Educate Truth

Many of you are not subscribers to our automated email notifications. So if you haven't been paying attention to what is happening at La Sierra, you'll want to read this. A lot has happened at La Sierra in the last few days. April 20, 2011 Larry Blackmer and Dan Jackson were invited to speak with LSU faculty and staff. No one else was invited it appears; however, LSU board member Lenny Darnell attended the meeting and recorded the whole meeting on his cell phone. The next day he shared the recordings with some friends, who eventually shared it with others. What Darnell didn't realize is that he had forgotten to turn his phone off and ended up recording an entire conversation between him and Jeff Kaatz, LSU vice president of development; Jim Beach, LSU dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Gary Bradley, professor of biology. The conversation, according to Spectrum, "included foul language, references to alcohol consumption and unflattering comments being made about board members, administrators, and church leaders." The recording was made available on Spectrum for a number of days before the link went dead. The recording had made the rounds at various levels of church leadership and a decision was made. The four individuals were given a choice of resigning or have the recordings made known to the board and risk further action. All of them resign.

Adventist Today and Spectrum both have copies of the audio clip, but have not published the contents of it. Adventist Today has said they are transcribing the audio recording. If you would like to get immediate notifications of what is happening at LSU, please click on the subscribe button below.

LSU statement regarding resignations and Bradley’s email

Private Recorded Conversation Prompts La Sierra Resignations
**Purpose & Goals**

Find out what Educate Truth's purpose and goals are about.

**The History**

Educate Truth hundreds of documents related to the conflict at La Sierra University. In order to help people navigate to the most important documents that have been published, we have compiled a list of the most relevant documents in chronological order.

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Spam  
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LSU statement regarding resignations and Bradley’s email

June 14, 2011  21 Comments

The following statement appears to only be published at Spectrum. According to Spectrum, this statement from La Sierra University was released at 3 pm Tuesday.

Last Friday, four members of our campus family tendered their resignations at the request of our board chair. Each one had the choice of submitting his resignation or having the details of the situation in which he was involved presented to the Board of Trustees for discussion and action. All four chose to resign.

The university has a duty to all of its employees and students to follow appropriate policies and procedures in dealing with disciplinary matters. Part of this duty is to respect the privacy of the individuals involved. Even in the face of highly inaccurate and destructive speculation, policy and Christian courtesy require us to release information with great care. Institutions carefully work out policies in advance for just such circumstances so that they will act wisely and responsibly when the need arises.

Dr. Gary Bradley has chosen to email a letter to a wide circle of friends and colleagues that shares certain information about the circumstances leading to the request for his resignation. His letter, posted with his permission by a friend on the internet, acknowledges a recording made of a conversation among friends. He later provided the information, also posted online, clarifying that the recording was recorded by accident by one of the participants in the conversation. That person was also responsible for sending the recording out, apparently not realizing what he was sending. The content of the recording has not been disclosed by Dr. Bradley or the university.

While the university understands Dr. Bradley’s desire to explain what happened, the result of the letter has been further confusion and anger directed by some at the Church and at the university. People have made serious allegations without knowing what the recording contained and its context.

In an effort to reduce some of the most inaccurate speculation, the university released a statement on Monday stating that the matter at hand was not part of the biology controversy, and that no students were involved. This is correct. Despite Dr. Bradley’s letter and the unfortunate way it has shaped the debate, the university will only release additional information as appropriate according to both policy and Christian courtesy.

When people in highly visible positions who have long served an institution are asked to resign, many questions naturally arise. One reason for these questions is the disconnect that colleagues, friends, alumni, and students sense. “How could it be that someone I have known and respected for years is suddenly asked to resign? That can’t be right!” It is important to emphasize that their resignations, while sad, in no way invalidate their years of valuable service to the university and to our students.

Because La Sierra University has been the center of the biology debate in the Church for several years, it is also easy for people who do not know the facts to jump to the conclusion that these
resignations must be related to that issue. Some have taken it further, blaming the Church for carrying out a biology-related “witch hunt” by asking these individuals to resign. This is simply not true. The “convenient” explanation is sometimes the wrong one.

The board and administration of La Sierra University understand the frustration of the public when details about a situation such as this are not quickly forthcoming. We ask for your understanding and patience as we work the process through to the appropriate conclusions. And we ask for your prayers on behalf of the individuals involved, the university, our students, and our Church.

Here is Gary Bradley’s email referenced in the statement:

To: My treasured friends and colleagues  
From: Gary Bradley 
6-12-11

On Friday, June 10, 2011, I signed a letter resigning from the faculty position that I have enjoyed for 39 years. Since such an action always precipitates much speculation and many rumors, I want you to know exactly what happened and why.

Recently a secret tape of a private conversation among four friends was released and distributed widely in the SDA church hierarchy. A professional transcript of that tape was prepared, albeit with some mistakes in identifying the speaker. I participated in that conversation, was confronted therewith in the Friday meeting, and agreed with much, but not all, of what was ascribed to me. This conversation has already been mischaracterized and is being used in further attempts to discredit La Sierra University.

I signed the resignation letter that had been prepared for me for two reasons. First, I believe that the best way for La Sierra University to come through this fiasco is for a “head to roll.” Second, I admitted to consuming a small glass of an alcoholic beverage during this conversation. On the first count, everything I have tried to do for the past 39 years has been to help La Sierra University to succeed. On the second count, I can only say mea culpa.

 Needless to say, I am devastated. I feel like my very soul has been ripped from my body. My entire life since I began teaching 46 years ago has been dedicated to Adventist education. I’m not ready to quit and I grieve the loss of the classroom where I have had such rewarding interactions with the wonderful people who are my students. I have many important projects underway here now and many other people will be inconvenienced by my sudden departure. I can only say that I am deeply sorry and will try my utmost to earn redemption.

If you are among those who welcome this transition, I request that you celebrate with dignity. If you are among those who find this transition upsetting, I ask that you not turn it into a war. Please continue to do what you can to make La Sierra University the best and most progressive SDA university in the world.
21 Responses to “LSU statement regarding resignations and Bradley’s email”

1. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 4:04 pm

Says not related to evolutionary problem, not a “witch hunt” so I guess Bradley just got caught, as did Capone and OJ, for some “other” reason. Wow! Whoda thunk it?

However, we are thus still left with the problem that we have been debating for two years. What about “evolution as fact?”

(Quote)

2. Shelley Senner June 14, 2011 at 6:52 pm

Was there any repentance here, or just the fact that he was caught doing something he shouldn’t have, and having to reap the dire results? I doubt that he is done drinking “that little glass of alcohol” from his statements. Just my opinion however. Yes, the other problem still remains, doesn’t it? Another thought, can a lifetime of good works atone for one wrong act?

(Quote)

3. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 6:55 pm

One wrong act? Do you really believe he was just experimenting? This is the guy who said when asked if he was a practicing Adventist, he said “On record, yes. You can read into that whatever you want.”

(Quote)

4. Ivan June 14, 2011 at 7:05 pm

I am deeply saddened by what has happened to Dr. G. Bradley. For four years he has been my professor, my mentor and my dear friend. I wish the situation would have been handled differently. None of us are saints and, of course, it is much easier to see a speck in a brother’s eye… LSU just lost one of its truly best professors. I owe a lot to Dr. Bradley, including the knowledge that I acquired at LSU and my academic success. I will be forever thankful for his support, his genuine desire to teach and his dedication to educate future specialists in various fields. Thank you Dr. Bradley, you have taught me to be a better man. My respect for you will always remain the same.

(Quote)

5. Professor Kent June 14, 2011 at 7:25 pm

Shane, I really am disappointed by your tone. At times I think better of you.

(Quote)

6. Mark Bruno June 14, 2011 at 7:44 pm
Just a note: No one put a gun to the head of any of the four individuals that resigned. I see that they were told that if they did not resign, their comments would be shared with the board. What’s so bad about that? If these comments were actually harmless and trivial, why would they care if the board heard them. I suspect that the comments were probably quite damaging and perhaps actionable. It was their choice to resign. In the end, they have reaped what they have sown.

The accidental recording of the private meeting was unfortunate for them. Perhaps their damaging speech and poor judgement were influenced by a mind clouded by the effects of alcohol coursing through their veins. This is why our Creator demands that we abstain from its use.

(Quote)

7. Shane Hilde  June 14, 2011 at 8:11 pm

   **Mark Bruno**: If these comments were actually harmless and trivial, why would they care if the board heard them. I suspect that the comments were probably quite damaging and perhaps actionable.

   Exactly. I couldn’t agree more.

(Quote)

8. Professor Kent  June 14, 2011 at 8:35 pm

   Mark and Shane, if you have not listened to the recordings (and it’s obvious to me you have not), you do not know what you are talking about. And you know it.

(Quote)

9. Ron Stone M.D.  June 14, 2011 at 9:12 pm

   **Mark Bruno**: Just a note: No one put a gun to the head of any of the four individuals that resigned. I see that they were told that if they did not resign, their comments would be shared with the board. What’s so bad about that? If these comments were actually harmless and trivial, why would they care if the board heard them. I suspect that the comments were probably quite damaging and perhaps actionable. It was their choice to resign. In the end, they have reaped what they have sown. The accidental recording of the private meeting was unfortunate for them. Perhaps their damaging speech and poor judgement were influenced by a mind clouded by the effects of alcohol coursing through their veins. This is why our Creator demands that we abstain from its use.

   You’re correct. If the tapes were just a few “harmless” statements said “in jest” why would these guys resign. Doesn’t make any sense, and I need to hear the tapes for myself to think otherwise.

   Anybody got a copy?
10. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 9:18 pm

**Shelley Senner:** Was there any repentance here, or just the fact that he was caught doing something he shouldn’t have, and having to reap the dire results? I doubt that he is done drinking “that little glass of alcohol” from his statements. Just my opinion however. Yes, the other problem still remains, doesn’t it? Another thought, can a lifetime of good works atone for one wrong act?

Bradley’s statement reveals the arrogance and hypocrisy he has stood for over the past decades. Read it for yourself.

Just a “little” glass or bottle of alcohol? He’s a prototype example of the kind of “Adventist” we, out here in California, tolerate–one who is “Adventist” in name only, while he desecrates our standards while teaching these things to our young people.

If you don’t believe me, come out here this summer, visit some of our “progressive” SDA Churches and see what you think. I’ll provide the names of some “doozies” if you need them.

11. Jonathan June 14, 2011 at 11:02 pm

Eccl 12:13-14

(Quote)

12. Scott Henning June 14, 2011 at 11:30 pm

To Dr. Bradley:
It was with sadness I read of your resignation. I don’t know all the details but i do know how judgmental some people can be when you make a mistake. You helped me immensely when I came to LSU. You gave me courage to succeed at my dreams, which you never knew. This is one person who wont pass judgment because in the end none of us are perfect. Its usually the Pharisees that like to point the fingers. Move forward and don’t become bitter because you are not through yet! God Bless you

(Quote)

13. Rick June 15, 2011 at 12:40 am

The boards actions are most interesting. Four people are terminated over a recording. What about previous recordings and administrative comments. The board should be just as quick in reacting to those issues.

(Quote)

14. Gayle Hori June 15, 2011 at 5:08 am

I had heard about the sad news about Dr Bradley and I accidently linked to this site. Mark, Shane, and Shelly I am worried about your souls. You seem to have lost your compassion. Please be careful you do not fall under the influence of the current political climate of hatred and condemnation in the name of God. This mix of religion and politics is exactly what EGW warned against. God is blasphemed when we use his name to to justify disdain for our fellow man.

