

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator



A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

November/December, 2012; Vol. 30, No.6

University Class on Evolution vs. Creation – Unbiased?

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Can you believe it? The university is offering a class on Evolution and Creation. That sounds really good – **at first**. However, we worry about what the students are being taught since these types of classes are taught by ardent evolutionists and anti-creationists at the schools we know of.

Several of the students from this particular class came to our university lectures recently. From the questions and comments we heard, it appears they are not getting “un-biased” instruction. Also, hearing many professors’ and their students’ slant on creation over the years, we can’t even imagine that the students are getting a true perspective on creationist viewpoints.

In just this past week at a university campus, we have seen many of the things we have been warning about in recent issues of Think & Believe. We have seen militant professors and students being “evangelists” for atheism. One told the students not to believe a word of what we or the campus ministry director is saying. We have talked to students who came from fundamental Christian homes who are now championing atheism. Some students can’t even believe that someone could possibly doubt evolution. Thankfully, we have also talked with others who are hanging tenaciously to their faith even in the

face of much opposition. Some of these students expressed gratitude that we came to speak. They are certainly under fire in their classes. One student told us that our presentations “have been a breath of fresh air!”

These universities are funded by tax dollars and tuition paid by well-meaning parents who want their kids to have a “good education.”

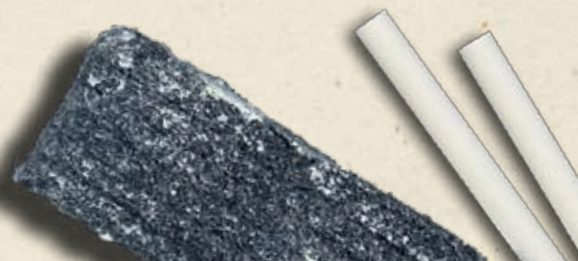
Some Christian parents even support these institutions through grants or donations – especially their own alma maters. The more we speak at these universities, the

more we are convinced that these institutions of “higher learning” (including many “Christian” ones) have become indoctrination centers that are devastating the faith of their sons and daughters or grandchildren. Many parents don’t realize this until it is too late.

When courses are designed to debunk the faith of the students, we should stand up and take notice. The university campus is not a “faith-neutral” environment, nor has it been for very many years. That’s why AOI continues to engage in the debate and actively seeks to prepare and support students to stand in this battle for their hearts and minds, but we can’t do it alone. We need you to help.

Here are some ways you can do it:

- Actively pray for your local university or college and its campus Christian ministries.
- Equip yourself and the young people in your lives with answers to evolutionary challenges and solid reasons for faith. (See our website – get them quality resources, bring them to Creation Family Mountain Adventure, send them to Creation Action Boot Camp, sponsor an AOI seminar in your community, talk with them about this issue!)
- Personally, keep growing in your own relationship with the Lord, keep learning from His Word and from solid ministries. Most importantly, live in ways consistent with His teachings. (This is huge!)
- Knowledge alone is not enough. Help young people to develop a living, active relationship with the Lord, so that even when others fall away, they will know Him, love Him, and stand firm in their faith. (See John 6:66-69: When many withdrew from following Jesus, He asked the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”) A personal relationship with the Lord is vital! **AOI**



New Findings about “Junk” DNA by Mary Jo Nutting

Dr. John Morris from the Institute for Creation Research likes to say, “It’s a great time to be a creationist.” Why? Because there are so many “new” discoveries happening all the time that challenge traditional evolutionary thinking and support the Biblical model of creation. Case in point: the recently-released results of the ENCODE project.

