

## Evidence for a Creator

**“ACCIDENTAL BRAINS or DESIGNER GENES?”** the second lecture in the *Religion at the Interface* series will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, November 12, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2420 East Ashman Street. The speaker is Dr. John Stout, Ph.D., Professor of Biology at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

For over twenty years Dr. Stout has conducted research on the brain and nervous system using crickets as a model system. His studies, supported by grants from the National Science Foundation since 1982, have explored the mechanisms by which crickets detect, recognize and respond to sounds in their environment, especially the recognition by females of the mating chirps of male crickets and the echo locating signals of predatory bats. His research has resulted in numerous invited papers and articles in refereed technical journals.

Dr. Stout's lecture will explore the implications of his research findings on the bigger question of origins and Intelligent Design. Are the complex systems which characterize even the so-called “simpler” life forms explainable by the evolutionary hypothesis – that complex systems developed solely as the result of random changes (mutations) in the DNA code operating over prolonged periods of time and selected for retention by the life-form on the basis of survival of the fittest? Or, are these complex systems evidence for “Intelligent Design” – their existence providing evidence for a higher intelligence having been involved in their creation.

As a teacher and researcher working with college age youth, Dr. Stout is keenly aware of the issues, both scientific and philosophical, revolving around the creation / evolution debate. His passion is to share insights into the natural world which facilitate both a clearer understanding of the evidence and an awareness of the implications of the choices one makes in establishing the criteria for a belief system.

*Religion at the Interface* lectures are free and open to the public. Their purpose is to assist the individual, young or old, in the lifelong process of developing a cohesive worldview, a total integration of intellectual and spiritual values into one integrated basis for faith, conviction, and life's decisions.