(Quote)

15. Gary June 15, 2011 at 4:40 am

I have not waded into this before, but I feel compelled to do so. As Christians we are not to give up working for the salvation of soul/s, but we must condemn sin as Jesus comanded us to do. A minister once told me when dealing with problem people that “if you give a person enough rope they will hang themselves”, the Bible also says “be sure your sins will find you out” People’s true characters seem to always shine forth. Thank you for being not critical of people but of their actions as you call sin by its right name when the current climate seems to be to excuse or turn the other way

(Quote)

16. BobRyan June 15, 2011 at 5:52 am

Shane Hilde: One wrong act? Do you really believe he was just experimenting? This is the guy who said when asked if he was a practicing Adventist, he said “On record, yes. You can read into that whatever you want.”

Agreed this is a case of a leopard not changing his spots when it comes to the four people that got themselves fired. The Inside Higher Ed article makes it clear that they were engaged in rather unchristian activity much less SDA.

As a man does in his spare time – so is he. These guys may have caused some associates to raise questions at work – but when alone apparently they freely share with each other from the heart showing who they are in truth.

I pray this leads them to some road related to repentance and reformation.

I also pray for Ricardo Graham and Elder Wilson as this providential unveiling of the level of the problem in the cases of a few – gives a small glimpse of just how massive the problem is that must be addressed.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

17. BobRyan June 15, 2011 at 5:55 am
**Gayle Hori:** This mix of religion and politics is exactly what EGW warned against.

That is a curious statement addressed to Shane. Is Shane running for office? Is there some campaign by Shane or someone at LSU to give him a job at LSU or the board of LSU?

Or was it just an accidental cliche?

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

18. BobRyan *June 15, 2011 at 6:03 am*

**Ron Stone M.D.** Just a “little” glass or bottle of alcohol? He’s a prototype example of the kind of “Adventist” we, out here in California, tolerate—one who is “Adventist” in name only, while he desecrates our standards while teaching these things to our young people.

The problem is that Inside Higher Education reports on this stating that these guys are using bad language, drinking, insulting LSU board members, (and from what was reported to me working to get WASC to remove Graham as ex officio.)

Here is my point – non-SDA publications are essentially “witnessing” about the SDA culture and good name of LSU via these reports.

How far do we really want this to go in terms of the non-SDA press before taking step beyond behavior modification? The strategy of just working to get more civil, more presentable wolves is not the level of visionary leadership that we need in a crisis like this one.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

19. Mark Bruno *June 15, 2011 at 6:23 am*

Just a note: No one put a gun to the head of any of the four individuals that resigned. I see that they were told that if they did not resign, their comments would be shared with the board. What’s so bad about that? If these comments were actually harmless and trivial, why would they care if the board heard them. I suspect that the comments were probably quite damaging and perhaps actionable. It was their choice to resign. In the end, they have reaped what they have sown.
The accidental recording of the private meeting was unfortunate for them. Perhaps their damaging speech and poor judgement were influenced by a mind clouded by the effects of alcohol coursing through their veins. This is why our Creator demands that we abstain from its use.

**Gayle Hori:**
I had heard about the sad news about Dr Bradley and I accidently linked to this site. Mark, Shane, and Shelly I am worried about your souls. You seem to have lost your compassion.

Gayle, Compassion I have not lost. I don’t know these individuals. I am not aware of their lifestyle, positive or negative. I am not sitting in judgement of these people. I do however feel compelled to speak out when I hear some people who, in the name of peace and compassion, are willing to turn a blind eye to evil.

I don’t know what was on the tapes, but I can only suspect that it must have been problematic if these four individuals resigned because of the threat of simply having their words played before the board.

I have compassion for our young people who are being poisoned with new theology and other false teachings. The future of our church, except for God’s intervention, is in their hands. I have compassion for those who are criticized and condemned for standing for truth in the face of an alarming falling away of the standards that have defined God’s remnant people. I have compassion for those who are watching our churches adopt worship styles that lack reverence and purity and can no longer attend. I have compassion for those who have fallen away, who no longer stand under the banner of truth. And yes, I have compassion for those who recently resigned because of their words and sentiments. We need to remember that when Christ spoke words of rebuke, it was always done in love and compassion for His children.

I am sorry that you perceive that I lack compassion, but that does not cause me to back away from my original observation.

(Quote)


**Mark Bruno:** I don’t know what was on the tapes, but I can only suspect that it must have been problematic if these four individuals resigned because of the threat of simply having their words played before the board.

Prof Kent recently made a post defending the content of the recording as “not that bad” after he listened to it.

It is very interesting that the four in question were instantly aware of the problem of that audio getting out to the board – to the point of resigning and yet we have some here who still do not understand the gravity of the problem EVEN when they hear the audio!
Some seem to be bent on calling darkness light and that problem goes a long way in the believe-evolutionism-not-the-Bible debate.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)


For a reference to Kent’s statement mentioned above –


(Quote)
Private Recorded Conversation Prompts La Sierra Resignations

June 14, 2011 14 Comments

Educate Truth shares the following article from Spectrum as a service to readers.

By Bonnie Dywer

[Image of La Sierra University]

The conversation had been very frank on April 21 when the La Sierra University faculty met with the president of the North American Division Dan Jackson and Larry Blackmer, NAD Education Director. The faculty had questions for the church administrators about the Adventist Accrediting Association Board’s vote to revisit LSU in 2012 rather than granting them the five year term of accreditation that had been recommended to the Board by AAA’s visiting team.

LSU Board member Lenny Darnell wanted to be sure that he could recall all that transpired, so he turned on his cell phone’s recording device and let it run.

After the meeting he and three friends—Jeff Kaatz, LSU vice president of development; Jim Beach, LSU dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Gary Bradley, professor of biology—went to a private home where they continued their conversation about the LSU meeting while watching the Los Angeles Lakers play the Denver Nuggets in an NBA basketball playoff game. What the four friends did not realize is that the phone recorder continued to run during their discussion.

The next day Darnell shared the recording he had made of the Jackson/Blackmer meeting with several people including an LSU faculty member (and Spectrum). (Read more)

Related article

The Metamorphosis of La Sierra University: an eye-witness account

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LSU, News
featured
14 Responses to “Private Recorded Conversation Prompts La Sierra Resignations”

1. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 3:06 pm

The “accidental” part seems pretty ridiculous. But, why did he “share” the “accidental” part with anyone. Surely, he would know the consequences. Or, did he want it known?

(Quote)

2. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 3:09 pm

He didn’t know he had recorded himself. My guess is the recording was initially shared to discredit Dan Jackson for some comments he made during the meeting. Some of these comments were posted at Spectrum by a commenter name Annon. He’s the one who posted access links to the audio clippings.

(Quote)

3. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 3:11 pm

Bradley sounds rather arrogant in his wish for LSU to continue the “progressive” battle within our SDA Church, which is why LSU is “under the microscope” now.

(Quote)

4. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 3:13 pm

Shane Hilde: He didn’t know he had recorded himself. My guess is the recording was initially shared to discredit Dan Jackson for some comments he made during the meeting. Some of these comments were posted at Spectrum by a commenter name Annon. He’s the one who posted access links to the audio clippings.

I understand Shane, but why share the “private” meeting part? Why not stop at the public meeting?

(Quote)

5. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 3:18 pm

Ron Stone M.D.: Why not stop at the public meeting?

I’m not sure I understand your question. Lenny Darnell recorded the meeting, but forgot to turn off his phone apparently.
6. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 3:28 pm

Maybe I’m misunderstanding what happened. Darnell recorded the public meeting, then he “accidentally” recorded the private meeting, right?

But, when playing it back, I assume later, why did he “share” ALL the information recorded to others? Couldn’t he simply “share” what he had from the public meeting and keep the private stuff hidden?

Am I missing something?

(Quote)

7. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 3:30 pm

Or, did he just give the cell phone to someone and say, “Look what I have!” And they saw everything?

(Quote)

8. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 3:30 pm

Ron Stone M.D.: then he “accidentally” recorded the private meeting, right?

That’s exactly right. He must have not bothered to play it back. I think the meeting was a couple hours according to the LSU news release. But basically he didn’t know he had recorded him and the others and then posted it without checking his recording.

(Quote)

9. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 3:31 pm

Shane Hilde: That’s exactly right. He must have not bothered to play it back. I think the meeting was a couple hours according to the LSU news release. But basically he didn’t know he had recorded him and the others and then posted it without checking his recording.

Ok, I think I got it—he was stupid!

(Quote)

10. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 3:37 pm

Am I the only one who thinks that having a Board member, two higher up administrative staff, and a faculty member having a “private” meeting where booze is served is very embarrassing?

Does this happen at other SDA institutions? We have a number of people who work at SDA colleges,
Conference offices, etc. How about it?

Is this considered “par for the course?”

(Quote)

11. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 4:23 pm

What was Lenny Darnell doing at the meeting when it was only for faculty and staff? Isn’t he a board member? Were board members invited? According to the LSU news release they weren’t. Perhaps he wasn’t even supposed to be there.

(Quote)

12. WBDRP June 14, 2011 at 7:57 pm

Do you really think that, after these events, any one would admit if they ever hang out with friends, watch a ball game, and have a drink? Come on! I suspect it happens much more than our denomination would like to admit. It’s just like the faithful who bring their caserole to potluck and then go home and have a cup of coffee with desert or have a real hamburger with dinner when noone is watching. PLEASE!!!

(Quote)


Eccl 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

There are some who object to privately recorded conversations being used in this manner (like the Spectrum blog) but could it be that God is causing judgment on unacceptable behaviour?

(Quote)

14. Kevin June 15, 2011 at 5:03 am

Jonathan:

Eccl 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

There are some who object to privately recorded conversations being used in this manner (like the Spectrum blog) but could it be that God is causing judgment on unacceptable behaviour?
I think you are quite correct, in my humble opinion

(Quote)
[UPDATE] Two administrators, one biology professor, and one board member resign

June 13, 2011 98 Comments

Educate Truth shares the following article from Spectrum as a service to readers.

“Two administrators, one professor, and one board member were asked to resign on Friday,” according to Spectrum blog editor Alexander Carpenter.

The president and the provost of La Sierra University regret to announce the resignations of four members of our university family.

On Friday, June 10, Board Chair Ricardo Graham requested the resignations of Dr. Jeff Kaatz from his position as Vice President for University Advancement, Dr. Jim Beach from his position as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Gary Bradley from his part-time faculty position in the Biology Department, and Mr. Lenny Darnell from the Board of Trustees.

These resignations have been accepted and are effective immediately. Campus administration is unable, at this time, to offer any additional details regarding the decisions of these individuals. Further information will be made available as appropriate.

We invite you to keep our campus in your prayers as we move through this difficult time for the university.

UPDATE 6/13/11: It’s been confirmed from multiple sources that these resignations have nothing to do with the biology department. LSU has not yet given a reason for the resignations.

Share

LSU, News featured
NAD President, Education Director Dialog with La Sierra Campus Community
Private Recorded Conversation Prompts La Sierra Resignations

98 Responses to “[UPDATE] Two administrators, one biology professor, and one board member resign”
1. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 9:39 am

If this has anything to do with what LSU has been doing the last 10+ years, I wonder what board member Jeff Kaatz has to do with all of this.

This must be a difficult thing for those who are losing their jobs. It’s unfortunate that LSU and our church let it get to this point in the first place.

(Quote)

2. Al Scott June 13, 2011 at 10:22 am

Hollow words, Shane.

(Quote)

3. Ron Stone M.D. June 13, 2011 at 12:26 pm

I predicted there would be some “fall guys” taking the blame. So, we now have some “fall guys” gone, but when are the real culprits going to get the boot–Wisbey, Graham, te actual Biol. Profs,etc?

My guess is never!

Did Graham say WHY these people were shouldering the blame?

(Quote)

4. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 1:06 pm

Correct myself, not Jeff, but Lenny Darnell.