ENCODE (“Encyclopedia of DNA Elements”) is a multi-national consortium research project whose aim is “...to catalogue the ‘functional’ DNA sequences that lurk in the regions previously called “junk,” learn when and in which cells they are active and trace their effects on how the genome is packaged, regulated and read.”¹

When the DNA molecule was first sequenced in the Human Genome Project, reports came out that only a tiny portion of the human genome codes for proteins. The other 97% was commonly called “junk” and was thought to be left over from evolution and without function today. Creationists (and some evolutionists) have long challenged these conclusions,

urging more research and claiming that the supposed “junk” had functions as yet unknown. The latest research confirms this prediction! According to Ines Barroso, “The vast majority of the human genome does not code for proteins and, until now, did not seem to contain defined gene-regulatory elements. Why evolution would maintain large amounts of ‘useless’ DNA had remained a mystery, and seemed wasteful. It turns out, however, that there are good reasons to keep this DNA.”²

Good reasons indeed! The Nature/ENCODE website says, “One of the more remarkable findings described in the consortium’s ‘entrée’ paper is that 80% of the genome contains elements linked to biochemical functions, dispatching the widely held view that the human genome is mostly ‘junk DNA.’² According to the ENCODE’s lead analysis coordinator, Ewan Birney, “It’s likely that 80% will go to 100 percent. ...We don’t



really have any large chunks of redundant DNA. This metaphor of junk isn’t that useful.”³ Although the critics are asking just how functional it is and what is the definition of function, it appears that not only is there a function, but we should not minimize its importance.

Indeed, DNA is a remarkably complex biochemical language which researchers are barely beginning to understand. This specified complexity boggles the imagination and challenges evolutionary assumptions of development by chance, and natural processes. Recent research bears this out and points to intelligent design. Like Dr. Morris says, “It’s a great time to be a creationist!” **AOI**

References:

¹<http://www.nature.com/news/encode-the-human-encyclopaedia-1.11312>

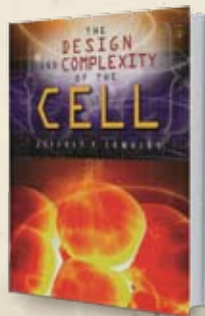
²<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v489/n7414/full/489052a.html>

³<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/notrocketscience/2012/09/05/encode-the-rough-guide-to-the-human-genome/>

The Design and Complexity of the Cell

by Mary Jo Nutting

I picked up this book because I wanted a good update of cell biology and a better understanding of some of the latest research. I found the book to be very helpful in that respect. Clear, colorful illustrations and diagrams enhanced and clarified the written text. I also found the short essays, such as the excellent one on the brain



(reproduced on page 3), to be helpful and enlightening.

In addition to enhancing my understanding of cells, I gained a fresh and renewed excitement about the amazing complexity and design of cells and biochemical systems. It was refreshing to view the evidence from a perspective that is both scientifically accurate and God-honoring. Naturalistic presuppositions and the shortcomings of evolutionary

interpretations were exposed in a clear, but non-demeaning way.

I recommend this book for biology students, as a supplement to their normal high school or college texts. It would also be helpful for adults who want to update their knowledge of biology and evaluate the issues facing society today. It will help believers prepare to give an intelligent defense for the Biblical record of Genesis and give them a strong foundation for worshipping the God who created such complex and ingeniously-designed systems. **AOI**

Brain's Complexity "Is Beyond Anything Imagined"

(by Brian Thomas, M.S., in *The Design and Complexity of the Cell*, by Jeffrey P. Tomkins, 2012, Institute for Creation Research, p. 65 (Used by permission, ©2012 Institute for Creation Research. All Rights Reserved. www.icr.org)

The brain has for a long time been compared to man-made computers in its astounding ability to process, store, and route information. But a new imaging technique has revealed that just one brain's connections and capacities far outnumber and outpace those of all the world's computers. And this makes the question of the origin of brains that much more difficult for naturalistic explanations.

The imaging technique, called array tomography, detected light emitted by mouse nervous tissue that had been bioengineered to produce proteins that glow. Additional luminous chemicals were added, and these attached to specific areas in the mouse brains, adding more colors and allowing for the detection of much more information.

New computer software processed all the data to produce stunning three-dimensional images of never-before-seen brain cell connections. A study was published in the journal *Neuron* to showcase the usefulness of array tomography, but the technical paper also provided broad implications for neurobiology.

