

ELC committee meeting Jan 23 12-1 SB 207: Bruce; Kelley; McCall; McCartney; Posey; Schmid; Shepherd (from OSP/GradS).

Executive Committee meetings with UNCW administrators.

- Brief summaries by Tricia and Dale. Bottom line: top administration is supportive, but concern voiced that program should not be a 'rant' vs. believers in creation. Tricia noted "this can be done right," that she has had very good experiences giving her lecture "Evolution and Creation: Conflicting or Compatible?" on this topic (as e.g. on 1/19 at UA/Tuscaloosa). Martin P suggested we enlist Tricia for an initial public lecture in Fall 2006, and have another lecture linked to this topic in F08. (At previous meeting, Larry C had noted that one of the chief concerns of religious people re: evolution is how it is often linked in the public mind to social Darwinism, and that detaching this connection is part of the educational mission we should commit ourselves to.)

ELC Discussion group of UNCW faculty teaching evolution?

- Pablo Almeida, partly as a result of our discussions last fall, reported he is making biomolecular evolution a (the) main theme of his MS graduate chemistry class. This prompted the thought that UNCW instructors who currently make evolution a central theme in their classes, e.g. Mike McCartney's BIO 430, ATN 210, Pablo, Tricia and others might form a "discussion group" to consider how they might work together to promote/advance the teaching of evolution here on campus. (This could include e.g. exchanging class presentations, developing a "speaker's bureau" for presentations here on campus of specific topics on evolution, or even consideration of how UNCW faculty could be involved in planning a NCHC summer teaching institute for h.s. teachers on Evolution and Biological Science.)

Involvement of the High Schools/WSE

- We also discussed this topic, noting that there was some caution at WSE regarding the program, and the high % of people who say they are Creationists among h.s. science teachers. So far, the only member of WSE involved in the ELC is Dennis Kubasco, an assistant professor. Ex Cmte hopes to meet soon to talk with (a) Dean Barlow; (b) SMEC; (c) involve h.s. teachers from local 4, Pender and Brunswick counties in an upcoming meeting.

Upcoming Events in February

- 2 pm Feb 2 Tricia Kelly, "Teaching Controversial Issues: Evolution vs. Creation" CTE workshop series
- 3 pm Feb 3 Ellis Yochelson, "Discovery and Collection of the Burgess Shale: the Career of C. D. Walcott", DeLoach 114.
- 7 pm Feb 15 Michael Ruse, "Evolution vs. Creation" Warwick Center Ballroom
- 7 pm Feb 23 Gary Comstock, "Altering Nature: the Ethics of Biotechnology" Dobo 134

Executive Council:

- Kathleen had to withdraw from the committee for now; Tom S elected to replace her, will continue as secretary.

Next steps:

- Ex Cmte presentation to BOT, as soon as we develop a budget
- Begin serious planning of trip(s) to Galapagos Islands (Kim S has started this). May want to plan for sum 08, rather than 09 (or both).
- Ex Cmte to meet 11am Feb 2. We will focus on a tighter plan for the program as a whole, as well as a preliminary budget.