(Quote)

5. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 1:19 pm

Spectrum is claiming that LSU is claiming that the resignations have nothing to do with the biology conflict. This is an email that was allegedly sent to all the faculty at LSU:

Last night you received notification of the resignations of four campus leaders. Already we have heard reports of a great deal of speculation taking place on campus and on the internet.

Please understand these resignations have no connection to the biology controversy. There is also no connection with students.

La Sierra University’s President and Provost learned of the situation Friday afternoon. Since then, the administration continues to deal with the matter fully in accordance with internal University policies and our commitments as a Seventh-day Adventist University.
Further information will be made available as appropriate.

University administration requests that as you speak with students, you communicate the above information. Please note, too, that university policies are being carefully followed. The university is committed to ensuring that students have a successful final week and an outstanding graduation weekend.

We encourage each of you to keep our campus family and our students in your prayers.

(Quote)

6. Ron Stone M.D. June 13, 2011 at 1:24 pm

Shane, So what does the administration say these resignations are about? Bad hair day?

Also, are the “university’s policies” to keep us in the dark about such matters?

(Quote)


I attended LSU several years ago as a biology major, and had the pleasure of having Dr. Gary Bradley as one of my teachers. He was one of the best. Intelligent, energetic, and passionate about teaching students. What a sad day for La Sierra University biology students. A strong believer, who was not afraid to question and discuss the “big” issues that were confusing to many students. This is just tragic.

(Quote)

8. BobRyan June 13, 2011 at 7:15 pm

Bradley is the only person that clearly has a link to the sacrifice-all-for-evolutinism strategy in the LSU biology department based on his own statements to the press.

Other than that – I am tempted to believe Graham when he states that this action has nothing at all to do with the LSU board trying to change course at LSU away from the all-for-evolutionism agendas of the past.

If Graham is claiming that these are administrative actions that are needed entirely apart from the LSU crisis over evolutionism then I am giving him the benefit of the doubt on that point.

Clearly it would have been in his favor to claim that these actions represent a major change in policy away from the old “all for evolutionism” strategy of the past. Since he is not going there – then perhaps this has nothing at all to do with fixing that problem.

(Though clearly the issue with Bradley leaves at least a part of that claim in doubt.)

in Christ,
Bob
9. Casey June 13, 2011 at 7:24 pm

Kari W.: I attended LSU several years ago as a biology major, and had the pleasure of having Dr. Gary Bradley as one of my teachers. He was one of the best. Intelligent, energetic, and passionate about teaching students. What a sad day for La Sierra University biology students. A strong believer, who was not afraid to question and discuss the “big” issues that were confusing to many students. This is just tragic.

I TOTALLY agree Kari. I was a biology major too and Dr. Bradley was one of my favorite teachers and role models. This is total GARBAGE! LSU is on it’s way to being an unaccredited bible school. It’s very sad because I love LSU. And it’s obvious that this IS because of the evolution controversy. I don’t care what anyone says. Shame on you Shane Hilde and everyone else at “educate truth” for being so shallow and unloving towards your fellow human beings. You are completely wrong in what you are doing beyond what you can understand. You’re so threatened by the theory of evolution and your faith is so weak that you are willing to get people fired from jobs they love just because evolution makes YOU feel uncomfortable. I hope you someday feel guilt and regret this terrible deed you have done.

10. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 7:40 pm

Casey: I don’t care what anyone says.

Casey, LSU said themselves this has nothing to do with the biology issue. It we assume they are telling the truth, and I believe they are, there must be something else going on here. Whatever these men did, Educate Truth had nothing to do with it.

11. Professor Kent June 13, 2011 at 7:45 pm

BobRyan: Bradley is the only person that clearly has a link to the sacrifice-all-for-evolutinism strategy in the LSU biology department based on his own statements to the press.

Your characterization of an entire department (and in prior posts an entire university) as “sacrifice-all-for-evolutionism” because of the views of a few individuals is nothing more than propaganda. Do you think the situation will improve if you continue to project your will?
you truly believe in educating truth?

(Quote)

12. Casey June 13, 2011 at 7:46 pm

That’s garbage and you know it Shane. Although I don’t expect someone with your lack of integrity to admit it. I know for a fact that there is NO reason to fire Gary Bradley other than his support of science being attacked by ignorant people like you who made waves in the church and at LSU. They are willing to lose their WASC accreditation before they lose their SDA accreditation so they responded to the likes of you and your cult. PERIOD.

(Quote)

13. Kevin June 13, 2011 at 7:53 pm

**Casey:** I TOTALLY agree Kari. I was a biology major too and Dr. Bradley was one of my favorite teachers and role models. This is total GARBAGE! LSU is on it’s way to being an unaccredited bible school. It’s very sad because I love LSU. And it’s obvious that this IS because of the evolution controversy. I don’t care what anyone says. Shame on you Shane Hilde and everyone else at “educate truth” for being so shallow and unloving towards your fellow human beings. You are completely wrong in what you are doing beyond what you can understand. You’re so threatened by the theory of evolution and your faith is so weak that you are willing to get people fired from jobs they love just because evolution makes YOU feel uncomfortable. I hope you someday feel guilt and regret this terrible deed you have done.

It seems a few commentators didn’t notice that the resignations have nothing to do with the biology conflict. Therefore also having nothing to do with Shane Hilde or this website.

____________

Regarding the comments as to ‘exposing’ the real reasons:

It is entirely possible that there is no cover-up, that these indeed have nothing to do with the conflict over teaching creation versus teaching evolution.

It could even be four separate issues which happened to be handled at the same time by the chairman.

Whichever the case, we can only take their word that it is not about the conflict in the biology department. This means the reasons really are none of our business unless those involved choose to reveal the details to us.

It is not moral for us to merely speculate that they would do this because of said conflict and then claim it is unrelated.

The privacy of the individuals should be maintained unless there is clear reasoning not to do so, in accordance with Biblical principles.
accordance with Biblical principles.

(Quote)

14. Shayne June 13, 2011 at 8:22 pm

@Casey:

Why would following the Bible story of creation be unloving? This is a philosophical issue. If I were a democrat why would I join the GOP? If I didn’t believe the bible, why would I go to a christian school to learn about evolution? Get real people, LSU belongs to the church, not the other way around.

(Quote)

15. Casey June 13, 2011 at 8:23 pm

Kevin, Even if the resignations have nothing to do with the evolution controversy (which I believe they did at least for Dr. Bradley) it still stands that what “educate truth” is doing is wrong and petty. And the people behind this website are shallow and unscrupulous. I would not be surprised if they did this “because of said conflict and then claim it is unrelated”. Many organizations cover up/deny the reason(s) for making controversial decisions. They are trying to fend off fire. I think it’s naive to think it has nothing to do with the evolution controversy.

(Quote)

16. Shayne Vincent June 13, 2011 at 8:29 pm

Why would following the Bible story of creation be unloving? This is a philosophical issue. If I were a democrat why would I join the GOP? If I didn’t believe the bible, why would I go to a christian school to learn about evolution? Get real people, LSU belongs to the church, not the other way around.

(Just incase you thought my comments came from Hilde)

(Quote)

17. Sybil June 13, 2011 at 8:31 pm

We will know soon enough. There is no need to be rude to one another.

(Quote)

18. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 8:34 pm

@Casey: What is it you think Educate Truth is doing that is wrong and petty? Has something been published here that isn’t true?

(Quote)

19. Professor Kent June 13, 2011 at 8:35 pm

I have to agree with Shane’s stance: we do not know the reasons for the resignation requests. The reasons may involve ideological issues, legal issues, policy issues, or morality issues, and the issues may or may not be related for the four individuals.
may or may not be related for the four individuals.

The chief concern of WASC (the secular accreditation organization) will be whether internal policy was adhered to, and the communication from LSU indicates this to be the case.

I had heard that Dr. Bradley was a terrific teacher, and that he and other faculty members are treating SDA views on origins respectfully, as they should be. It what I was told is true, it would be sad if he was asked to resign his part-time teaching to appease the Educate Truth crowd.

(Quote)

20. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 8:43 pm

LSU has made it very clear Bradley was not asked to resign because of the biology conflict. It appears that there is something entirely different going on, if we assume what they’re saying is true, and I think it is.

(Quote)

21. Casey June 13, 2011 at 8:47 pm

@Shane: What educate truth is doing that is wrong and petty: trying to get people fired over upholding academic integrity, when these people indeed care deeply about their students and are quality teachers, trying to turn people against La Sierra with your campaign, putting a lot of time and effort into crying over the fact that La Sierra biology teachers teach evolution when in fact they would be unfair and dishonest teachers to leave it out. Insisting that creation be taught in a science class which is completely absurd and screams scientific ignorance. Seriously? an entire website dedicated to smear a good school and teachers within. Truly pathetic and what’s more amazing is that it’s starting to work. If you need more reasons I think rereading the comment of “City Lights – Mon, 06/13/2011 – 20:11” on the spectrum website is very accurate

(Quote)

22. Shayne Vincent June 13, 2011 at 8:55 pm

@Casey:

Why is Creation absurd? You presume too much. If we as Church members believe the bible, is it appropriate to call us ignorant? Or why would it be inappropriate to ask a Christian school to follow the Bible. If you want to believe in evolution, then go to a State university. This is a very simple issue and has nothing to do with ignorance and everything to do with integrity.

(Quote)

23. SATBGIRL June 13, 2011 at 8:58 pm

@Shayne Vincent: Dear Sir,

If one is a democrat, is there anything wrong in knowing and understanding what the GOP stands for? If one is a Christian, does discussion regarding Buddhism compromise one’s state of Grace?

The point of a University is the reason through multiple points of view, and then determine which of those is true. This cannot be done if only one set of ideas is represented. And remember, the University system was, itself, designed by the Christian church, as a way to encourage and expand our
system was, itself, designed by the Christian Church, as a way to encourage and expand our understanding of the universe.

(Quote)

24. Casey June 13, 2011 at 9:15 pm

@Shayne: I didn’t say creation is absurd. I said to teach it in a science class is absurd. And I didn’t say believing in it is ignorant. I said insisting it should be taught in a science class shows ignorance for what science is. Surely I disagree with your literal translation but I don’t think you are absurd or ignorant. I believe that people should be left alone to have their beliefs in peace. But, a science class only has room for science. And I don’t have to go to a state university to learn the theory of evolution. La Sierra does a great job of teaching it as they should.

(Quote)


Casey,
You ought to grow up. I don’t see how Educate Truth can cause anybody to be fired. After all, it does not pay salaries and it is not a decision maker at all. Educate Truth has only been a commentator.

If the university Chair said the issues with the bio dept are not the factors, then you should take up your beef with the chair and indeed ask him for the explanations. It is rather small of you to attack Hilde and his blog at a time like this.

If at anytime in the future there is evidence (not speculation) to support your claim, THEN you may rant and rail. Yet, you apparently have no idea what it means to be faithful to the Bible and you either accept evolution as fact or saw no conflict with what the professors taught.

If at all you consider yourself a Christian, I hope you recognise that faithfulness to Bible truths is more important than worldly honour and all will have to give an account for their actions later. I think Educate Truth has tried to be faithful to the Bible contrary to some professed Christians.

(Quote)

26. Casey June 13, 2011 at 9:34 pm

@Jonathan: Like I said before, regardless of the reasons for the resignations, this site is wrong and petty. You can read my above comments as to why. This is a public thread so I can rant and rail all I want. I don’t have to wait till evidence supports any claim. I’m taking advantage of my freedoms so excuse me. Hilde can ban me or erase my messages if he really wants to. In addition, I never stated my stance as a Christian or not or my faithfulness to the Bible or not. So you are speculating as well. I clearly have a different view than most on this board so I expect the wave of comments against my favor. Which is fine. But why is it small for me to attack Hilde? He puts up a controversial website and expects no one to disagree? and now you are attacking me as well. You are being hypocritical. But I welcome your “attacks”. I’m not afraid of whatever you have to say. And I respect your belief in the literal translation of the Bible but it really leaves little for us to even argue...