Array tomography could "resolve fine details at the level of synapses,"¹ allowing researchers to view the highest resolution of detail among nerve images yet. They

could see individual synapses, the tiny connection points that link nerve cells together, as well as their different types and subtypes.

"[The researchers] found that the brain's complexity is beyond anything they'd imagined," according to an article appearing in the Health tech section of the online news source CNET.² For instance,

they found that the total number of synapses in a brain roughly equaled the number of stars in 1,500 Milky Way galaxies! And memory patterns and tiny on/off switches, which were long thought to reside in the larger neuron cell bodies, were instead found to be smaller than the tiny synapse connections. Each of the neurons imaged in the study serves thousands of synapses.

Stanford University professor

and senior study author Stephen Smith said that "one synapse may contain on the order of 1,000 molecular-scale switches. A single human brain has more switches than all the computers and routers and Internet connections on Earth."² This research multiplies the brain's overall computing power far beyond what was previously known.

The more complicated a system is, the stronger it argues for having been intentionally designed. And brains certainly qualify, despite assertions that random-acting natural processes somehow assembled them. In these cases, the burden of proof lies heavily

on those who insist that such systems are not in fact what they plainly appear to be: the products of intentional ingenious design.

The God of the Bible stands

Angular Gyrus

as the most tenable source of the specified complexity of

interconnected neurons upon which human and

Occipital Lobe

much animal life depends. Until a

Wernicke's Area

naturalistic alternative can explain

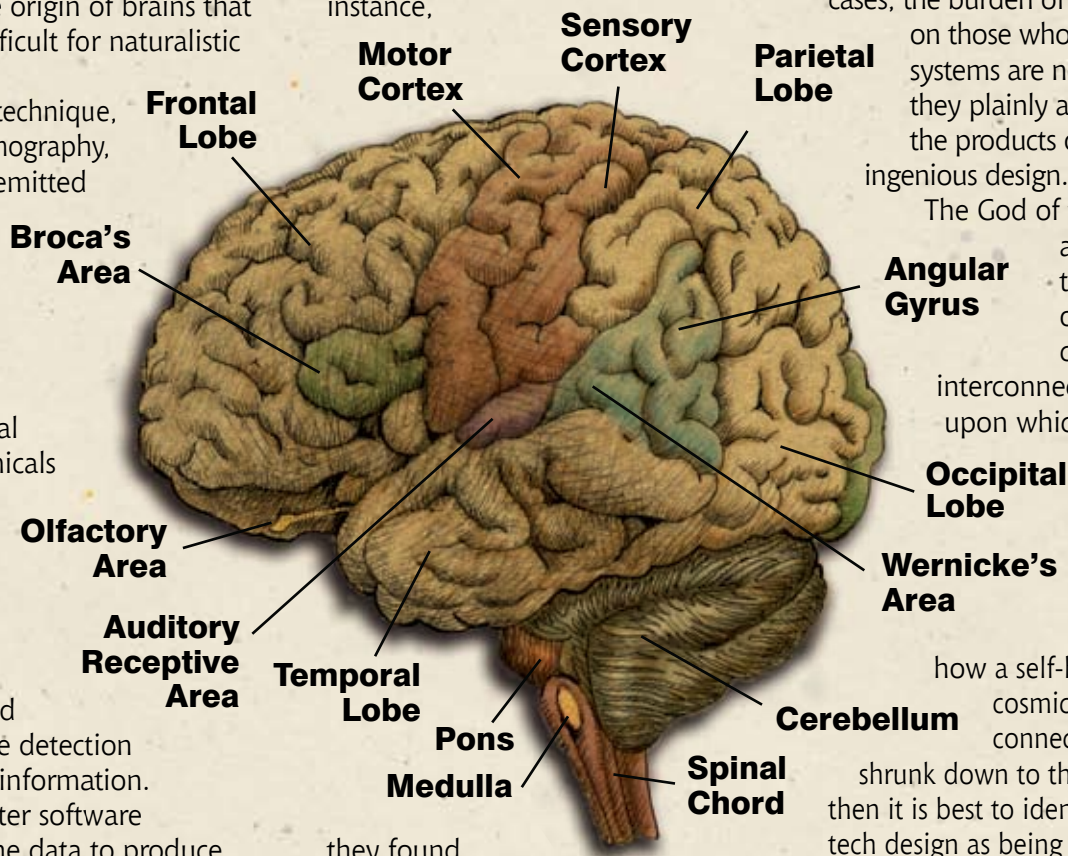
how a self-healing, adaptive, cosmic-sized Internet of connectivity has been

