

## **Project Description**

The Tallahassee Community of The Center for Inquiry (CFI) is the primary sponsor of **Darwin Day 2008-The Life and Times of Charles Darwin**, with assistance from the Tallahassee Scientific Society (TSS). CFI is an organization dedicated to the application of reason and science to the understanding of our world and its people. One of the major goals of the Tallahassee Scientific Society (TSS) is to provide a forum for the open exchange of ideas between scientists and other disciplines such as those in the humanities.

The sponsorship of Darwin Day 2008 (DD 08) by these two organizations is ideally suited for meeting these goals. Charles Darwin holds a place unique in the history of intellectual endeavor because his work has had a major impact not just on science but on religious thought, history, theology, philosophy and sociological studies of humanity. While all of these issues cannot be addressed in a one-day conference, the speakers we have assembled for DD 08 are well qualified to speak to many of them. As indicated in the attached schedule, the day will begin with a talk by Sr. Harry Kroto, the 1996 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, now at FSU, who is noted for his humor and his ability to translate difficult ideas into language easily understandable by the general public. Sir Harry is donating \$200 worth of "Buckyballs" to the project and he will use these in his mini-workshop with the children in the 10-11 a.m. time slot.

Other noted speakers will follow, with the format being a 20-30 minute lecture, and a 15-20 minute period for questions and discussion. To date, we have commitments to lecture from Sir Kroto, Dr. Michael Ruse (Humanities Scholar), Dr. Fritz Davis, Dr. Leslie Jones, and Dr. Eugenie Scott, Anthropologist. Dr. Leo Sandon, retired Professor of Religion at FSU and writer for the Tallahassee Democrat whose religious column is featured each Saturday, will join the lecturers for the panel discussion.

Concurrent with the lectures, activity tables will be set up in the atrium for hands-on projects for children and their parents, along with displays of 3-D models, books, puzzles and games related to Darwin. Strolling through the atrium will be Will Atkins, a Darwin impersonator who is knowledgeable about Darwin's life and who can answer questions and suggest activities and projects for young seekers.

Near the end of the day there will be a Darwin Look-Alike Contest with prizes given to the best costumes by a middle or high school student (young Darwin), and an adult (older Darwin). A film room will be set up adjacent to the atrium and continuous films about Darwin, evolution, and the universe will be shown throughout the day. There will also be a display of artwork about Darwin by local high school students, organized by Shannon Smale, Art Teacher at Lincoln High School

The conference will culminate with a panel discussion on the topic "Darwin's Impact on Our Social Institutions", focusing on the historical issues raised by Darwin's work, present-day concerns, and what the future might hold. Dr. Richard Hull, Professor Emeritus in Philosophy from SUNY Buffalo and former Executive Director of the Texas Council for the Humanities, will moderate the panel discussion.

## **Humanities Scholar and Focus**

Dr. Michael Ruse teaches in both the History and Philosophy Departments at Florida State University and will serve as our humanities scholar. The topic of his lecture will be "Darwin Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow". His resume is attached.

## **Targeted Audience**

The conference is open to the general public with no admission fee. We are making an effort to invite children, youth, parents, and teachers to join us in the celebration and will advertise widely throughout Leon and the surrounding counties.

## **Venue**

The 199<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charles Darwin's birthday is February 12, but our Darwin Day 2008 will be held on the Saturday preceding, February 9, 2008. The conference will be held at the College of Medicine main building on the campus of Florida State University, which has excellent facilities, all of which meet ADA

requirements. Plentiful free parking is available at an adjacent parking garage. FSU is not charging a rental fee, but we will be required to hire two security guards for the day, and also engage the services of an IT Technician.