(Quote)
27. went2LSU June 13, 2011 at 9:38 pm

just a quick reply, @SATBGIRL: but if a democrat begins to espouse what the GOP stands for, why be a democrat?

I’m not too into analogies, because the issue at hand is deeper and wider than a political analogy can afford to compare, as well as my mind doesn’t do well in analogies. End reply.

In any case, a previous comment on “weak faith” reminded me of one of new my favorite quotes from A. T. Jones,

“Faith is expecting the Word of God to do what it says, and the depending upon that Word to do what it says.” (Lessons on Faith)

Essential to faith, is humility – the humble belief that our human brains are just too puny to comprehend how truly great God is, and frankly, because we know God as He has revealed Himself, that we simply must accept His Word.

Ironically, if anything, it would be unreasonable to doubt His Word.

Enough with my blathering, but a short one that cuts to my point – “Skepticism and unbelief are not humility. Implicit belief in Christ’s word is true humility, true self-surrender.”

God bless!

(Quote)

28. Casey June 13, 2011 at 10:55 pm

@shayne: When did I ever say that following the Bible story of creation is unloving. I said “Educate Truth” is unloving. Not because they believe in the literal translation of the Bible. But because they are so vehemently and hatefully against those who don’t.

(Quote)

29. mrs1329 June 13, 2011 at 11:22 pm

@Casey:

I really just want to start a slow clap for you because you have summarized exactly how I am feeling now. I am a current student at LSU, just finished taking genetics from Dr. Bradley last quarter and Dr. Bradley is definitely the best thing that the LSU biology department had going for it. Fact of the matter is that it seems as those people at Educate Truth along with the other radicals out there care only about the issue, not about the actual students, otherwise they wouldn’t be putting us through this bullshit.

(Quote)

30. David Read June 13, 2011 at 11:22 pm

The reason for the firings has come out at Spectrum: the four were secretly taped having a conversation to the effect (according to one 4th hand report) that LSU would be better off separated from the SDA Church. Bradley was having an alcoholic beverage during this conversation.
31. Casey June 14, 2011 at 1:34 am

@mrs1329: Thank you, I was starting to feel pretty lonesome on this thread. I am sorry that you and the rest of the bio students have to finish your college careers without Dr. Bradley. My experience there would have been much less fulfilling without him. We can honor him for standing up for what is right and follow in his footsteps. Good luck with finals!

(Quote)

32. BobRyan June 14, 2011 at 4:08 am

@David Read:

So I assume the meeting was with a larger group where somebody else taped them in the group and reported the problem.

In any case – we have seen some people here and at the big-left-tent arguing that LSU should leave the denomination (which you would think would be a problem for the actual SDA faculty, staff and students within the LSU family).

As noted earlier – “a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.”

You cannot expect leaders in the school with firm convictions opposed to our world view on life and our doctrinal view on God and origins to not behave at times in full accord with those firm convictions. (Even if they are now “civil” to SDA students in their class rooms that happen to believe in the actual SDA world view).

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

33. BobRyan June 14, 2011 at 4:13 am

Casey: But, a science class only has room for science. And I don’t have to go to a state university to learn the theory of evolution. La Sierra does a great job of teaching it as they should.

I agree fully that science class is for “science”. I would love it if the LSU admin would insist that the profs “stick to science” instead of proclaiming great myths and fictions about “birds coming from reptiles” or “animals coming from plants” or “eukaryote genomes acquiring new information in the form of new coding genes at the group-genome level”. As even one of their own atheist evolutionists complains about “stories” based on the fossil record about how one thing came from another – being “Stories easy enough to tell but they are not science because there is no way of putting the to the test”
Why spend so much time devoted to what even atheist evolutionists label “antiknowledge”??

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

34. BobRyan  June 14, 2011 at 4:20 am

**Casey**: @Jonathan: Like I said before, regardless of the reasons for the resignations, this site is wrong and petty. You can read my above comments as to why. This is a public thread so I can rant and rail all I want. I don’t have to wait till evidence supports any claim.

I agree that Casey’s objections are to be expected whenever someone stands up and points out a problem with the evolution “agenda” that includes things like withdrawing from the SDA denomination.

We should not be surprised by the POV that says that LSU is doing a wonderful job promoting blind-faith evolutionism and nobody should get in their way — coming from those who have been drinking the evolution-koolaid.

They will see nothing wrong with Bradley being honest and up front about his real views whether he speaks to the press or to some other gathering of LSU leaders.

And frankly I don’t think you can blame Bradley for speaking his mind when he is so clearly opposed to both the mission and message of the Seventh-day Adventist church. What else would you want?

The solution was never “tell Bradley to pretend as if he was in favor of the SDA view on origins, or message or mission”. Those who promoted that idea of wolf in sheeps clothing were begging for dissatisfaction and ultimately disaster.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

35. BobRyan  June 14, 2011 at 4:27 am

**David Read**: The reason for the firings has come out at Spectrum: the four were secretly taped having a conversation to the effect (according to one 4th hand report) that LSU would be better off separated from the SDA Church. Bradley was having an alcoholic beverage during this conversation.
Ok — so the firings have everything to do with the evolution controversy at LSU — because they are directly related to the “solution chosen” for that controversy and the demonstrated fact that the wolf-in-better-sheeps-clothing solution is not working as they seem to have imagined that it would work.

But it is working as would be expected if you look at the solution with a bit more objectivity.

They are not trying to convince the wolf to be a sheep – only to act like one in a better “less objectionable” way.

The solution is not better-behaved-wolves. I for one do not blame wolves for ‘being wolves’, but I would not ask them to lead sheep.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

36. BobRyan June 14, 2011 at 4:47 am

SATBGIRL: And remember, the University system was, itself, designed by the Christian church, as a way to encourage and expand our understanding of the universe

@SATBGIRL:

Point well taken – we should go back and look at just why the SDA church decided to divert tithe, gifts, offering money to establish a university at all.

Why not just funnel all of those resources into more Gospel evangelism and leave the teaching of evolution to the existing schools of the late 1800’s and early 1900’s?

Was it because Adventists were bent on promoting belief in evolutionism even though 3SG 90-91 identifies it as the “worst form of infidelity”??

Is that why we created these institutions?

Was it because we had the gospel mission of “better calculus… better physics… more devotion to evolution” and we were disappointed in the failed efforts of other universities to provide those benefits to mankind?

How wonderful to have a Math Physics Chem department at LSU where professors can model the blend of science and religion without compromising either.

How sad that the LSU biology and religion departments could not master that same level of accomplishment.

You rightly argue that we should look at our founding mission and goals when we created our schools.
You rightly argue that we should look at our founding mission and goals when we created our schools.

By contrast a number of complainers have come to EducateTruth and insisted that we NOT go back to the original purpose and mission for schools like LSU. Their arguments are effectively insisting that our new mission should be “to be the best public university that SDA tithe, tuition and offering dollars can buy”.

Your post exemplifies the high goals of such a public university. Turns out the world already has them. No need to divert SDA tithe, offering and tuition dollars to create more.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

37. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 5:45 am

BobRyan: Ok — so the firings have everything to do with the evolution controversy at LSU — because they are directly related to the “solution chosen” for that controversy and the demonstrated fact that the wolf-in-better-sheeps-clothing solution is not working as they seem to have imagined that it would work.

I don’t think we should assume that. It’s quite clear that this had nothing to do with the biology issue, and that Bradley happened to be one of the four is due more to his part he played. Someone posted an alleged email from him at Spectrum. I’ve been really surprised at how much is being leaked from LSU to Spectrum. It’s like they want everyone to know what is going on now:

To: My treasured friends and colleagues
From: Gary Bradley
6-12-11

On Friday, June 10, 2011, I signed a letter resigning from the faculty position that I have enjoyed for 39 years. Since such an action always precipitates much speculation and many rumors, I want you to know exactly what happened and why.

Recently a secret tape of a private conversation among four friends was released and distributed widely in the SDA church hierarchy. A professional transcript of that tape was prepared, albeit with some mistakes in identifying the speaker. I participated in that conversation, was confronted therewith in the Friday meeting, and agreed with much, but not all, of what was ascribed to me. This conversation has already been mischaracterized and is being used in further attempts to discredit La Sierra University.

I signed the resignation letter that had been prepared for me for two reasons. First, I believe that the best way for La Sierra University to come through this
fiasco is for a “head to roll.” Second, I admitted to consuming a small glass of an alcoholic beverage during this conversation. On the first count, everything I have tried to do for the past 39 years has been to help La Sierra University to succeed. On the second count, I can only say mea culpa.

Needless to say, I am devastated. I feel like my very soul has been ripped from my body. My entire life since I began teaching 46 years ago has been dedicated to Adventist education. I’m not ready to quit and I grieve the loss of the classroom where I have had such rewarding interactions with the wonderful people who are my students. I have many important projects underway here now and many other people will be inconvenienced by my sudden departure. I can only say that I am deeply sorry and will try my utmost to earn redemption.

If you are among those who welcome this transition, I request that you celebrate with dignity. If you are among those who find this transition upsetting, I ask that you not turn it into a war. Please continue to do what you can to make La Sierra University the best and most progressive SDA university in the world.

(Quote)

38. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 6:29 am

According to the LSU faculty handbook it appears that drinking alcohol is forbidden while employed by the church:

In addition to the requirements of the law, La Sierra University adopts the temperance practices and health principles espoused by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This means that all faculty, employees and students are expected to refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco while enrolled or employed at the University. (Faculty Handbook 33)

Violating this agreement can result in the following:

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance or the use of alcohol or tobacco is grounds for a full range of discipline up to and including dismissal from employment or school under the policy of termination of a faculty member, the policy for termination of other employees, or student disciplinary policy. Any educational treatment alternative to discipline shall be at the sole discretion of the University. (Ibid 36)

(Quote)

33. Maile Don June 14, 2011 at 12:49
I stand in support of Educate Truth and its efforts to maintain integrity on an SDA campus of higher education. “Once to every man and nation (university) comes the moment to decide, in the strife of truth and falsehood, for the good or evil side.” Our church history shows that we have had to watch church institutions (Battle Creek San and Hospital) leave the sisterhood of institutions due to false teachings by its leadership. We should not be surprised if the cost of fidelity to truth has a price. Politically, we know that freedom has a price. Spiritually, fidelity to truth has a price.

I regret that Shane is coming under attack for having the courage to keep the light burning for doctrinal truth in Adventist education. We have long purported the idea of integration of faith and learning. Why would we want to excuse a science department who moves away from the “faith” aspect of its discipline?

(Quote)

BobRyan: Ok — so the firings have everything to do with the evolution controversy at LSU – because they are directly related to the “solution chosen” for that controversy and the demonstrated fact that the wolf-in-better-sheeps-clothing solution is not working as they seem to have imagined that it would work.

BobRyan: Ok — so the firings have everything to do with the evolution controversy at LSU – because they are directly related to the “solution chosen” for that controversy and the demonstrated fact that the wolf-in-better-sheeps-clothing solution is not working as they seem to have imagined that it would work.

Shane Hilde:
I don’t think we should assume that. It’s quite clear that this had nothing to do with the biology issue, and that Bradley happened to be one of the four is due more to his part he played

Shane — in my post above I argue that Bradley is merely being himself when he suggests that LSU should consider leaving the SDA fold of oversight. Suppose for a moment that Bradley were fully in favor of the SDA doctrine on origins – and promoted it in his classroom. In that case – do you really think he would then argue against staying with the SDA organization?

This is clearly a case of the root of the problem showing itself – for a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. The solution they chose was simply “behavior modification” for the wolves. They did not choose to insist on actual creationists, therefore they ended up with disgruntled wolves who are looking for a more “progressive” solution than merely “pretending” to have no interest in promoting firm belief in evolution.

