

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**PLEASE PUBLISH PRIOR TO SEPT. 22, 2004**

From Shawnee Alliance Church

Re: Live satellite broadcast event on evolution and intelligent design, open to the public

Media Contacts:

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**Live event to equip educators and public for debate on evolution**

By John Fike

In response to a March decision by the Ohio Board of Education, Shawnee Alliance Church in Lima will participate in a live satellite broadcast presentation on the scientific evidence of life's origins.

The Board of Education voted 13 to 5 to allow the critical analysis of evolution in public schools that may include teaching the theory that the universe and living beings were created by an intelligent being. The broadcast on Sunday, Sept. 26, at 5:45 p.m., by author and former *Chicago Tribune* legal affairs editor Lee Strobel will present scientific evidence that challenges the dominant theory that life evolved through a process of random mutation and natural selection.

Strobel, formerly an atheist who based his views on Darwinian evolution, became convinced that the universe and life were created by an intelligent being after investigating the scientific evidence presented by leading U.S. scientists. Strobel's broadcast presentation will be based on his book, *Case for a Creator*, that compiles the findings from his investigation.

"It's called the *Case for a Creator*, but we aren't going to quote the Bible," local organizer and high school biology teacher Dave Rufener said. "We're fully here about what science shows."

Following the two-hour presentation by Strobel, Huntington University Associate Professor of Biology Bruce Evans and Ohio Senator Jim Jordan will be on hand at Shawnee Alliance Church to discuss the impact of the decision by the state education board and answer questions about intelligent design theories.

Rufener said his primary objective in making the Strobel broadcast available locally is to equip area educators to teach critical analysis of evolution theories by showing scientific evidence to the contrary.

"We didn't learn about this in college, most of us," Rufener said. "You have my word as a high school science teacher for over 35 years, that we will be talking real science, much of which has been discovered in the last 50 years. I have been amazed by the numerous paradigm shifts these discoveries have caused."

Packets of resource materials to teach evolution criticism will be available free to all school personnel that attend the event, Rufener said.

The program will also inform the public about what can and cannot be taught in Ohio schools under the new guidelines and what scientific evidence is saying about the origins of life and universe.

“I think a lot of people are not familiar with the scientific arguments that lead one to conclude that this universe and life itself have the appearance of design precisely because they are designed,” Evans said.

Evans, who is a published researcher in neurobiology, has participated in several intelligent design conferences, including the Nature of Nature conference at Baylor University in 2000 and the Research & Progress in Intelligent Design meeting at Biola University in 2002.

Jordan, R—Urbana, sponsored a Senate bill that helped spur the board of education to its decision. He encourages community members to attend the event because it’s important to know what’s going on in schools.

“My position has always been: teach both. Education should be about giving kids information,” Jordan said. “The evolution theory has been presented so long as being true . . . it’s important to hear some evidence from the other side.”

Rufener said the program is also intended to encourage Christians with scientific evidence that supports the Bible.

“When you look at science, this can’t all happen by random chance,” Rufener said.

“There is a changing view in our society about creation,” Shawnee Alliance Senior Pastor Dan Messner said. “Belief in Evolution is fading. Evolution does not give people any self worth. I’m valued because I’m created. As a church, we want to communicate that.”

### **Breakout info:**

What: Live satellite broadcast of Lee Strobel’s Case for a Creator presentation

When: Sunday, Sept. 26, at 5:45 p.m.

Where: Shawnee Alliance Church, 4455 Shawnee Road in Lima

Cost: \$1 in advance or at the door

How to get tickets: Call 419-991-6546, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check for \$1 to the church at 4455 Shawnee Road, Lima, Ohio 45806. Educators may contact Dave Rufener at 419-228-0408 for complimentary tickets.

For more information: [www.shawneealliance.com](http://www.shawneealliance.com) [www.caseforacreator.org](http://www.caseforacreator.org)

### **Breakout quote:**

“It’s called the Case for a Creator, but we aren’t going to quote the Bible. We’re fully here about what science shows.” –Dave Rufener, event organizer and biology teacher

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