

Think & Believe

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Evolutionary Teaching in the Classroom

by *Steve Austin*



Last fall, I was privileged to take a botany class at the local college. The reason for my taking the class was to broaden my knowledge of plants

and how to identify certain groups. Unfortunately, a significant portion of the lecture phase of the course included teachings regarding the theory of evolution, as it related to plants. Fortunately, I am well grounded in creationism, so the professor was not able to change my mind.

This experience illustrated to me the pressures young students have when they attend the secular colleges and universities and are exposed to the teachings of evolution. Creationism was taught as incorrect, and evidence was presented to back up that contention, however I was knowledgeable enough to recognize that such evidence was based on serious misconceptions. Primarily, the professor did not understand the difference between micro-evolution (adaptation within the kind) and macro-evolution (changes from one kind to another).

Although I wanted to voice an objection and correct this misconception, I was forced to bite my tongue, because at the beginning

of the course the professor indicated he had the right to remove anyone who was disruptive. Furthermore, I had been previously warned that he had an intense dislike for creationism in general. Thus, I was relegated to mentally shaking my head in sadness whenever the subject of evolution was presented.

Parents, if you truly love your children, and want them well grounded in the truth of the Gospel, diligently prepare them for such encounters at the college, high school, and even middle school level. The teaching of evolution is so deeply ingrained in conventional scientific thought that those presenting such material are blind to the reality that what they are teaching is in effect religion. Yet, they consider creationism to be religion. It saddens me to see how many have fallen prey to that lie of the enemy.

Remember, the teachings of evolution contend that we evolved from monkeys, or from some other intermediate ancestor. Thus, if we

follow that teaching to its logical conclusion, we would recognize that it implies the Bible is not true, and simply a collection of stories and myths; and if that is true about the Bible, then God does not exist, and we have no need of a Savior. **T&B**

**Coming to
Grand Junction in
September:**

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With all the speculation on how the world and man came into being, does it really matter what the Bible has to say on this subject? Join us for an exciting, in-depth inductive study of the book of Genesis. This foundational study will help you understand God's Word, bring healing to your soul, and give direction to your life. Although this is first and foremost a Bible study, supplemental articles, video lectures, and optional field trips will help you learn to view science in a manner consistent with the truths of Scripture. Space is limited. Call now for more information, (970) 523-9943.

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Aug 20-25**

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So You Want to be an AOI Intern?

by Andrea Korow/Gretchen Schrier

Some of you have asked about the AOI intern program, wondering, What would I do, who is eligible, how long does it



take, etc? A good way to let you know more is through an interview with one of our current interns, Gretchen

Schrier. She attended a field trip to the Grand Canyon in March of this year led by Dave and Mary Jo and thoroughly enjoyed it. They, in turn, were eager to invite her to Grand Junction for an AOI internship when they saw her willingness, giftings and desire to learn more about Creation.

Gretchen is trained as an RN and worked 2 1/2 years in Lancaster, PA, on a rehab floor of a large hospital. She then graduated from Jackson Hole Bible College in May and soon after joined AOI.

Here is her story:

Q: How did you become interested in Creation?

Well, mostly through attending Jackson Hole Bible College where I came face to face with the many evidences for Creation. The school has a strong influence from the teachings of Ken Ham (Answers in Genesis) and Dave Nutting (Alpha Omega Institute).

Even earlier than that, though, at 6th or 7th grade, I asked my father, Did dinosaurs live with us and were they on the ark? We read and simply *believed* Genesis in faith, but he didn't really have any scientific answers for me. It was heart-wrenching! He said,

One day you will have to ask Jesus how it all happened. I was devastated not having answers and left wondering.

Q: How does your family feel about your views on Creation?

They are believers and are very supportive of what I am learning here. My father has had a lot of good Bible training, and even did a thesis paper on Genesis. They, too, have been strengthened and reinforced in their faith as I learn more and more about Creation.

Q: What do you do as an intern with AOI?

Well, that varies! The really exciting part is having access to AOI's **Resource Library**. I couldn't wait to delve into the nearly 1,000 books and videos. I am reading and watching as much as I can. After each one I write a brief summary and develop a short list of study questions. I also help out around the AOI office as needed. Later, I will attend and help at the Creation Mountain Adventures Camps at Twin Peaks and Camp Red Cloud.