Consider the alternative to the facts above – Do you think he was open to the idea of LSU leaving the SDA church “just because he wants to have the freedom to drink a small glass of alcohol”?

For that matter – do you really think that Bradley would even think to drink in the presence of his peers from LSU if he was convinced that his peers never drink or that LSU is known for a consistent strong
stand against drinking “in practice”?

(BTW I am fully opposed to alcohol and consider it the sin of drug abuse – but I doubt that the LSU culture is really as firm on that point as I am and I am sure Bradley is aware of that.)

This is not an issue about Bradley crusading for alcohol and suggesting that LSU leave the SDA fold if a more progressive stand on drinking is not adopted. Drinking was not the issue it was the convenient side issue. It is a technicality. It is like getting someone on tax evasion when your real interest in them is for some other deed for which you do not have the means or political avenue to address fully.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

41. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 7:58 am

I think what happened to these men was much more than alcohol. There must be something on the recording that coupled with the alcohol caused great enough concern to ask for the resignation of all four men.

(Quote)

42. BobRyan June 14, 2011 at 7:59 am

David Read: The reason for the firings has come out at Spectrum: the four were secretly taped having a conversation to the effect (according to one 4th hand report) that LSU would be better off separated from the SDA Church. Bradley was having an alcoholic beverage during this conversation.

Says it all.

(Quote)

43. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 8:04 am

@BobRyan: I agree. Obviously then there is something big on that recording.

(Quote)

44. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 8:34 am

According to Diana K., a commenter over at Spectrum, Bradley wrote her the following in an email:

If you were to post it I don’t think a lot would be lost since I have distributed it fairly widely on campus.
My only concern is that many read “secret recording” as diabolical whereas this was an accidental recording and distribution by one of the conversants. Thus it was more “Three Stooges” than “James Bond”.

If you would add this explanation then posting would be no problem.

So one of the four records the whole the incident and then passes it around? What on earth was this guy thinking. This was an accidental recording according to Bradley, but the real question is why it was accidentally recorded and then passed around.

(Quote)

45. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 9:24 am

David Read: The reason for the firings has come out at Spectrum: the four were secretly taped having a conversation to the effect (according to one 4th hand report) that LSU would be better off separated from the SDA Church. Bradley was having an alcoholic beverage during this conversation.

Dave, Since when is advocating “separation” from the ideas of the SDA Church and “boozing it up” a reason for firing someone from the SDA Church?!

(Quote)

46. Professor Kent June 14, 2011 at 9:27 am

Shane Hilde: So one of the four records the whole the incident and then passes it around? What on earth was this guy thinking. This was an accidental recording according to Bradley, but the real question is why it was accidentally recorded and then passed around.

The apparent answer to your real question: by accident.

Shane Hilde: According to Diana K., a commenter over at Spectrum, Bradley wrote her the following in an email:So one of the four records the whole the incident and then passes it around? What on earth was this guy thinking. This was an accidental recording according to Bradley, but the real question is why it was accidentally recorded and then passed around.

(Quote)

47. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 9:30 am
@Professor Kent: I think you’re right. Quite the blunder though.

(Quote)

48. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 10:05 am

It looks like Bradley has admitted to, over on Spectrum, drinking alcohol and being a part of a conversation, part of which was to discuss whether to have LSU become independent of SDA control?

So, he’s for “evolution as fact” wants to consume alcohol, and wants LSU to at least “consider” freeing itself from SDA control.

Are those the reasons HE was fired?

(Quote)

49. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 10:10 am

So, these 4 got together and were discussing whether LSU should “secede” from SDA control?

If so, given the positions these guys were in, it sounds like a great idea they were “fired.”

(Quote)

50. Professor Kent June 14, 2011 at 11:29 am

I don’t believe the Educate Truth administration truly wants to see LSU leave the Church’s control.

There are, however, some supporters of ET who want LSU to leave the SDA fold. Are these folks pleased with or critical of an LSU employee who takes a similar position?

I’ll make my position transparent: the SDA Church greatly benefits from LSU (which is NOT all-out-for-evolutionism), and there are many non-SDAs who would not learn about our distinct beliefs and culture if LSU was not SDA. I want LSU to represent the very best of Adventism.

Rather than throwing proverbial sticks and stones at an institution and assorted individuals, why don’t we pray earnestly for LSU, those who are making decisions about the institution, those affected by the decisions, and especially those with whom we disagree.

(Quote)

51. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 11:36 am

Professor Kent: I want LSU to represent the very best of Adventism.

Amen.

(Quote)
52. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 12:03 pm

As Shane has shown over on Spectrum, consumption of alcohol is prohibited for faculty. The penalties include firing.

What about “mutiny?!?” Is that on the list?

(Quote)

53. David Bee June 14, 2011 at 1:49 pm

Isn’t the recording of a private conversation without documented permission a felony under federal law?

(Quote)

54. David Bee June 14, 2011 at 1:58 pm

Penalties under federal law for recording conversation without consent by Lewis Gainor on November 23, 2010

Secretly recording a conversation can constitute a criminal offense under federal law. Under Title 18, Section 2511 of the United States Code, it is a felony to record a conversation unless at least one party to the conversation consents. The crime is called eavesdropping, and a person found guilty can be sentenced to 5 years in prison and fined $250,000.

The statute reaches beyond conversations. It is against the law to use any device to intercept wire, oral, or electronic communications, as well. For example, recording a phone conversation or copying computer data such as email is eavesdropping, and subject to criminal penalties.

18 USC 2511 applies to face-to-face conversations, telephone conversations (including cell phones), email, instant messaging, text messages, phone records, voicemail, data saved on a server, and any other electronic communication.

(Quote)

55. David Bee June 14, 2011 at 2:00 pm

What ethics let to the use of an illegally (felony) obtained recording to discipline faculty?

(Quote)

56. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 2:45 pm

David Bee: Isn’t the recording of a private conversation without documented permission a felony under federal law?

So, who’s gonna sue? And, who are they gonna sue? If it goes to a trial, more information will be forthcoming about how, when, where, and maybe why the conversation happened.
Maybe those involved won’t want to “sue” anybody?

(Quote)

57. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 2:58 pm

This is not an issue about Bradley crusading for alcohol and suggesting that LSU leave the SDA fold if a more progressive stand on drinking is not adopted. Drinking was not the issue it was the convenient side issue. It is a technicality. Bob

You’re probably right, Bob. However, this would be an ironic ending to Bradley, if it were true. Getting a guy canned because of a “light” Brewskie or “small” tonic and gin instead of the actual issue he’s being accused of would indeed be a major accomplishment, similar to Capone’s conviction for “tax evasion” or OJ getting convicted for what he did in Las Vegas to try to get his “stuff” back!

(Quote)

58. David Bee June 14, 2011 at 3:55 pm

A federal judge would likely intervene if firing was based on a feloniously obtain recording.

(Quote)

59. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 4:03 pm

@David Bee: Except it wasn’t a felony. It was released by the person who recorded it. So if anyone should get in trouble legally it would be the guy who recorded.

(Quote)

60. Odessa June 14, 2011 at 4:09 pm

Professor Kent: Your characterization of an entire department (and in prior posts an entire university) as “sacrifice-all-for-evolutionism” because of the views of a few individuals is nothing more than propaganda.

True.

(Quote)

61. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 4:10 pm

David Bee: A federal judge would likely intervene if firing was based on a feloniously obtain recording.

So, let’s see if any “federal judge” intervenes and if anyone is arrested, prosecuted, and convicted. My
Two administrators, one biology professor, and one board m...
California Wiretapping Law
California’s wiretapping law is a “two-party consent” law. California makes it a crime to record or eavesdrop on any confidential communication, including a private conversation or telephone call, without the consent of all parties to the conversation. See Cal. Penal Code § 632. The statute applies to “confidential communications” — i.e., conversations in which one of the parties has an objectively reasonable expectation that no one is listening in or overhearing the conversation. See Flanagan v. Flanagan, 41 P.3d 575, 576-77, 578-82 (Cal. 2002). A California appellate court has ruled that this statute applies to the use of hidden video cameras to record conversations as well. See California v. Gibbons, 215 Cal. App. 3d 1204 (Cal Ct. App. 1989).

(Quote)

67. Odessa June 14, 2011 at 4:33 pm

Shayne Vincent: If you want to believe in evolution, then go to a State university. This is a very simple issue and has nothing to do with ignorance and everything to do with integrity.

I’m not sure what “believing” in evolution has to do with this. It is important for biology students to know the particulars of evolutionary theory in their own field. Whether they believe in it or not, is another matter altogether.

(Quote)

68. David Bee June 14, 2011 at 4:33 pm

@David Read:

Distributing a feloniously acquired recording may constitute abetting a crime making the distributor chargable under the statute.

(Quote)

69. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 4:42 pm

@David Bee: Are you a lawyer?

(Quote)

70. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 5:00 pm

David Bee: @Ron Stone M.D.: Will be interesting to see who the district attorney interviews. CA law is quite strict and its’ employment lawyers are talented.
I agree. But who is going to sue whom, and for what? Are the disgraced ex-employees going to go after each other, LSU, Pacific Union Conference, GC?

I still say nothing will actually be done legally to solve this alleged crime.

(Quote)

71. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 5:10 pm

**David Bee**: @Ron Stone M.D.: Will be intersting to see who the district attorney interviews. CA law is quite strict and its’ employment lawyers are talented.

So, has the DA jumped on this case yet?

(Quote)

72. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 5:13 pm

All this legal talk etc. is a bunch of hot air. I will be extremely surprised if anything legal comes of this.

(Quote)

73. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 5:13 pm

**David Read**: New story up at Spectrum says that one of the four recorded a meeting with his cell phone, then left the recorder running at a private after-meeting at someone’s house where alcohol was served. The conversation included foul language, derogatory comments, and jokes about drinking.

Does anyone actually have the recording? Where can we get a copy?

You know it’s got to be very embarrassing, otherwise they would not have “resigned” but would have fought these charges.

(Quote)

74. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 5:14 pm

**Shane Hilde**: All this legal talk etc. is a bunch of hot air. I will be extremely surprised if anything legal comes of this.

I agree with you Shane. Lots of hot air and no real substance. My bet is nothing is actually done and nobody goes to the “big house.”
nobody goes to the big house.

(Quote)

75. Lou Westphal M.D. June 14, 2011 at 5:17 pm

Probably sue for inappropriate termination of employment? It seemed that Bradley might have been heading that direction in his email.

(Quote)

76. Lou Westphal M.D. June 14, 2011 at 5:19 pm

This is happening in California, after all.

(Quote)

77. David Read June 14, 2011 at 5:21 pm

At least no one claimed that his cell phone was hacked by a prankster.

(Quote)

78. David Read June 14, 2011 at 5:29 pm

BTW, Ervin Taylor at AToday is reporting that they have a copy of the recording and are having it transcribed. but he’s indicating that they will report on what the church officials said, not on what the resigning staff and board member said.

(Quote)

79. Lou Westphal M.D. June 14, 2011 at 5:40 pm

David Read:

At least no one claimed that his cell phone was hacked by a prankster.

Very funny…

(Quote)

80. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 6:01 pm

No religion faculty (my major field) member that I knew in 1961 believed in either a literal creation week or a <10,000 year old earth.

So, where did you graduate from? Who were these guys and gals? Care to name some and where they are from or where they are now?

I started attending the SDA Church is 1960. From that time until now, virtually all the members and clergy have seemed to promote a “literal” creation story.
How about others?

(Quote)

81. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 6:03 pm

David Read: BTW, Ervin Taylor at AToday is reporting that they have a copy of the recording and are having it transcribed. but he’s indicating that they will report on what the church officials said, not on what the resigning staff and board member said.

