12 YEARS IN ATHENS

A creationist’s odyssey in geological education

Marcus R. Ross, Ph.D.
I would like to personally thank you for watching the Origins television program. This show was special, near to the heart of my parents, Russell and Norma Bixler.

I trust that the information in this presentation will be helpful in your study of creation science. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Origins... you’re making the television production of this program possible!

Paul R. Bixler
Producer/Editor
Who I Am

- Christian
- Paleontologist and Professor
- Young-Earth Creationist
K through Ph.D. in state-run, secular schools

---Hostile territory---
Secular University as Modern Athens

- Athens then:
  - a place “full of idols” (Acts 17:16)
  - Everyone talked philosophy (Acts 17:21)

- “Athens” now: a place of many gods and much philosophy
Choosing A College

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.

G. Webb, 2004
Choosing A College

Location, location, location

G. Webb, 2004
Walking through Athens - Undergrad

- My first advisor
  - Dr. Cuffey

- Learning the language of evolution and age

Penn State University
The not-so good times

- Freedom of speech? Nah!
- Wandering in academic wasteland.
- Getting help from a Bishop

Becoming fluent in evolution & age
Walking through Athens—The M.S.

- Keeping the faith
  - The faithful to the rescue!
  - Staying connected with the YEC and ID communities
  - Finding a surprise…
Walking through Athens
The Ph.D.

- The tolerant advisor
  - Dr. Fastovsky

- Writing a dissertation
  - The ultimate test of fluency

University of Rhode Island
Walking through Athens
The Ph.D.

- Keeping the faith
  - Church & family
  - Meetings and email
  - Finishing while at Liberty University
Observe how the culture communicates
Be willing to tailor language for message
But…don’t compromise the message
Examples from Paul

- “[Paul] saw that the city was full of idols” (vs. 16)
- Alter “To the unknown god”
- Paul quoted from Greek poets
Maintaining Integrity

- Getting through grad school will *NOT* be easy.
- Many academic and spiritual stumbling blocks
  - God promises his presence, not “safety”
Maintaining Integrity

- With your fellow students…
  - Best opportunities for discussion and friendship

- Listen first, talk second

- Watch out for troublemakers
  - Aggressive anti-creationists, anti-Christians, etc.
  - “Climbers”
Maintaining Integrity

- With God
  - Pray/read regularly

- Church and Christian groups
  - Local church adds breadth of experience and ages
Settling in for the future

Where I am now…

- Being open opens doors
Believing Scripture but Playing by Science’s Rules

By CORNELIA DEAN
Published: February 12, 2007

KINGSTON, R.I. — There is nothing much unusual about the 197-page dissertation Marcus R. Ross submitted in December to complete his doctoral degree in geosciences here at the University of Rhode Island.

His subject was the abundance and spread of mosasaurs, marine reptiles that, as he wrote, vanished at the end of the Cretaceous era about 65 million years ago. The work is “impeccable,” said David E. Fastovsky, a paleontologist and professor of geosciences at the university who was Dr. Ross’s dissertation adviser. “He was working within a strictly scientific framework, a conventional scientific framework.”
Pharyngula

Trained parrot awarded Ph.D.

Posted by PZ Myers on February 12, 2007

This is a sad story of compartmentalization carried to an extreme: a Ph.D. student in the geosciences who is also young earth creationist. This is a tricky subject: religion is not a litmus
Challenges arise

Science, AntiScience and Geology

This blog is dedicated to assessing issues regarding the rise of anti-science in the USA. Anti-science voices in many forms (creationism, intelligent design, mysticism etc). Intelligent design and her half-sister, young earth creationism are particularly active in attempting to destroy modern science in favor of a theocratic educational system. The ideas on this page are mine and mine alone and do not reflect the views of my employer, my family or the worms in the backyard.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007

The Two Faces of Dr. Ross

Young Earth Creationist?

Previous Posts
- Happy Darwin Day
- Evolution Sunday
- Christo-Fascism
- The Stupidest Claim of the Year
- Rainbow Flapdoodle creationist claim
- Ten stupid creationist ideas
- Update from Back 3
- An Update on the Forest Fire at Ghost Ranch
- Templeton Foundation Bashes Intelligent Design
- A Day at the Bookstore
Challenges arise

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The Two Faces of Dr. Ross

This is a sad story of geosciences who...

WHY EVOLUTION IS TRUE

« Gastro-art: 1. In vino ars
More shenanigans at BioLogos: attacks on science and Giberson »

Creationists infiltrate geology meeting

Shoot me: I wasn’t aware of the Skepticblog, which is run by six people who include Steve Novella, paleobiologist Don Prothero, and Michael Shermer, but I’ll be paying attention to it from now on.

Two days ago, Don Prothero filed a report on how creationists had invaded the 2010 annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA), including running an entire field trip in Colorado on which young earth...
Challenges arise
Rock of Ages, Ages of Rock

Published: November 25, 2007

“I have faith that the Bible is a true and accurate record of the earth,” he said. “I also entertain the possibility that I’m wrong. It would be cartoonish to say I don’t have doubts from time to time. Everybody has moments of doubt. But I can have those moments without my brain exploding.”