Q: What do you like most about doing an internship?

There are three things. First is the huge opportunity to learn more about the many evidences for Creation. Second, the chance to actually formulate and create presentations and/or seminars for children. It's not all theoretical. Third, being able to use this information to point people to our Savior and Creator, Jesus.

Q: What would you say to someone

considering an AOI internship?

Come and learn so you can go! Seriously, an internship will help you become well-acclimated with a wide variety of areas in the Bible. Your training can easily be incorporated into any area of life, whether you are working, in ministry or active in your local church. Genesis is foundational to understanding and living out the whole Bible.

Q: Who would you recommend an internship to?

Everyone! Well, especially retired people, home schoolers or someone just out of high school or college. People in these groups may have the flexibility to "just pull their trailer over to Grand Junction" for a few months. [Ed. Note: you don't have to have a trailer!] **T&B**

It has been a real blessing having Gretchen living with us as she works on her internship. Right now we have another intern also staying with us. If we get too many more, we might have to build a

dormitory!! However, that is partly why the need for the Elk Creek Retreat and Training Center. We

really would like to have many more interns preparing to share the word and creation message. Make sure you read carefully the Elk Creek Update on the back page--Dave & Mary Jo Nutting.



10 Best Evidences for Creation

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting and Dan Korow



1. The Fossil Record.

The fossil record provides evidence for a complex, instantaneous creation. Why? A: The lower geological layers reveal a sudden proliferation of complex life forms with every phyla represented. This Cambrian Explosion or "Big Bang" of life is preceded by no simpler forms. B: Today's living forms show no change from their supposed ancient ancestors. C: There are large and systematic gaps between the different ~~kinds of fossils rather than gradual, evolutionary changes.~~



2. Irreducible Complexity

Prepackaged, highly engineered systems exist in our bodies that are so complex they defy evolutionary explanations. These systems involve integrated multiple parts and reactions that work together only as a whole. If you eliminate any one piece, none of the system works at all. Evolution supposedly operates by natural selection perfecting less developed systems. However, natural selection requires something working and in place to perfect! Examples in the human body are the immune system, blood clotting, and any one of hundreds of biochemical pathways.



3. Gaps in the Living World

If isolated members of a species change by evolutionary processes, the main population group can still ~~continue. We should be able to read the~~ history of the evolutionary progression right across the very top of the evolutionary branching tree. We can't! Just as the fossil record contains large systematic gaps, the living world does too. We see evidence for creation of distinct kinds—not one kind changing into another.



4. Laws of Probability

The odds are enormously great against the successful occurrence of each of the myriads of needed evolutionary changes! Even the probability of 1 small protein occurring by accident is 1 chance out of 10^{260} . Since we have thousands of even larger proteins, it is inconceivable they all happened by chance. Coupling that with intricate structures like eyes, wings,

hearts, lungs, etc., the laws of probability scream out, "Creation!"



5. Law of Cause and Effect:

The Law of Cause and Effect is one of the best documented principles of science and of everyday experience. Every event must have a sufficient cause. Since the origin of the universe and the origin of life are events, they too must have a cause. The physical universe consisting of time, space, energy, and matter must all have a cause ~~outside themselves. Likewise, life must~~ have a living Cause. Following this reasoning to its logical conclusion, leads to an infinite, eternal, powerful, intelligent, living First Cause—our awesome Creator!



6. Chicken or Egg Principle

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? This question has plagued philosophers for a long time. The question is even deeper, however. Chickens have many proteins. Each protein is coded for by the DNA/RNA system. However, many specific proteins are needed in order to manufacture DNA/RNA. So which came first: proteins or DNA/RNA? The logical explanation is that they were both created.



7. Intelligent Design

Intelligent Design demands an Intelligent Designer. The airplane, computer, and digital camera originated not by random, undirected, ~~chance processes, but by engineering~~ genius. Such sophisticated achievements however, pale in comparison to the extremely complex, systematically ordered, precision regulated systems of living tissue. The superior flight of the dragonfly, the mind boggling information mega-processor of the human brain, and the eye as a self-focusing, fully-automatic, high resolution, 3-D motion picture camera are the natural prototypes for our acclaimed tech marvels. It is scientifically inconceivable, unreasonable and illogical to credit blind, brainless chance as their maker. God alone is wise without limits, and deserves the Glory.