### **Schedule**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Lectures &amp; Panel</b>	<b>Special Programs</b>	<b>Films</b>	<b>Activity And Book Tables</b>	<b>Other</b>
9:00-10:00 AM	Sir Harry Kroto General Public Auditorium	Art Display Ongoing Classroom	Ongoing Gen.Public Film Room	Ongoing Children & Adults Atrium	Darwin Impersonator Atrium
10:00-11:00 AM	Dr. Fritz Davis General Public Auditorium	Sir Harry Kroto Children 8-10 Yrs Classroom	Ongoing Gen. Public Film Room	Ongoing Children & Adults Atrium	Darwin Impersonator Atrium
11:00-12:00	Dr. Leslie Jones General Public Auditorium	K-12 Teacher Professional Development Classroom	Ongoing Gen. Public Film Room	Ongoing Children & Adults Atrium	Vendor Stands Open Everybody Patio/Food Court
12:00-1:00 PM	Dr. Michael Ruse General Public Auditorium	Art Display Ongoing Atrium	Ongoing Gen. Public Film Room	Ongoing Children & Adults Atrium	Vendor Stands Open Everybody Patio/Food Court
1:00-2:00 PM	Dr. Eugenie Scott General Public Auditorium	Art Display Ongoing Atrium	Ongoing Gen. Public Film Room	Ongoing Children & Adults Atrium	Darwin Look-Alike & Art Contests All Atrium
2:00-3:00 PM	Panel Session: Ruse, Davis, Jones, Scott & Sandon Moderator: Dr. Richard Hull Auditorium				

### **Advisory Committee**

The following people served on our Advisory Committee and have been active in helping plan the project:

Bruce A Thyer, Ph.D.  
Professor of Social Work  
Florida State University

Ray Bellamy, M.D.  
Retired Orthopedic Surgeon  
Tallahassee Scientific Society

Jeffrey Spike, Ph.D.  
Clinical Ethicist, Dept. of Medical Humanities and Social Science

Francis Ventre, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Architecture and Urban Planning, Virginia Tech

FSU College of Medicine  
Editorial Board, Amer. Journal of Bioethics  
Board, Florida Bioethics Network

Board, Tallahassee Trust for  
Historical Preservation  
Board, Italian American Club

Gary Stilwell, Ph.D.  
Author - books on religion and science  
Board of Directors, Tallahassee Little Theatre

Richard Hull, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Philosophy  
SUNY of Buffalo

Jim Stangel, MSE, MBA  
Retired Engineer, Community Volunteer  
Member, Humanists of Florida Association  
Member, FSU Academy

Joan A. Patterson, M.A., M.S.  
Retired College Administrator  
Member, Tallahassee Symphony  
Society

Gary Whittenberger, Ph.D.  
Philosopher and Clinical Forensic Psychologist  
Member, Center for Inquiry Tallahassee  
Member, Freethinkers of Tallahassee

William M. Atkins, III, B.S.  
Printer, Homes & Land Publishing and  
The Printing House  
Member, Freethinkers of Tallahassee  
Member, Center for Inquiry Tallahassee Comm.

Shannon Smale, M.F.A.  
Fine Arts Teacher  
Lincoln High School  
Leon County School District

### **Budget Detail**

**Project funds** are requested to pay 2 security guards (2 @ \$220) = \$440; 1 IT Technician @ \$250; project materials such as 3-D models (e.g. HMS Beagle, mammal skeletons); games, puzzles, projects and books about Darwin and evolution for the activity tables - \$610; advertisement costs (postage, printing, commercial ads) - \$700. **Total: \$2,000**

**Matching cash funds** are being provided by the Center for Inquiry Tallahassee Community to pay travel and per diem costs to bring Dr. Eugenie Scott to Tallahassee - \$1,000; other project materials - \$595; and additional advertising costs - \$405. **Total: \$2,000. TOTAL PROJECT: \$4,000.**

**In-Kind Match:** While not required for project funding since we have a cash match, it should be noted that we have obtained an additional **\$10,000** of donated goods and services from speakers, volunteers and supporters to make DD08 a reality: waived speaker fees - **\$7,500**; Buckyballs - **\$200**; advertisement costs - **\$1,000**; project materials and supplies - **\$1,300**.

### **Project Evaluation**

David W. Felder, Ph.D., Tenured Professor of Philosophy at Florida A & M University, has graciously agreed to be the independent evaluator of our project. Evaluation forms will be distributed at each of the lecture programs, as well as in the Atrium, to determine the extent to which the conference (1) increased knowledge about Charles Darwin as an historical personage; (2) increased awareness about the importance of Charles Darwin's work; and (3) increased knowledge about evolution in general. Dr. Felder will tabulate the evaluation forms, summarize the results, and complete the FHC Audience Evaluation Form at the completion of the project.