The new creationists are not likely to make much of a dent among secular scientists, who often just roll their eyes at the mention of flood geology. But they have become a burden to many geologists at Christian colleges around the country.
“I have faith that the Bible is a true and accurate account of the earth,” he said. “I also entertain the possibility that the universe is wrong. It would be cartoonish to say I don’t have faith in the Bible, but I do have moments when I think, ‘What kind of idiot is this person?’”

The new creationists are not likely to find many students among secular scientists, who often challenge the Flood geology. But they have become a battleground for creationists in biology classes at colleges around the country.

**The Washington Post**

*Creationist Students Take Trip to Evolution Headquarters: The Smithsonian*

By Steve Hendrix
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Every winter, David DeWitt takes his biology class to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, but for a purpose far different from that of other professors.

DeWitt brings his Advanced Creation Studies class (CRST...
As do opportunities...

“I have faith that the stars are really there, the earth,” he says. “It would be wrong. It would be stupid from time to time to do so, but I can have those thoughts.”

The new creationism is not an oddity among students of creation. It is part of the climate of flood geology. It is part of the climate of churches and colleges around the world.

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Methodology versus beliefs: What did Marcus Ross do wrong?

By Janet D. Stemwedel | October 27, 2011 | 13

We've been discussing whether good science has more to do with the methodology you use or with what you believe, and considering the particular case of Ph.D. geoscientist and young earth creationist Marcus Ross (here and here). At least some of the responses to these two posts seem to offer the view that: (1) of course what makes for a reliable piece of scientific knowledge is the methodology used to produce it (and especially to check it for error), but (2) the very fact that Marcus Ross is committed to young earth creationism, which means among other things that he is
Evaluating potential post-Flood boundaries with biostratigraphy—the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary

Marcus R. Ross

Here I report a biostratigraphic analysis of 303 genera from 28 North American terrestrial mammalian families, in which all families contain members that are either extant or last appear in Pliocene or Pleistocene deposits. The distribution of these taxa within the Cenozoic rock record is used to evaluate proposed demarcations for the Flood/post-Flood boundary. A pronounced biostratigraphic break is expected at the Flood/post-Flood boundary since the final devastation and burial of pre-Flood nephesh creatures should be stratigraphically overlain by the arrival of post-Flood migrants. It is found that when the Flood/post-Flood boundary is placed at or near the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary, then a significant number of mammalian genera (23%), and nearly every family (>96%), crosses this boundary. Because numerous boundary-crossing taxa would have to migrate from their North American pre-Flood habitats to board the Ark and return to their same continent of origin in the post-Flood world, it is unlikely that the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary reflects the Flood/post-Flood boundary. Rather, the Flood/post-Flood boundary should be located below the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary, at a geological location with a more pronounced biostratigraphic break.

The present distribution of living organisms is the consequence of numerous Flood- and post-Flood related events. For those nephesh creatures taken aboard Noah's Ark, the biogeography of the modern species is biostatigraphic break marking the termination of the Flood should be expected by all creationists. The reasons are as follows.

1. Since the pre-Flood distribution of continents was
Evaluating potential stratigraphic boundaries with biogeographic data: Pliocene/Pleistocene

Marcus R. Ross

Here I report a stratigraphic analysis of 303 genera and 664 species in which all families contain members that are either extant or known in the fossil record. The distribution of these taxa within the Cenozoic record indicates the presence of an intermediate or post-Flood boundary. A pronounced boundary is observed at or near the Pliocene-Pleistocene boundary, not at the end of the Pleistocene, which is overlain by the arrival of post-Flood migrants. It is possible that post-Flood migrants emerged at or near the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary, then crossed this boundary. If this is the case, it is unlikely that the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary would not be at a geological location with a more pronounced boundary. Rather, the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary should be at a geological location with a more pronounced boundary.

The present distribution of living organisms is the result of the consequences of numerous Flood- and post-Flood-related events. For those nephesh creatures taken aboard Noah's Ark, the biogeography of the modern species could be explained by biogeographic events related to the Flood. The boundaries observed in the Pliocene/Pleistocene interval are consistent with the biogeographic data available and support the hypothesis that the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary is a post-Flood event.
While pushing forward on a creation model

Evaluating potential boundaries with Pliocene/Pleistocene

Marcus R. Ross

Here I report a biostratigraphic analysis of a stratigraphic section in which all families contain members that are only seen in the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary. The distribution of these taxa within the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary is supported by a post-Plesiadapiforme extinc.

The present distribution of living organisms is the result of numerous Flood-related events. For those species that were not present in Noah’s Ark, the biogeography of the modern world was built from the remains of previously living organisms.

Colorado Springs
Geology & Scripture Field Trip
July 26, 2014

Sponsors:
Creation Biology Society
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www.CreationAdventures.com

Leaders:
Steve Austin, Ph.D., Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio
Marcus R. Ross, Ph.D., Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia
Gina Geraci, B.S., Celebration Church South Denver, Littleton, Colorado

"Speak to the Earth and it will teach you..." Job 12:5a

Evolutionary origin:
A well-supported theory that reptiles and birds shared a common origin and relationship. He based this idea on the previously a bony external and the coelurosaurian hindlimb of a selected Limestone of Bavaria.
Epilogue

- Lessons learned from the *New York Times*
  - God honors faithfulness
  - Why not to choose “safety”
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A creationist’s odyssey in geological education