

Evolution Learning Community
Executive Council meeting with Provost Brian Chapman
August 13, 2008
Provost's office, 11:00 am -12:00 noon

In attendance: Tricia Kelley, Dale McCall, Tom Schmid, Provost Brian Chapman

Executive Council met with new Provost Brian Chapman to familiarize him with ELC program, activities planned for AY 08-09, and request confirmation of the support promised by Provost Hosier for AY 08-09.

Executive Council went through the attached document with the Provost, providing an overview of the ELC, its development, participants, and activities (including Visiting Darwin Scholars, community outreach, and faculty and student research and development opportunities).

Provost stated that he was impressed with the breadth of the program and expressed strong interest in it. He would like to participate in as many ELC activities as possible.

Executive Council also presented the commitments made by former Provost Hosier for support of the ELC in AY 08-09:

- Visiting Darwin Scholars support - \$50,000
- Administration of program
 - To provide release time of 1 course/semester for PK in AY 2008-2009, an additional one-half TA was promised to GAG in lieu of hiring a part-time instructor (\$4500)
 - Stipend for PK's Marine Biology PhD student Visaggi to assist in administering program (conflicting figures in Academic Affairs budget of \$18,000 vs \$19,000; the latter figure would compensate Visaggi for ELC support during the summer)
- Scholars conference - \$25,000 (\$10,000 for student travel grants; \$15,000 for 3 keynote speakers) + \$2600 for fees for use of Burney Center

Provost recalled seeing the figure of \$50,000 for Darwin Scholars but has not yet had opportunity to review the ELC budget commitments. He will confirm budget details with ELC after he has opportunity to review these commitments.

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8/13/08

(<http://library.uncw.edu/evolution>)

What is the Evolution Learning Community?

The Evolution Learning Community is a three-year campus-wide initiative, spurred by the 2009 Darwin anniversaries, dedicated to study of the theory of evolution and its scientific, social, and moral significance. From 2006-2009, we are coordinating educational and cultural events for students, faculty, staff, and the greater community to increase awareness and critical discussion of the role of evolutionary principles in the natural and social sciences and in relation to our philosophical, historical, artistic, and literary modes of reflection on life.

How did the ELC develop?

The ELC developed as a grass-roots effort of faculty. Following the successful *Brown v. Board of Education* Learning Community (Spring 2004), Tom Schmid issued an open invitation to faculty and staff in January 2005 to discuss the feasibility of a multiyear, interdisciplinary Evolution Learning Community. A core group of ~ 30 faculty and staff initiated planning in Spring 2005; the Chancellor, Provost, and Deans added their support in Fall 2005. Faculty Senate endorsed the ELC in November, 2006. To date, ~75 faculty, staff, and students have been active in planning ELC events.

What units are involved?

Academic Affairs

College of Arts and Sciences (Anthropology, Art and Art History, Biology and Marine Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Creative Writing, English, Environmental Studies, Foreign Languages & Literatures, Geography and Geology, History, Philosophy & Religion, Psychology, Public and International Affairs)

Graduate School

School of Nursing

University College

Watson School of Education

Center for Faculty Leadership

Center for Marine Science

Center for Teaching Excellence

Honors Scholars Program

Randall Library

Research Services & Sponsored Programs

Public Service & Continuing Studies

Student Affairs (UNCW Presents)

Overview of ELC activities:

Formal ELC-related courses (> 50 courses per semester)
Visiting Darwin Scholars lecture series
Educational enrichment activities (discussion groups, Honors enrichment seminars)
Cultural events (film, theater productions, art show)
Community outreach (public lectures, Continuing Studies courses)
Faculty professional development (Cahill, CTE, travel grants)
Student research opportunities (NSF REU program)
Student research conference
ELC-related publications (*Ecotone*, *Journal of Effective Teaching*)
International travel (Galapagos – Honors and Continuing Studies)
UNCW's venue for participation in AASCU's American Democracy Project

ELC Administration:

Executive Council:

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(Administrative Director)

Dr. R. Dale McCall
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Dr. W. Thomas Schmid
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Administrative Assistant:

Christy Visaggi
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Academic Affairs commitment to ELC, AY 2008-2009:

Evolution Learning Communities (2 of 2 years)	
Darwin Scholars (2 of 2 years) (Patricia)	(50,000)
Graduate Stipends (C. Visaggi)	(18,000)
TA in Geography & Geology	(4,500)
Student Conference	(25,000)
Bunney Rental for Student Conference M	(2,600)

\$19,000?

VISITING DARWIN SCHOLARS LECTURE SERIES

2006-2007

Paul Ewald, "Evolution of Infectious Disease," 11/8/06 (supported by 11 different academic units)

E.O. Wilson, "The Future of Life," 3/19/07 (Leadership Lecture Series, co-sponsored by Honors Scholars Program)

Mary Schweizer, "*T. rex* under the microscope: A new look at an old dinosaur" (funded by Sigma Xi)

2007-2008

Cory Dean, "God, Darwin and the American Constitution," 9/19/07 (Constitution Day Speaker, co-funded with New York Times/American Democracy Project)

Stephen O'Brien, "Felidae Genomics for Conservation, Species Recognition and the Rest: One Amazing Journey," 1/9/08.

Ken Miller, "Darwin, God, and Design: the Battle for America's Scientific Soul," 2/26/08 (Honors Spring Speaker; Honors initiated Reading Group, Jan 11-Feb 26).

