

Evolution Learning Community
Executive Council meeting with Provost Paul Hosier
January 17, 2008
AL 211, 1:00-2:00 pm

In attendance: Tricia Kelley, Dale McCall, Tom Schmid, Provost Paul Hosier

Executive Council members met with Provost Paul Hosier to review ELC activities of AY 07-08, discuss ongoing and future activities, and request support for AY 08-09.

Provost was informed of the following ELC activities that have taken place this year or are planned.

Fall 07 events:

- ELC-related speakers (Constitution Day lecture by Cory Dean, 9/19; A. Zullo Memorial Lecture by Patricia Kelley, 10/17; College Day lecture by Marcel van Tuinen, 10/27; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute “Super Saturday” on “Evolution: The Changing Shape of Life,” presented by Kelley, Schmid, and McCall, 11/10)
- Submission of REU proposal to NSF for ELC-related project on biodiversity conservation; 1/3/08 announcement of funding at level of \$360,000 for 3 years
- Visiting Darwin Scholars competition: 14 proposals submitted, 9 will be funded to bring evolution-related scholars to UNCW during AY 08-09 (see attached list)

Spring 08 events:

- ELC-related campus speakers (Stephen O’Brien, 1/9/08; Kenneth Miller, Honors Spring Speaker, 2/26/08. Noted this was a good example of what the University means by a “powerful learning experience,” as the lecture was attended by an overflow crowd of students and faculty, who were all engaged by his science and his story of the spread of the AIDS virus to many other species, including lions.
- Honors-sponsored weekly reading group on Miller’s *Finding Darwin’s God*
- Community outreach (Continuing Studies course by Kelley on “Evolution, Creationism, and the Bible: Reconciling Science and Faith”; talks by McCall to Sons of the American Revolution/Daughters of the American Revolution and American Humanist Society)
- Darwin Day screening of *Flock of Dodos* with executive producer Steven Miller, including panel discussion, 2/12/08

Ongoing efforts:

- Collaboration with General College
- Lecture series by campus Darwin Scholars (i.e. Cahill winners), organized by van Tuinen
- Enhancement of resources for teaching evolution (taped lectures on fundamentals of evolution given by UNCW faculty; library project to enhance evolution holdings)
- Revamping of ELC internet presence
- Two additional NSF proposals were planned, involving collaboration with Cape Fear Museum and to Division of Undergraduate Education but Kelley will be occupied with REU project and is unable to serve as PI (may go forward if another PI volunteers)

Plans for AY 08-09 and F09:

- Visiting Darwin Scholars, spring and fall 08-09; to be continued in F09 if funds available
- ELC-related issue of *Ecotone*, spring 2009 publication

- LA Theatreworks production of *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial* 2/18/09 (to be preceded by Darwin Day panel featuring Dover trial witness Padian)
- Honors/Continuing Studies travel to Galapagos, March 2009
- Student Scholars Conference, March 2009, on “Darwin’s Impact on the Sciences and Humanities”
- Evolution-related issue of *Journal of Effective Teaching*, Fall 2009
- Convocation of Nobel Laureates being spearheaded by Dean Roer and Graduate School
- Displays/showcases

Success of the ELC was discussed as a model for future “theme year” programs at UNCW, and how such programs can contribute to the UNCW mission of providing a “powerful learning experience.”

The Provost agreed to provide the following in AY 08-09 for support of the ELC:

- Administration of program
 - To provide release time of 1 course/semester for PK in AY 2008-2009, an additional one-half TA will be provided 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 in AY 2008-2009 (\$16,000)
- Scholars conference - \$25,000 (\$10,000 for student travel grants; \$15,000 for 3 keynote speakers)

Visiting Darwin Scholars
AY 2008-2009

David Buss, University of Texas Austin (sponsored by PAR and PSY). Leading theorist in evolutionary psychology, especially human sex differences in mate selection.

Niles Eldredge, American Museum of Natural History, New York (sponsored by HST and GAG). Paleontologist and evolutionary theorist, including co-authoring the paradigm-changing theory of punctuated equilibrium; lead curator of AMNH Darwin Exhibit.

Tina Gianquitto, Colorado School of Mines (sponsored by English). Her research examines the impact of Darwin on women writers and intellectuals in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Dirk Robert Johnson, Hampden-Sydney College (sponsored by FLL). His scholarly work explores the intellectual interaction between Darwin and Nietzsche, and Darwin's influence on the evolution of Nietzsche's thought.

Philip Kitcher, Columbia University (sponsored by PAR). Renowned philosopher of science and winner of the American Philosophical Association's Prometheus Prize, whose current research explores the evolution of human ethics.

Richard Lenski, Michigan State University (sponsored by BIO). Winner of a MacArthur Fellowship and member of the National Academy of Sciences, Lenski is known for his experimental evolution research using bacteria and host-parasite interactions.

David Quammen, Montana State University (sponsored by CRW). Award-winning nature writer and author of (among many books) *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*.

Eugenie Scott, Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education (sponsored by GAG, ITFSE, and ANT). A physical anthropologist, she is best known for her contributions to evolution education through the NCSE, a not-for-profit organization devoted to the defense of teaching evolution in the public schools.

Sarah Tishkoff, University of Pennsylvania (sponsored by BIO). Leader in molecular anthropology, particularly applied to human origins and evolution and the concept of human race; involved with African Genomic Diversity Project.