8. The Anthropic Principle

The Anthropic Principle observes that the universe,

including our beautiful, blue planet appears to have been specifically designed for man to inhabit (just as Isaiah 45:18 says). Without the delicate balance of multitudes of physical properties, life would be impossible. Examples include the strength of the four basic forces in the universe (gravitational, electromagnetic, strong and weak nuclear forces), the size and shape of the earth, the distance from earth to sun, the tilt of the earth's axis, the concentration of atmospheric gases, and the presence of abundant liquid water. It couldn't just happen.



9. Information Theory

Information has intelligence as

its source, not haphazard chaotic chance. A computer programmer instills purpose, plan, and design by implementing and organizing recognizable bits of data into an understandable language framework. In biological systems, information is encoded as DNA, the programmed software of cells. As evolutionist Dr. Micheal Denton says in his book **Evolution: A Theory in Crisis**, "The capacity of DNA to store information vastly exceeds that of any other known system; it is so efficient that all the information needed to specify an organism as complex as man weighs less than a few thousand millionths of a gram." Since raw organic molecules have no intrinsic cognitive capacity, who injected the information into the DNA? God alone is able.



10. Extreme Complexity

Complexity beyond compre-

hension characterizes all life forms, including the so-called simple cell. As Dr. Micheal Denton states referring to the cell, "...we would find ourselves in a world of supreme technology and bewildering complexity...beyond our own creative capacities. Everything, from atomic structures to cells, organs, organ systems, and living creatures speaks of incredible order, balance, and unity as a whole.



and God Said It!

It is really hard to argue with the only One who claims to have been there when the universe and life began. He said He created everything to reproduce "after its own kind" — not one kind changing into another. **T&B**

Elk Creek Ranch Update

by Dave Nutting/Dave Harper

We appreciate all of you who have prayed and helped with the Elk Creek Training and Retreat Center project. We are all eager to



start building and utilizing the property. We believe very strongly in the need for this training and retreat

center. While it will also be used for retreats, our main goal is to train a multitude of interns to bring the creation message to their churches, schools, and communities. However, we cannot move ahead until we fulfill the county's required planning and permitting process. This requires completion of costly engineering projects.

To this point, we have depended mostly on volunteers for the needed engineering and design. These volunteer engineers have saved us thousands of dollars in engineering fees. We are very grateful for their generosity and willingness to serve the Lord with their time and abilities. However, at this point, we have some vital projects waiting and no volunteers to do them. Therefore, we have needed to begin hiring engineers to complete this work in a timely manner.



This whole thing is a God-sized project that is certainly beyond our limited resources. So, we need to be faithful to take each step He directs--one step at a time! This engineering is the next step.

Please pray with us:

1. That God's people would increasingly send funds designated to the Elk Creek Project
2. That God will provide specialists to complete the work in a timely fashion at a reasonable cost. (Contact us if you know engineers or others who would be willing to help.)
3. That we can complete the county's planning and permit process soon.

Ask God what He would have you do to help.



Note: As you give, please do not neglect the ongoing creation ministry and staff support of AOI so that

we can continue on all fronts. And remember, the portion of your gift that you desire to give to the Elk Creek Training and Retreat Center needs to be clearly marked "For Elk Creek" since we use monies only for the accounts for which they are designated. T&B

Attention:

Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship meets in Denver/Colo Spgs area. Speakers are:

Aug. 11 - Dr. Jobe Martin

Sept. 15 - Werner Gitt

Oct. 26 - Ken Ham

Nov. 10 - Brian Catalucci

For more information call:

Brian at (303) 453-0971

email: talk@youngearth.org

website: www.youngearth.org

Please Pray for:

Summer Needs

- Energy for busy schedule
- Effective summer ministry
- Support -- summers months are notoriously lean.
- Health/Safety
- Office staff & volunteer help

Elk Creek Ranch

- Engineers (debris flow & flood hazard analysis for drainage on property)
- Hookup of water pipelines
- Finances

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