Is Erv willing to negotiate? I’ve been saving up my pennies.

(Quote)

82. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 6:04 pm

Lou Westphal M.D.: This is happening in California, after all.

You are SO right! Really nothing strange, unusual, or improper out here!

(Quote)

83. Jonathan June 14, 2011 at 6:38 pm

Marilyn Bauer:
I stand in support of Educate Truth and its efforts to maintain integrity on an SDA campus of higher education. “Once to every man and nation (university) comes the moment to decide, in the strife of truth and falsehood, for the good or evil side.” Our church history shows that we have had to watch church institutions (Battle Creek San and Hospital) leave the sisterhood of institutions due to false teachings by its leadership. We should not be surprised if the cost of fidelity to truth has a price. Politically, we know that freedom has a price. Spiritually, fidelity to truth has a price.

I regret that Shane is coming under attack for having the courage to keep the light burning for doctrinal truth in Adventist education. We have long purported the idea of integration of faith and learning. Why would we want to excuse a science department who moves away from the “faith” aspect of its discipline?

All those who decide to live a Biblically faithful life shall suffer persecution.
84. Professor Kent  June 14, 2011 at 6:39 pm

I have now listened to the tape and I was absolutely stunned. The conversation was, on the whole, remarkably benign; I can’t figure out how the men were manipulated to resign.

The SPECTRUM article summarized the conversation accurately: there were a few scatological terms, I picked up one very general reference to wine (perhaps I missed something), and there was a faint smattering of derogatory comments about specific individuals (mostly directed toward one Church official). I didn’t hear any talk of moving LSU away from the SDA Church. Virtually all of the conversation dealt with the preceding Blackmer-Jackson meeting with LSU faculty and the heavy-handed measures the Church has taken toward LSU in light of the evolution controversy (measures which some folks here continue to deny have been taken, which in turn prompts unending ad hominen attacks on individual LSU and Church administrators).

I socialize with many SDAs, non-SDA Christians, and non-Christians, and I have to say the conversation closely resembled a very normal conversation among very ordinary (albeit frustrated) SDAs. The vulgar language I hear so much of from my non-Christian friends and colleagues was almost completely lacking from this particular conversation. In all fairness to this foursome, someone needs to make this clear.

There is no question in my mind that the requested resignations had everything to do with the creation-evolution controversy stirred up by Educate Truth. I was hoping otherwise, but no one listening to the conversation is likely to conclude any differently. If these men do not take legal action against their employer and/or the Union for being forced to resign with the threat of releasing the recording of a private conversation against their will, I suspect it would only be in a good will effort to stem the war that has spun completely out of control (thank you, Educate Truth).

This war needs to stop. Both sides need to end the rhetoric and let things settle down. This is a victory only for Satan’s cause.

(Quote)

85. Kevin  June 14, 2011 at 8:29 pm

**Casey:**
That’s garbage and you know it Shane. Although I don’t expect someone with your lack of integrity to admit it. **I know for a fact** that there is NO reason to fire Gary Bradley other than his support of science being attacked by ignorant people like you who made waves in the church and at LSU. They are willing to lose their WASC accreditation before they lose their SDA accreditation so they responded to the likes of you and your cult. PERIOD.

Please realize that it is entirely impossible for you to “know for a fact” that there is no other reason, unless you have direct evidence demonstrating what the reason actually is.

If you do have such evidence, please present it to us, or explain why you can’t.
If you do not have or have not seen such evidence, then your choice to believe that there could not possibly be any other reason is illogical.

We must be careful not to let our emotions drive our analysis of situations, circumstances, and personalities.

(Quote)

86. Professor Kent June 14, 2011 at 8:42 pm

Kevin: If you do have such evidence, please present it to us, or explain why you can’t.

I have listened to the “evidence” so I am presenting it to you right now. The most objectionable material in the recording was some negative comments about certain individuals—but these were no more malicious than many of the comments posted here by Educate Truth supporters.

If it’s okay for the defenders of conservative Adventism to make negative comments about others here, in a very public format, then why should employees be fired for doing so in the privacy of their own home.


(Quote)

87. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 9:28 pm

Professor Kent: I have listened to the “evidence” so I am presenting it to you right now. The most objectionable material in the recording was some negative comments about certain individuals—but these were no more malicious than many of the comments posted here by Educate Truth supporters. If it’s okay for the defenders of conservative Adventism to make negative comments about others here, in a very public format, then why should employees be fired for doing so in the privacy of their own home. Hypocrisy. Hypocrisy. Hypocrisy. Hypocrisy. Hypocrisy. Hypocrisy.

How about all of us listening to it and forming our own opinion bad it is?

If it’s not so bad, why not? Hypocrisy, hypocrisy, hypocrisy!

(Quote)

88. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 9:32 pm
Lou Westphal M.D.: Probably sue for inappropriate termination of employment? It seemed that Bradley might have been heading that direction in his email.

How “inappropriate” is resigning? Isn’t that what he did, or am I missing something? He admitted he resigned in his letter.

(Quote)

89. Kevin June 14, 2011 at 11:14 pm

Please try to apply logic to this, rather than emotion.

First, Professor Kent quoted me out of context. I was asking for evidence which allowed Casey to “know for a fact” (as claimed) that the biology conflict is the root cause of the resignations, in spite of the school’s own statements.

Let’s remember that the source of the so-called “reason” or “evidence” for resignation is the one resigning, as LSU itself is not at liberty to divulge the information.

Everyone who is claiming that the evolution/creation controversy is actually the reason, is taking the word of an individual who signed his own resignation letter, over the words of the leadership of the institution.

This logically means that those making such claims are presuming the statements made by the institution are lies.

Furthermore, if the board were actually acting surreptitiously toward an underlying purpose somehow in-line with the efforts to remove supporters of teaching evolution from the university, it would not be logical for them to claim otherwise after these particular resignations.

Why? Because some of these individuals are apparently not involved in the controversy, and the ones who could be considered “primary targets” are still employed.

The most presumption that can be logically made is that the individual resigning is less likely to be a reliable source of the real reason.

Finally, it is interesting to note that one commentator here who seems to be supporting the resigned professor has referred to individuals who believe creation as “ignorant people”.

________

There is a constant stream of unfounded attacks on the belief in literal creation and it’s scientific accuracy, stating it cannot belong in any scientific discussion.

Would those of you who support this view please explain away all or perhaps some of what Professor Walter J. Veith (PhD, biologist, physiologist, scientist) teaches in support of literal creation and against evolution?

If you don’t want to watch, listen to or read Professor Veith’s presentations, or if you presume in
If you don’t want to watch, then to or read professor Venutis presentations, or if you presume in advance that he can’t be right because you already know what’s right, then you are intentionally choosing a decidedly unscientific mindset (science is the examination of all available evidence), and are essentially burying your heads in the sand.

(Quote)

90. Lou Westphal M.D. June 15, 2011 at 12:44 am

It seems there is some legal recourse called “constructive discharge” in which an employee, forced to resign by suspect circumstances, can still file a wrongful termination suit.

(Quote)

91. BobRyan June 15, 2011 at 6:14 am

**Shane Hilde:** @David Bee: Except it wasn’t a felony. It was released by the person who recorded it. So if anyone should get in trouble legally it would be the guy who recorded.

People – this is an act of God in having this behind-closed doors unveiling of the true issues at LSU come to light in the way that it did such that the wolves only have themselves to blame in what even Bradley calls a “three stooges” scenario.

Those who suggest that CA is prone to “file law suit no matter your culpability” may be right about the culture out there – but the facts being what they are… this whole thing is amazing!

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

92. BobRyan June 15, 2011 at 6:23 am

**Casey:** This is total GARBAGE! LSU is on it’s way to being an unaccredited bible school. It’s very sad because I love LSU. And it’s obvious that this IS because of the evolution controversy. I don’t care what anyone says. Shame on you Shane Hilde and everyone else at “educate truth” for being so shallow and unloving towards your fellow human beings. You are completely wrong in what you are doing beyond what you can understand. You’re so threatened by the theory of evolution and your faith is so weak that you are willing to get people fired from jobs they love just because evolution makes YOU feel uncomfortable. I hope you someday feel guilt and regret this terrible deed you have done.
What a total distortion!!

No Church administrator has said “we need to find a solution that Shane will like”.

no Church administrator has said “we will take action here so that whatever preferences Shane Hilde has are fully met”.

No one has claimed that Shane is the source of massive gift or grant funds to LSU.

The ONLY impact Educate Truth has is the extent to which REAL issues are revealed and then OTHERS decide if they really like what is going on at LSU (as you apparently do) or if they want to bury their head in the sand for more decades of this circus, or if they are ready to take a stand and actually do something about it.

In your post you make it appear that Shane is the doctrinal authority of the SDA church. Hint – Shane was not at the GC 2010 session that voted the more explicit versioning of FB#6 – the entire world church was through its representatives!

Why is it so hard for a tiny few to see this glaringly obvious point by now??

You admit that LSU all-for-evolution program in their biology and religion departments is opposed to SDA doctrine – but then you want to “blame Shane” for letting that news out?

Or did you just want to blame him for having an opinion that differs?

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

93. BobRyan June 15, 2011 at 6:30 am

Professor Kent: I have listened to the “evidence” so I am presenting it to you right now. The most objectionable material in the recording was some negative comments about certain individuals—...Hypocrisy.

Insightful as usual Kent.

Thanks for sharing that with us “right now”.

Obivously the Inside Higher Education article did a more “complete” job of explaining the problem to the world. You on the other hand – are predictably devoted to “spin doctoring”.

At some point Kent – it pays to throw away the shovel. This case where they voluntarily shot themselves in the foot even by their own admission is an act of God in leaving the Church “without excuse” if they should choose to delude themselves about the far reaching level of the problem at LSU.

in Christ,
Bob

(quote)

94. BobRyan June 15, 2011 at 6:46 am

Kevin: Furthermore, if the board were actually acting surreptitiously toward an underlying purpose somehow in-line with the efforts to remove supporters of teaching evolution from the university, it would not be logical for them to claim otherwise after these particular resignations. Why? Because some of these individuals are apparently not involved in the controversy, and the ones who could be considered “primary targets” are still employed.

Based on the context for the recording (a prior meeting about evolution-creation controversy at LSU held with Dan Jackson and Blackmer) there is no question that this recording included segments on the pro-evolution agenda at LSU and their views of the supposedly wrong-headed thinking of the SDA church in not changing FB#6 to save Genesis 1 in the light of “evolution as fact”.

It is obvious that LSU does not present a case where 4 or 5 professors are acting without support of the Admin (and the support of more than a few of their peers).

No one (but Kent) has claimed that all of LSU is on board with evolution. Yet even so we cannot indulge in the fantasy that only those people actively pushing this with the students in science and religion classes, are acting behind the scenes to promote evolution at LSU.

That infrastructure of support from faculty and Admin at LSU would eventually have to be addressed if the SDA denomination had any hope of fixing the problem in harmony with the AAA decision. (No doubt the four guys in that meeting figured that out for themselves since they represented both groups and could see the problem clearly.)

in Christ,

Bob

(quote)

95. BobRyan June 15, 2011 at 6:51 am

Professor Kent: I socialize with many SDAs, non-SDA Christians, and non-Christians, and I have to say the conversation closely resembled a very normal conversation among very ordinary (albeit frustrated) SDAs.

That statement says a lot about Prof Kent.
I can’t believe he said that out loud given that even Inside Higher Ed admits to the vulgar content on the tape (in the context of supposedly Christian college).

Astounding!

