - ii. **For students**
    1. Marine Quest possibilities (work with Ron Sizemore/Jack Hall)
      - a. Evolution/Change over time: 4th graders
      - b. Marine Quest "advanced" program Summer, 2008 thru Fall, 2008 ...the year before the celebration
    2. Summer Ventures; possible Literature Camp on Nature writers, videography, documentary
    3. "Life is Diverse" -- Field intensive course, relationships, collecting observational data,
    4. Evening programs for teachers; work w/Dutton/Demski - Community Affairs
    5. include non-UNCW students in travel Programs -- Galapagos Islands
- **Events:**
  - i. **7 major events/speakers in "Year of Darwin" 2008-2009**
    1. June 2008: Summer Institute at UNCW: (1) NEH Institute by UNCW faculty for h.s. teachers, other faculty OR (2) NCHC Teacher Institute
    2. Feb 2009: Major Speaker e.g. "Darwin's Journey"
    3. March 2009: Convocation of Nobel Laureates at UNCW

4. Apr 2009: Major Speaker e.g. "Evolution vs. Creationism?"
5. June 2009: trip to Galapagos (or Patagonia) open to 200+ students/faculty & perhaps w/ Student Affairs and/or Continuing Studies
6. Oct 2009: Major Speaker e.g. "Human Origins"
7. Nov 2009: Scholarly Symposium on e.g. "The Evolutionary Synthesis in Contemporary Science"

**ii. Related programmatic ideas**

1. Art work:
  - a. Publication of "Galapagos" issue of *Ecotone* in Spring 2008
  - b. Film series on Evolution involving documentary and non-documentary films in Fall 2008
  - c. Displays: at Library; at new Cultural Center; World Cultures showcases, departmental cases; art work relating to Evolution
  - d. Play on evolution theme
2. Ed School program on politics of evolution vs. creation, selection of biological science textbooks by school boards
3. "Short course" preparatory sessions for faculty, e.g. Tricia Kelley on "Evolution vs. Faith: A False Antithesis", Paleontological Society, Geological Society of America will support workshops, Ronald Numbers, Conrad Hyers

**iii. Darwin Scholars Program**

1. Reserve ¼ of all CAS/Cahill Research, CAS/CTE Teaching Initiatives for summer 07 for Evolution-related topics, courses
2. Reserve ½ of all CAS/Cahill Research, CAS/CTE Teaching Initiatives for summer 08 for Evolution-related topics, courses
3. Hire 1 2 yr "Darwin Teaching Scholar" 2008-2010 to teach 3/2 load with one course for faculty, grad students in Evolution theme
4. Orient ½ of all Fall 2009 LC courses to Evolution theme
5. Faculty who are selected for initiatives, workshops, teaching institutes, etc. to become "Darwin Scholars" – involve in various ELC events, programs

3. **Preliminary Steering Committee for Sum-Fall 2005:** Berkeley, Bruce, Cahoon, Dutton, Kelly, McCall, Schmid. We will add people as needed, and add "stand-ins" for members.

**Current participant list:** Almeida, Paulo; Ashe, Diana; Atwill, Bill; Bailey, Jeffrey Craig; Berkeley, Kathleen; Bolen, Eric; Bruce, Katherine; Burt, Raymond; Cahoon, Larry; Clements, Caroline; Cody, Sue; Demski, Stephen; Dodd, Diane; Dutton, Karel L.; Galizio, Mark; Gessner, David; Hagley, Ron; Hall, Jack; Hancock, Robert; Kelley, Patricia; Koopman, Heather; Kubasco, Dennis; Hooker, Shannon; Hosier, Paul; Laws, Richard; Mccall, Robert Dale; McCarthy, William; Noland, Daniel; Peterson, Elizabeth; Posey, Martin; Roer, Robert; Sawrey, Damon Kim; Song, Bongkeun; Turrisi, Patty; Whitlock, Pam;