Frederick Nijhout, "The Origin and Development of Polyphenisms in *Precis octavia*," 4/13/08 (Sigma Xi speaker)

2008-2009

Visiting Darwin Scholars competition: 14 proposals submitted, 9 funded to bring evolution-related scholars to UNCW during AY 08-09 (funded proposals from ANT, BIO, CRW, ENG, FLL, GAG, HST, ITFSE, PAR, PSY)

Niles Eldredge, "Darwin: Discovering the Tree of Life," 9/17/08 (hosted by HST and GAG).

Richard Leakey, "Why Our Origins Matter," 10/13/08 (sponsored by Leadership Lecture Series and Honors)

Tina Gianquitto, 11/5/08 (hosted by ENG; her research examines the impact of Darwin on women writers and intellectuals in the 19th and 20th centuries).

Eugenie Scott, 1/29/09 (hosted by GAG, ITFSE, and ANT; Scott is Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education).

Dirk Robert Johnson, 2/9 – 2/10/09 (hosted by FLL; his scholarly work explores the intellectual interaction between Darwin and Nietzsche).

David Quammen, 3/30 – 3-31/09 (hosted by CRW; award-winning author of *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*).

The following are keynote speakers at the Student Conference, 3/19 – 3/21/9:

David Buss (hosted by PAR and PSY; leading theorist in evolutionary psychology)

Kevin Padian (hosted by GAG; vertebrate paleontologist and witness at Dover trial)

Other speakers (dates TBD):

Philip Kitcher (hosted by PAR), David Mindell (hosted by BIO), Sarah Tishkoff (hosted by BIO)

EVOLUTION LEARNING COMMUNITY
Community Outreach

In addition to public lectures by Visiting Darwin Scholars, the following outreach activities are related to ELC:

Public lectures by UNCW faculty:

- Darwin Day Speaker, Patricia Kelley, "Evolution and Creation: Conflicting or Compatible?"
2/12/07 (National Association of Geoscience Teachers Distinguished Speaker)
- Zullo Memorial Lecture, Patricia Kelley, "Evolution and Creation: Conflicting or Compatible?"
10/17/07
- College Day lecture, Marcel Van Tuinen, "Will genetics bring dinosaurs back from extinction?"
10/27/07
- Sons of the American Revolution/Daughters of the American Revolution lecture, Dale McCall,
"Genealogy by Molecules," 2/3/08
- American Humanist Society lecture, Dale McCall, "A Primer On the Study of Human
Dispersions," 2/10/08
- North Carolina Shell Club lecture, Patricia Kelley, "The arms race from a snail's perspective:
evolution of carnivorous moonsnails and their victims," 9/26/08

Continuing Studies courses and lectures:

- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNCW Super Saturday on "Evolution: The Changing Shape
of Life," Patricia Kelley, Tom Schmid, Dale McCall, 11/10/08
- Continuing Studies course by Patricia Kelley on "Evolution, Creationism, and the Bible:
Reconciling Science and Faith," Monday nights in February 2008 in Southport, NC
- Continuing Studies Pathway speaker, Patricia Kelley, "Science, Religion, and the Dangers of
Intelligent Design," 11/5/08
- Continuing Studies tour of Ecuador/Galapagos Islands, instructor Patricia Kelley, 5/11 – 5/19/09

Cultural events:

- Darwin Day screening of *Flock of Dodos* with executive producer Stephen Miller, including
panel discussion, 2/12/08
- LA Theatreworks production of *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial* 2/18/09 (to be preceded by
Darwin Day panel)
- Art Show by students in Intermediate Graphic Design course (instructor Ned Irvine) in
conjunction with Student Conference

Discussion groups with community participants:

- Honors-sponsored reading group, weekly discussions of *Finding Darwin's God*, in preparation
for Ken Miller's visit, spring 2008
- Honors-sponsored reading group, weekly discussions of publications by Visiting Darwin
Scholars, AY 2008-2009

FACULTY AND STUDENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Faculty research and professional development:

Center for Faculty Leadership support of faculty attendance at Chautauqua course on teaching evolution, October 2006

Academic Affairs support for Schmid and Kelley to attend American Democracy Project annual meeting to present ELC program (2007, 2008)

ELC-related Cahill awards to McCartney (BIO), Sepkoski (HST), van Tuinen (BIO), Horan (PIA), and Koopman (BIO)

Opportunities for evolution-related publications in special issues of *Ecotone* and *Journal of Effective Teaching*

Student research opportunities:

National Science Foundation award to UNCW:

“REU Site: Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Biodiversity Conservation,” \$359,997, 2008-2011

<http://www.uncw.edu/earsce/reu/overview.htm>

Program objective: A multidisciplinary group of students and faculty will compare fossil, archeological and modern marine samples to study how the marine ecosystem has changed through time. We will determine the degree and nature of human impact, assess the health of the modern system, and identify possible approaches to protecting biodiversity.

Principal Investigator Patricia H. Kelley; participating faculty include ELC members Richard Laws (GAG), Martin Posey (BIO), and Jack Hall (EVS), and ELC administrative assistant Christy Visaggi (Kelley’s PhD student in BIO/Instructor in GAG); subawards to UNC and Paleontological Research Institution at Cornell

First cohort has just finished; included students from UNC, UNCP, ECSU, William & Mary, Lafayette, Dartmouth, SUNY CESF, California State Fullerton, University of Puerto Rico; several expressed interested in pursuing graduate school at UNCW.

Student Research Conference 3/19 – 3/21/09:

Darwin’s Legacy: Evolution’s Impact on Science and Culture – A Multidisciplinary Student Conference

The conference is open to undergraduate and graduate students in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and arts who are conducting research or creative endeavors related to evolution. Faculty supervising student research are also encouraged to attend.

In addition to oral and poster presentations of their research by students, the conference will also feature keynote speakers and cultural events, as well as a graduate school forum.

The venue will be the Burney Center, with a welcome party at CMS.