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

96. BobRyan June 15, 2011 at 7:02 am

An interesting addition to the note above –

Mark Bruno: I see that they were told that if they did not resign, their comments would be shared with the board. What’s so bad about that? If these comments were actually harmless and trivial, why would they care if the board heard them. I suspect that the comments were probably quite damaging and perhaps actionable. It was their choice to resign. In the end, they have reaped what they have sown.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

97. Ron Stone M.D. June 15, 2011 at 7:04 am

BobRyan: People – this is an act of God in having this behind-closed doors unveiling of the true issues at LSU come to light in the way that it did such that the wolves only have themselves to blame in what even Bradley calls a “three stooges” scenario. Those who suggest that CA is prone to “file law suit no matter your culpability” may be right about the culture out there – but the facts being what they are… this whole thing is amazing! in Christ, Bob

I agree Bob. Those whom I have spoken with so far, regarding this specific detail, all agree that this may be “Divine Intervention” in an ironic way.

Those at LSU will of course deny this, but looking at the scenario, it’s hard to not see it. When Man fails to act, sometimes God does, in a way in which we just have to be amazed!

God IS great, even though we, as humans, all of us included, fail to live up to His standards.

(Quote)
98. Ron Stone M.D. June 15, 2011 at 7:08 am

Lou Westphal M.D.: It seems there is some legal recourse called “constructive discharge” in which an employee, forced to resign by suspect circumstances, can still file a wrongful termination suit.

I’m sure you’re right, Lou. I wasn’t actually being disagreeable, as I usually am, but simply stating that he was not officially “fired” but did “resign.”

Probably some way anybody can sue his ex-employer, no matter how one is terminated!

(Quote)
NAD President, Education Director Dialog with La Sierra Campus Community

By Larry Becker
Executive Director, University Relations

-Dan Jackson

Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, and Larry Blackmer, division vice president for education, conducted a 90-minute town hall meeting followed by two hours of additional conversation with the La Sierra University faculty and staff on April 20. The two division leaders visited the campus to share their perspectives on a wide range of issues related to the lengthy biology controversy and the recent Adventist Accrediting Association board decision. Their visit also gave them an opportunity to hear the thoughts and concerns of campus faculty, staff, and administration.

Elder Jackson used his brief opening remarks to express his personal regret for what has been at times an excessively hostile tone of media and online comments directed at the university, a theme he returned to several times during the campus conversation. He also reminded the campus community of the importance of continuing to clearly affirm support for church doctrines throughout the curriculum.

During the lengthy dialogue session, many faculty members prefaced their remarks by expressing appreciation to both leaders for their presence on campus. The spirit of the discussion was respectful and heartfelt.

“T’m grateful for the willingness of both Elder Jackson and Elder Blackmer to dialogue candidly with our faculty and staff,” said University President Randal Wisbey. “I believe it was helpful for La Sierra University’s people to experience the pastoral care and concern expressed by both of these church leaders.”

PR Contact: Larry Becker
Executive Director of University Relations

UPDATE 6/13/11: An LSU faculty or staff recorded the meeting with a cell phone. The audio clips were posted on Wikisend recently. A commenter at Spectrum posted a link to these clips; however, the files are no longer available at the link posted. The town hall meeting was closed to the public and only faculty and staff were invited.

38 Responses to “NAD President, Education Director Dialog with La Sierra Campus Community”

1. Shane Hilde June 12, 2011 at 9:00 pm

   So only the faculty were invited? Why would an LSU faculty member leak an audio recording of this meeting to someone who then posts it on Spectrum?

   Perhaps some sort of political move?

   Seems strange.

   The meetings were obviously not intended for the public to hear. It would be one thing if I was there and recorded the meetings, but someone from LSU, a faculty member, leaked them.

   (Quote)

2. Professor Kent June 12, 2011 at 10:07 pm

   I think we should let dead dogs rest.

   (Quote)


   Having a great deal of respect for both men from the GC (one of whom has been at the helm for much of the time that this crisis has been maturing)... we also have respect for the following statements that describe the opposition anyone will face who dares to address sin in the camp.

   "Ministers who are preaching present truth should not neglect the solemn message to the Laodiceans. The testimony of the True Witness is not a smooth message. The Lord does not say to them, You are doing well. The Lord says, You are in sin. You are spiritually dead, and must be born again".

   (Quote)
about right; you have borne chastisement and reproof that you never deserved; you have been unnecessarily discouraged by severity; you are not guilty of the wrongs and sins for which you have been reproved.” {3T 257.2}

“If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime, and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God” {3T 281}

“Those who have been nearly all their lives controlled by a spirit as foreign to the Spirit of God as was Achan’s will be very passive when the time comes for decided action on the part of all. They will not claim to be on either side. The power of Satan has so long held them that they seem blinded and have no inclination to stand in defense of right. If they do not take a determined course on the wrong side, it is not because they have a clear sense of the right, but because they dare not.” {3T 271.2}

“Skepticism and unbelief are not humility. Implicit belief in Christ’s word is true humility, true self-surrender” (DA 535).

“Elijah was declared to be a trouble of Israel, Jeremiah a traitor, Paul a polluter of the temple.

From that day to this, those who would be loyal to truth have been denounced as seditious, heretical, or schismatic. Multitudes who are too unbelieving to accept the sure word of prophecy, will receive with unquestioning credulity an accusation against those who dare to reprove fashionable sins. This spirit will increase more and more. And the Bible plainly teaches that a time is approaching when the laws of the State shall so conflict with the law of God that whoever would obey all the divine precepts must brave reproach and punishment as an evil-doer.” {GC88 458.2}

“There those who stand firm against conformity to the world, discouraging pride, superfluity, and extravagance, and enjoining humility and self-denial, are looked upon as critical, peculiar, and severe. Some argue that by uniting with worldlings and conforming to their customs, Christians might exert a stronger influence in the world. But all who pursue this course thereby separate from the source of their strength. Becoming friends of the world, they are the enemies of God.” {ST, July 13, 1882 par. 20}

Given this context in general we are not too surprised by some feeling among a few at LSU that EducateTruth should never have exposed the biology and religion dept practices to begin with.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

4. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 6:32 am

This is the first time, that I know of, that an LSU person has leaked something. At this point I can only assume this person or persons thought it would potentially beneficial to LSU’s to leak these recordings.

If anything has changed at LSU, it’s the biology department ducking for cover and waiting for things to blow over, as Bradley so nicely put it. I’d be surprised if the way the curriculum is being taught has
changed.

If LSU faculty see some wiggle room out of this, they’ll take it. You don’t have a track record of hiding what has been taught and then all of a sudden have an ah-ha moment and completely change status quo. The only reason we’re seeing anything happening at LSU is because what they have been doing has seen the light of day.

(Quote)

5. BobRyan  June 13, 2011 at 7:57 am

As has been pointed out “a man convinced against his will – is of the same opinion still”.

Nothing has been said by anyone at LSU to the effect that the diehard TE spirit in the LSU religion and biology departments has lessened. The only statements that have been made is that they are crafting their presentation to be less exposed to direct criticism by SDA parents and students regarding the civility of their discourse with the students who insist on believing SDA views of origins over evolutionist views of origins.

Hence – this is not the “fix” rather it is the “lull” in aggressive promotion of evolutionism at LSU.

That LSU event with Walter Veith where only the Physics and Chemistry departments had the presence of mind, vision and insight to encourage open minded attendance at Veith’s lectures was indeed “instructive” for the unbiased objective observers.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

6. Professor Kent  June 13, 2011 at 9:44 am

Obviously, the issue is being addressed. You folks whine and complain and gossip every time something appears to be getting done by the Church’s leadership—leadership which you folks disrespect. The gossip and allegations and innuendos are as endless as Bob repeating Bob.

(Quote)

7. Shane Hilde  June 13, 2011 at 11:41 am

Yes it is being addressed. For that all those who have been concerned can be thankful. It’s just unfortunate it had to get to this point.

(Quote)

8. Ron Stone M.D.  June 13, 2011 at 1:27 pm

Professor Kent:
Obviously, the issue is being addressed. You folks whine and complain and gossip every time something appears to be getting done by the Church’s
gossip every time something appears to be getting done by the church's leadership–leadership which you folks disrespect. The gossip and allegations and innuendos are as endless as Bob repeating Bob. According to you, Prof, everything is A-OK and hunky-dorry at LSU. Looks like Jackson came to “congratulate” LSU for having such a great solution to this?!

Is that what he spoke about?

(Quote)

9. Ron Stone M.D. June 13, 2011 at 1:29 pm

Shane Hilde:
This is the first time, that I know of, that an LSU person has leaked something. At this point I can only assume this person or persons thought it would potentially beneficial to LSU’s to leak these recordings.

If anything has changed at LSU, it’s the biology department ducking for cover and waiting for things to blow over, as Bradley so nicely put it. I’d be surprised if the way the curriculum is being taught has changed.

If LSU faculty see some wiggle room out of this, they’ll take it. You don’t have a track record of hiding what has been taught and then all of a sudden have an ah-ha moment and completely change status quo. The only reason we’re seeing anything happening at LSU is because what they have been doing has seen the light of day.

I believe you’re right, Shane. I don’t see anything actually being done–just more talk and avoidance of any action!

(Quote)

10. Ron Stone M.D. June 13, 2011 at 3:02 pm

Professor Kent: I think we should let dead dogs rest.

So, who are these “dead dogs” you speak of? And, why are they “dead?”

(Quote)

11. Odessa June 13, 2011 at 3:29 pm

Concern is one thing, but when such concerns are taken to the level in which they have been taken in this case. it is anything but Christian.
12. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 4:02 pm

**Odessa:** Concern is one thing, but when such concerns are taken to the level in which they have been taken in this case, it is anything but Christian.

Perhaps you could clarify. What exactly is unChristian?

13. Faith June 13, 2011 at 7:07 pm

**Odessa:** Concern is one thing, but when such concerns are taken to the level in which they have been taken in this case, it is anything but Christian.

Really? I find it very interesting that the guilty parties and their supporters find it “unChristian” that the general membership of the SDA church is told about the heresy going on in its own institution, but it is apparently not “unChristian” to teach heresy in our institution. What kind of logic is this? Give me a break. What has been going on for decades at LSU is extremely unChristian. They don’t need to be whining about the fact that it has all come to light and they are now being criticized for their sin. Exactly what did they expect to happen? People are not going to thank them for leading their sons and daughters out of the church when in most cases they sacrificed to send their kids to an SDA institution so they wouldn’t be taught this evolutionary drivel in the first place. They blatantly and deliberately went against God, the church, and its teachings when they did this. Did they not expect some sort of backlash? Sin always carries a penalty and if faculty, administrators, and board members have to face the music, that is no more than can be expected.

I don’t have a lot of sympathy for the faculty, administrators, and board members who were either actively or passively committing this sin. My sympathies go out far more to the parents and youth who have paid the consequences of this heresy for years—especially to those souls who may be forever lost as a consequence. I find it appalling that the perpetrators are in line for anyone’s sympathy while the victims are forgotten. In my opinion, some people need to shake their heads and get some perspective on this.


**Faith:** I find it very interesting that the guilty parties and their supporters find it “unChristian” that the general membership of the SDA church is told about the heresy going on in its own institution but it is apparently not “unChristian” to
A very good summary of the situation!

in Christ,

Bob

15. Professor Kent June 13, 2011 at 7:25 pm

For those who are so eager to comment on the Town Hall meeting, I guess you find irresistible the need to gossip about something you know next to nothing about. If you weren’t there to hear the discussion, what do you really know?

16. Shane Hilde June 13, 2011 at 7:41 pm

@Professor Kent: Did you hear it?

17. Faith June 14, 2011 at 8:15 am

Good morning everyone.

Now that I have calmed down a bit, I think I may owe a bit of an apology for being a bit passionate about the subject. I am very passionate about the church and the truth and I tend to put things in a way that may not be as gentle as it should be.

