

Evolution Learning Community
Full Committee Meeting
March 12, 2008
12:00 – 1:15 p.m., Cameron 110

In attendance: Bruce, Burchfield, Eshleman, Gessner, Herman, Horan, James, Kelley, McCall, Meinhold, Roer, Schmid, Sepkoski, Turrisi, Visaggi

1) Reports on activities since previous meeting

- Kelley reported that Darwin Scholars proposals have been awarded: 14 proposals received, 9 funded
 - Sepkoski has scheduled Eldredge for 9/18/08
 - No others have been scheduled yet – hosts need to confer with Kelley re scheduling
- REU proposal recommended for funding by NSF; applications being received
- Kelley reviewed Spring 08 ELC events:
 - O'Brien lecture
 - *Flock of Dodos* screening and panel
 - Miller lecture and book group
 - Community outreach: Kelley continuing studies course, McCall lectures
- Turrisi reported on freshman common reading decision
 - *Reluctant Mr. Darwin* was not selected, but book recommended (Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*) has biology/bioethics implications to which ELC can connect
 - Brief discussion on how to promote reading of *Reluctant Mr. Darwin* (some courses requiring it, e.g., Gessner and Sawrey; could have departmental reading groups; ask Faculty Senate to promote it; have reading groups in connection with Quammen visit; fall visit by Quammen could build interest for spring semester events)

2) Reports on planning for future events:

- Sepkoski inquired about Darwin Day 2009 activities (which will center on *Great Tennessee Monkey Trial*) and suggested major celebration needs to be planned (e.g., birthday party, T-shirts etc)
- Gessner reported on plans for *Ecotone* special issue, January 2009
 - Gerard has suggested publication as hard-cover book
 - Should incorporate writings by several scientists or others outside of creative writing to provide balance
 - Bruce suggested contributions by Visiting Darwin Scholars
 - Email Gessner with suggestions for contributors
 - *Ecotone* website (<http://www.ecotonejournal.com/index.html>) also advertising for entries with \$1000 grand prize; 40 entries received so far; submission deadline 10/15/08
 - Volume could be used for book groups in Spring 09
- Kelley stated that we need a more complete list of ELC-related courses for next year
 - Schmid will send request to each department chair
 - Gessner suggested that creative writing publications lab could turn list into a brochure
- Turrisi suggested publishing edited transcripts of Visiting Darwin Scholars talks in a “proceedings” volume

- Kelley reported that Galapagos itinerary being developed; could occur in either March or May 2009 depending on pricing
- Herman reported on plans for *Journal of Effective Teaching*, special issue fall 2009
 - Normally publish two issues/year; this would be an additional special topics issue
 - Initial announcement in current issue; official call for papers this summer
 - Closing date will be May 09
 - ELC members would be asked to serve as reviewers
- Visaggi reported on activities to update website; separate site will be needed for student conference; she and Herman will meet with Fritzler
- Student conference 3/19-3/21/09
 - Kelley and Visaggi met with Mark Hurt of Marketing and Communications re design of “Save the Date” postcard for conference; still need to decide on print run, conference title
 - After discussion, group finalized conference title: “Darwin’s Legacy: Evolution’s Impact on Science and Culture”
 - Print run of 2500