Prof-File:  
Mellinger Tackles Evolution and Cats

By Beth Klima
Style Editor

"I don't go out of my way to stir up controversy like some of the We're not lone people," Clair Mellinger joked.

Mellinger is talking about the topic of evolution. As an EMU professor of Biology, he is no stranger to the tension between science and faith. Although Mellinger agrees that it may have been a more controversial topic in years past, the age-old debate between creationism and evolutionism has not induced much controversy here at EMU.

This may be because many Christians today are discovering that the word "evolution" can mean many different things.

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By Hanh Nguyen
Contributing Writer

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HANH NGUYEN  said. "I always enjoyed getting chance for interaction," Miller tells us. He gives students a lot of things to offer, but he also likes what he considers a really good teacher. He has taught several classes at Hesston and has been so good that the students have a good opinion about him when I was in Hesston," Ngwenya adds.

"[He's] a wonderful man and a wonderful leader. I'm so excited for him to come. I have a lot of respect for him. He's always out there in the classroom, talking with people, not just staying in the office," said Leslie Miller, a nursing student in her first year at EMU after having spent two years at Hesston.

According to Jon Trotter, a junior transfer from Hesston, "Everybody loves him [Loren Swartzendruber] to death," not only because he is a good leader but also because "He's a good teacher." Trotter taught several classes at Hesston and so the students have a good idea of who he is and how he interacts with others.

"I had a class with Loren a couple of years ago. It was Human Thought and Belief. It was an intellectual class. Loren is a really good teacher. He has things to offer, but he also listens to us. He gives students a chance for interaction," Miller said. "I always enjoyed getting his feedback about my paper when it comes to the topic of evolution. "We probably are all similar in our viewpoints, in that we believe that evolution occurred - but to what extent, we differ," said Mellinger.

"I don't like cats... They're always killing my birds!"

According to Mellinger, neither the belief nor disbelief in evolution determines whether or not one is a Christian. It is clear that science is a subject that Mellinger feels passionate about. However, unlike some of his colleagues, he believes that science does not always hold the answers to many of life's deep questions.

"Science is one perspective on life, but there are other ways as well," said Mellinger. "Sometimes it is easier to teach what science is not, as opposed to what science is." He feels that it is unfortunate that many people see science and Christianity as being inconsistent with each other.

In addition, Trotter believes that the way Swartzendruber relates to people and will create a more open communication environment and interaction within the school, "He loves to talk and interact with students." This is what a Hesston transfer student says that they miss about Hesston. Every year, EMU receives a good amount of transfer students from Hesston.

They come to EMU because of the active help from the admissions office and their belief that EMU has a good academic system. "In Hesston, they say: 'If you want to study, you go to EMU.' That's why I am here," said Ngwenya.

Responding to the question of whether Loren Swartzendruber coming would bring more Hesston transfer to EMU, Ngwenya said, "It's possible because people in Hesston like him."

Trotter adds "Maybe, for a short time, but because Hesston is a short time college, new comers in Hesston will soon not know about Loren."

Hesston Transfers Anticipate the arrival of new EMU President

By Hanh Nguyen
Contributing Writer

Hesston transfers are looking forward to Loren Swartzendruber taking over as the EMU presidency.

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