However, I must confess I don’t understand why this whole mess has been allowed to go on so long. I am the type of person who wants immediate action when I see something that needs correcting. I am especially concerned that the longer this is allowed to continue, the more young people are being led astray. Precious souls are being lost for all eternity due to this heresy being taught in a supposedly SDA institution. I think that calls for immediate action.

If I had been the head of the GC, as soon as I heard about it, I would have been out there, suspended the departments involved while I investigated, and taken immediate and thorough action to cut off the heretical teachings. I bet I would have had it done in two weeks at the most...not two years...and I would have done what was right and let the chips fall where they may. As I see it, this is God’s institution and He can control circumstances in the way He sees fit.

I also get very upset when people criticize Shane and Sean for using this site to expose the problem. We should be grateful for these two men who have bravely sounded the alarm. They are the watchmen on the walls and they have withstood the fiery darts that have been aimed at them for their services. It isn’t like they did this for 15 minutes of fame. They did this to help rectify a situation they had tried to fix privately but without success.
Think about this, people...for several decades this has been going on, and as long as it was kept hushed, nothing was done to correct it, so it just silently grew worse and worse. I say, God bless Shane and Sean for their courage and grace under fire. The church owes them a debt of gratitude, not constant criticism.

They followed the Biblical prescription...first going to the people directly and then taking it to the church. Far from doing anything wrong they did things right.

I know that some of us have been very righteously indignant over this whole affair. But if you only knew it, some of the spicier comments were edited before many got to see them. (Many times, these were mine, so I know. 😞)

So, gentlemen, I personally thank you for your faithful service here. And I am sure the Lord has been using Educate Truth to help to get this situation fixed.

Have a great day everyone. I just realized I am going to be late for school! Yikes!

(Quote)

18. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 11:07 am

@Faith, The reason this thing has gone on so long is that the leadership out here in California allowed it to proceed, continue, and escalate without doing anything. From Wisb

Thus, you see how some “nobodies” like Shane, Sean, and the rest of us here (who are generally “nobodies” also!) had to bring this to the attention of the SDA Church and its worldwide leadership.

Despite what Spectrum says, this website did not “witchhunt” or force anybody to do anything.

But what exactly has been done? Nothing regarding the “evolution” problem. According to Graham, these guys were fired for something else. What else? We’ll have to wait and see!

(Quote)

19. Odessa June 14, 2011 at 1:33 pm

**Faith:** Really? I find it very interesting that the guilty parties and their supporters find it “unChristian” that the general membership of the SDA church is told about the heresy going on in its own institution, but it is apparently not “unChristian” to teach heresy in our institution. What kind of logic is this? Give me a break.

I find it interesting the conclusion you’ve jumped to over one statement I made. I’m not supporting any “guilty parties”. I’m simply sharing in President Dan Jackson’s regrets “for what has been at times an excessively hostile tone of media and online comments directed at the university”. And it’s still going on.

(Quote)
20. Professor Kent  June 14, 2011 at 1:36 pm

Shane Hilde: @Professor Kent: Did you hear it?

Nope.

(Quote)

21. Ron Stone M.D.  June 14, 2011 at 1:43 pm

I’m simply sharing in President Dan Jackson’s regrets “for what has been at times an excessively hostile tone of media and online comments directed at the university”. And it’s still going on.

Jackson is being a professional politician by making such a statement. I will ask Jackson personally—which comments are “excessively hostile?” Mine? Shane’s? Sean’s? Which ones?

Does Jackson have the backbone to answer these questions? I doubt it.

(Quote)

22. Professor Kent  June 14, 2011 at 1:46 pm

Ron Stone M.D.: But what exactly has been done? Nothing regarding the “evolution” problem.

How can you possibly know what has transpired behind the scenes? How can you know what has been taught at LSU the past year or more without being there yourself, or without hearing direct evidence of what is being taught or not taught?

There is a fundamental assumption among many who support this website: all parties once found guilty by the court of public opinion will remain guilty henceforth and can only emerge from said guilt by public declaration at the website that found them guilty.

This is not the way Christians should relate to “truth” and “sin.”

(Quote)

23. Odessa  June 14, 2011 at 1:46 pm

Ron Stone M.D.: Does Jackson have the backbone to answer these questions? I doubt it.
So now our North American Division President is under criticism.

(Quote)

24. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 1:58 pm

**Odessa**: So now our North American Division President is under criticism.

Well, Odessa, so far Jackson has done nothing that I can see (as did Don Schneider before him) regarding this problem in his own backyard.

Why is Wilson taking most of the “heat” regarding this matter on Spectrum, while Jackson seems immune? Because Jackson has relinquished his duties as a “watchman” and has taken up duties as a “facilitator” in this matter. Looks like he’s gonna “dialogue” himself through this.

Sure, the problem started before he got to the NAD, but that’s a stronger reason for taking some steps to correct what Schneider didn’t care to tackle.

(Quote)

25. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 2:03 pm

**Professor Kent**: How can you possibly know what has transpired behind the scenes? How can you know what has been taught at LSU the past year or more without being there yourself, or without hearing direct evidence of what is being taught or not taught? There is a fundamental assumption among many who support this website: all parties once found guilty by the court of public opinion will remain guilty henceforth and can only emerge from said guilt by public declaration at the website that found them guilty. This is not the way Christians should relate to “truth” and “sin.”

Well, Prof, so far your reports have consisted of third and fourth generaions “so-and-so told so-and-so” that they heard from an “unimpeachable” source that all is well at LSU!

(Quote)

26. Odessa June 14, 2011 at 2:11 pm

**Faith**: Think about this, people…for several decades this has been going on, and as long as it was kept hushed, nothing was done to correct it, so it just silently grew worse and worse.
May I ask how you know this has been going on for several decades? Because someone said so? Or is there clear evidence of this?

(Quote)

27. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 2:15 pm

**Odessa**: So now our North American Division President is under criticism.

I’m a critic of Jackson for playing the “relativism” card. Nobody is “at fault.” Or, “Each side is at fault.” etc.

This is a typical political move to avoid actually saying something of substance about what is going on.

I had some hope for Jackson, but he seems way to much like Schneider to be of any use in upholding our SDA values in the NAD.

(Quote)

28. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 2:18 pm

I have emailed Jackson at the GC website to ask which of my or anybody’s comments were “excessively hostile” towards LSU.

I’ll let you know, when and if I get an answer!

(Quote)

29. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 2:41 pm

I don’t have a lot of sympathy for the faculty, administrators, and board members who were either actively or passively committing this sin.

Not all the Board members have been involved in keeping this hidden. There are some who have tried to stop it, but to no avail, since the majority of the members of the Board are either too apathetic to act or actually support the “evolution as fact” doctrine, and don’t want to change anything.

(Quote)

30. Odessa June 14, 2011 at 5:14 pm

**Faith**: If I had been the head of the GC, as soon as I heard about it, I would have been out there, suspended the departments involved while I investigated, and taken immediate and thorough action to cut off the heretical teachings.
If it was me, I would first find out if evolution is being taught as a fact, or as a theory with holes in it. It makes a huge difference.

(Quote)

31. Professor Kent June 14, 2011 at 5:23 pm

Here is publicly posted description from a La Sierra student who responded to a question whether LSU biology faculty have taught theistic evolution as fact this past year, or have belittled a literal creation week a relatively short time (thousands of years) ago:

“My experience has been that none of my professors teach any theories as fact. They teach that all theories are interpretations of observations and attempts to understand things. These understandings continually change. Some make better sense than others given the understandings at the moment. All acknowledge that the Bible says very little about any mechanisms of how things are or how they came to be. That isn’t the domain of the Bible and if we were to put all the scientific explanations from the Bible it would be a very small booklet indeed. That’s not the fault of the Bible because it never was meant to be a science textbook. It’s poor science to attempt to construe the evidence to fit a predetermined theory, whether that is of a creationist-theology kind, a theistic-evolution kind or a materialist-evolutionary kind. Do the science and do the theology. If and when they don’t align, that is a separate discussion to be had. But neither are served well by trying to force one to fit the other. Clear thinking it important for science and for theology. Adherence to a set form of belief in science or theology because that is what has been held in the past is not good science or good theology. I’ve learned and developed skills in healthy thinking through my studies and for that I am deeply grateful. Thank you La Sierra!”

(Quote)

32. Professor Kent June 14, 2011 at 5:26 pm

Here is another public response from a former student who attended during an era when theistic evolution was supposedly taught as fact:

Don’t know about this past year, but when I was at LSU in the 90’s I didn’t get the feeling of belittling the short week mythos, although I probably wasn’t paying attention, since it has always been my understanding that the Bible is not, and cannot honestly be, interpreted literally.

(Quote)

33. Professor Kent June 14, 2011 at 5:30 pm
And here is one more public post by someone who apparently has not appreciated the change:

As my time as a Biology major from 2007 and four years later till now, I can say that how creationism and evolution are taught has fundamentally changed.

During freshman year, my 2nd quarter freshman Biology class was preaced (By Dr. McCluskey) with the statement that what he was showing us was what the world believed. It does not undermine creationism etc etc. That’s pretty much all we got as far as hearing about creationism.

Now, 3 years later, they dedicate a much larger amount of time towards explaining creationism/holding lectures for creationism.

In my opinion, if people really did feel the need for hearing about creationism, there are a myriad of classes which focus on the old testament/genesis offered at LSU by the religion department.

Now we are constantly reminded that this is “not fact, but it is supported by years and years of research etc. etc.” It’s very demeaning in a way, and I feel as if we, the students, are being treated like babies, just because some people took offense towards evolution being taught. Oh well, it will only be the students below my class reaping the “benefits” of this updated curriculum.

Where is your evidence, Ron, that nothing has changed? I’ve asked you for this several times and you still cannot produce. You are making mean-spirited charges you cannot back up.

(Quote)

34. Shane Hilde June 14, 2011 at 5:40 pm

Well apparently there are students who say they didn’t and students who say they did. I’m a graduate who sat through one biology course and he did in fact teach the theory as if it was true/fact.

Given that many of them are evolutionists, it’s not hard to imagine which side of the line they would fall when teaching. I’m sure they’ve clammed up in the last two years.

(Quote)

35. Professor Kent June 14, 2011 at 5:53 pm

Shane, I’m not disputing your experience and that some disrespectful treatment was doled out in years past.

What I am trying to say is that things have now changed, and I wish you folks would welcome that news rather than continue to deny it and maintain the ad hominen attacks not just on the biology faculty but on virtually all levels of Church administration.
Can you please use your influence to stop the completely unnecessary accusations made by certain individuals here who feel they can make such statements without any foundation in fact?

(Quote)

36. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 6:22 pm

**Professor Kent:** Shane, I’m not disputing your experience and that some disrespectful treatment was doled out in years past. What I am trying to say is that **things have now changed**, and I wish you folks would welcome that news rather than continue to deny it and maintain the ad hominen attacks not just on the biology faculty but on virtually all levels of Church administration. Can you please use your influence to stop the completely unnecessary accusations made by certain individuals here who feel they can make such statements without any foundation in fact?

So, Prof, where is your “foundation in fact?” Oh, I forgot–you heard someone who told someone else, that had heard from an “unimpeachable” source that “things have changed.”

(Quote)

37. Ron Stone M.D. June 14, 2011 at 6:31 pm

@ Kent, We gotta get a new “survey” Prof. That’s how LSU decides who is teaching what–not a few “cherry-picked” comments.

(Quote)

38. Odessa June 14, 2011 at 6:37 pm

**Shane Hilde:** Well apparently there are students who say they didn’t and students who say they did. I’m a graduate who sat through one biology course and he did in fact teach the theory as if it was true/fact.

…”as if it was true”…so what does that mean? Did he actually say it was a fact? And do we have anything to go by other than what is being claimed? Is there any evidence to back up said claims? How are we to know that statements haven’t been taken out of context, or misinterpreted?

(Quote)