shrunk down to the size of a brain, then it is best to identify this hyper-tech design as being the product of a real Designer. And until an objective body of evidence can legitimately debunk the Bible's historicity and proven accuracy, then it is best to identify this Designer as the Creator and Sustainer revealed in Scripture. **AOI**

References

¹Micheva, K. D., et al. 2010. Single-Synapse Analysis of a Diverse Synapse Population: Proteomic Imaging Methods and Markers. *Neuron*. 68 (4):639-653

²Moore, E. A. Human brain has more switches than all computers on Earth. CNET News. Posted on news.cnet.com November 17, 2010, accessed January 6, 2011.



Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting




As the year is winding down, we want to pause and give thanks to our wonderful Creator for:

- open doors and changed lives
- faithful ministry partners and volunteers
- life, health, and strength to carry on
- His daily presence, provision, and redeeming power.

We are eagerly looking forward to what God will do in 2013. Many events have already been scheduled; others are in the works. Project goals for 2013 include:

- completing Genesis Project, Phase 1
- completing Spanish subtitling of Discover Creation DVD series and post to website for downloading
- launching Creation Action Boot Camps
- expanding our Training Program to multiply the ministry
- much speaking and equipping.

Children, youth, and adults are waiting to hear the Gospel and be equipped with sound reasons for believing the Truth of God's Word. We are grateful for all who partner with us in this ministry through prayer, finances, sponsoring seminars, passing on information to others, etc. Thank you for doing your part! Together we can make a difference in 2013. 

Check the Web



Read our Blog. Follow us on Twitter. Help us expand the ministry by telling others.

Year-end Giving

For AOI, year-end giving is extremely important to finish the year in the black and set a foundation for the coming year of ministry. This is especially true now as **this year has been very hard on us with the economy and "election year finances."** We have many projects waiting for funding, as well as the need for regular, monthly support. Creation ministry is vital to impacting the hearts and minds of this generation. Please prayerfully consider including a generous gift to the ministry of AOI now and in your year-end giving. (Remember, it's easy to donate on-line!)



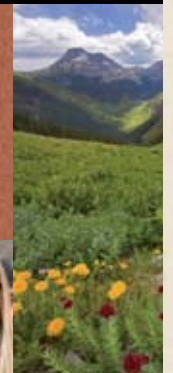
New!

CREATION ACTION BOOT CAMPS



Intense times of learning and fun, designed to "fireproof" **high school** and **college students** with answers to evolutionary challenges to their faith. Exciting creation teaching, hands-on activities, relevant projects, field trip, and plenty of mountain-style fun. Held at Camp Id-Ra-Ha-Je in beautiful western CO. "AOI's teaching is what got me through college with my faith intact." - student

- **Week 1, June 23-28, 2013**
- **Week 2, June 30-July 5, 2013**



Creation Family Mountain Adventures

Exciting "vacations with a purpose" in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. Stimulating creation teaching, exciting recreational activities, luxurious lodge, delicious meals.

- June 9-14: **Redcloud Family Mountain Get-Away** - lighter intro of solid creation evidence from science and the Bible. Co-sponsored by Redcloud and AOI.
- July 28-Aug 2: **Discover Creation Family Adventure!** AOI's classic vacation with a purpose at Redcloud. Latest creation evidence and optional in-depth Genesis teaching.

- **Week 1, June 9-14, 2013**
- **Week 2, July 28- Aug.2, 2013**



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.DiscoverCreation.org
Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2012

