

In science, progress is dependent on experimentation and observation using the scientific method. The evidence and reports are usually heatedly debated and discussed, sometimes for years and even decades. Consensus is reached in a non-democratic way. If the hypothesis is not supported by the evidence, it is rejected. If ever a David could bring down a Goliath, science is where it happens again and again. The Earth is, in fact, not flat. The Earth is, in fact, not the center of the universe. And on and on it goes.

Evolution does, in fact, happen and is, in fact, happening. There are fossils of fish with fingers and fossils between land mammals and whales, and between dinosaurs and birds, and yes, even between those extinct primates that shared our hands, our ability to walk on two feet, but showed brains that evolved to be larger and larger until they were as large as ours. This evidence exists and is as hard as stone. Remarkable new investigations into the DNA of the living species on this planet are showing us many of the changes responsible for the differences between species, explaining what were once some of the great mysteries of biology, and all of it is consistent with evolution. There's much more available, if you have the courage to look at it. Can we explain every difference between every species? Do we have a fossil for every transition? Can we answer every question? Of course not. But science is working on it. In the 150-odd years since Darwin started us thinking about such things, no scientific David has yet been found that can slay Darwin's Goliath.

But there have been many misrepresentations that make the claim. All of them, from creationism to creation science to intelligent design, have been determined by our best scientists and by our Federal Courts to be based neither on fact nor science, but on faith and religion. (See <http://nationalacademies.org/evolution/> and [http://www.pamd.uscourts.gov/kitzmiller/kitzmiller\\_342.pdf](http://www.pamd.uscourts.gov/kitzmiller/kitzmiller_342.pdf).) As the Kitzmiller decision so clearly states, “scientific experts testified that the theory of evolution represents good science, is overwhelmingly accepted by the scientific community, and that it in no way conflicts with, nor does it deny, the existence of a divine creator.” In fact, there are many very religious “evolutionists”. The director of the Human Genome Research Institute, Dr. Francis Collins, a leader studying the connections between life in our DNA, is one such religious biologist. A self-proclaimed, devout Christian, he is not conflicted about evolution. You do not need to be either.

The scientists at SMU have been labeled “intolerant, close-minded and bigoted” because we have spoken out against the misrepresentation of religious belief as science in our protests of the upcoming intelligent design event scheduled at SMU. The organization behind the event, the Discovery Institute, has published their political strategy for replacing science with their version of religion (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedge\\_strategy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedge_strategy)). They are clear in their agenda: They state that what the SMU science faculty believes to be so useful (science) is a danger to conservative Christianity and should be replaced by their mystical worldview.

We, the undersigned, do not argue against the basic right to believe, worship and express oneself as one desires. We are, however, vehemently opposed to the deliberate deception of presenting politically motivated religious viewpoints as science. It is destructive and antithetical to the usefulness of science, and history has shown that similar politicalizations of science have been incredibly destructive to our moral, ethical and material progress. We have a duty as practitioners of science to speak out against such deceptions and we have done so.

Signed,

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Due to space constraints imposed by the Dallas Morning News, this viewpoint is signed by only three representatives of the more than 20 additional faculty members, scientists and chairpersons in the Departments of Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geological Sciences and Physics at Southern Methodist University that signed the original essay.

End of submission to the Dallas Morning News.

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Here are the original signatories to the essay in chronological order of signing:

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