

Biology Professors Organize Citywide Darwin Celebration

By Lisa Mikolajek Barton

When Duquesne University hosted its first Darwin Day lecture on Feb. 17, 2003, Dr. David Lampe was already looking forward to the pivotal year of 2009, which marks the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of *The Origin of Species*.

Lampe and Dr. John A. Pollock, both associate professors of biological sciences, have organized an unprecedented partnership with other institutions throughout Pittsburgh to offer *Darwin Celebration 2009: A Pittsburgh Partnership*, a citywide series of events that will address the enormous legacy of Darwin's work.

"For the past six years, we've focused on bringing in renowned speakers who can educate the general

public on the science of evolution," Lampe said. "For 2009, it was my goal to expand this to something that would include not just the science of evolution but the broader impact of evolutionary thinking, because it is clearly one of those profound human ideas that has affected virtually every aspect of society."

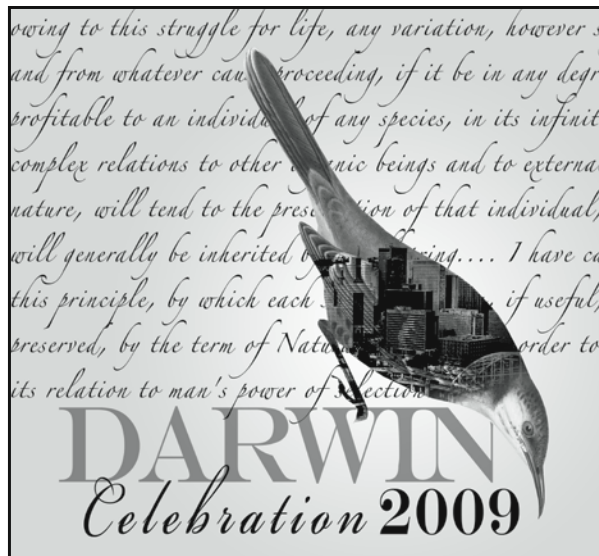
Darwin's theory has served as the foundation for all modern science, according to Dean David W. Seybert of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences. "Today, 150 years after Darwin's seminal work, scientists continue to build upon his theory to advance our knowledge of the world around us in a wide number of disciplines, from biology and the other natural and applied sciences to theology and sociology."

Darwin Celebration 2009 will take evolution education to the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the National Aviary, the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, the Phipps Conservatory, the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Pollock has spearheaded the educational outreach effort, much of which has been funded by his Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) from the National Institutes of Health.

Darwin at 200, a speaker series at Duquesne in Spring 2009, reflects the vast reach of evolution into the larger world of ideas. In addition to an evolutionary biologist who will speak on Feb. 12, Darwin's 200th birthday, the roster includes experts in history, medicine, philosophy and theology.

"Duquesne is proud to lead the effort to recognize and explore the ideas of Darwin and what his theory has brought to modern science, medicine and critical thinking," said Dr. Ralph Pearson, provost. "The participation of the variety of disciplines and the unprecedented cooperation of so many of Pittsburgh's prominent institutions is a testament to scope and importance of *Darwin Celebration 2009*."

For more information on the series, visit the Web site www.duq.edu/darwin2009.



Synthetic Darwin

One of the most innovative displays, *Synthetic Darwin*, will greet visitors at the Carnegie Science Center. Using a patented technology developed by the Entertainment Technology Center at Carnegie Mellon University, a computerized, interactive *Synthetic Darwin* will be able to answer 200 of the most commonly asked questions that Duquesne students collected from hundreds of individuals from the general public.

Darwin at 200, a Duquesne Speaker Series, Spring 2009

Evolutionary theory is the framework for all of modern biology, but it has also escaped its scientific confines and has greatly impacted other areas of thinking. This lecture series is designed to explore some of those other areas and explain how Darwin's ideas have changed human thinking, both within and outside of the biological sciences.

- **Feb. 9**
Charles Darwin 200th Birthday Lecture
Dr. Janet Browne, Aramont Professor of the History of Science at Harvard, and Darwin biographer/specialist, as part of the Drue Heinz Lecture Series.
- **Feb. 12**
Humans as an Evolutionary Patchwork
(Darwin's 200th Birthday)
- **Feb. 20**
Social Darwinism and Philanthropy in Pittsburgh's Gilded Ages: The Untold History of Charles Darwin, Herbert Spencer and Two of the Richest Men in the World
- **March 18**
Darwin in the History of Ideas: From Natural Theology to Natural Selection
- **March 27**
Is the Human Hand a Serious Evolutionary Topic?
- **April 1**
Darwin and the Split Between Natural and Sexual Selection
- **April 7**
Evolution and Faith: What Is at Stake?

Annual Founders Week Celebrates Spiritan Heritage

Duquesne University commemorates the values and vision of its founders, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, through the annual Founders Week observance. Sponsored by the Office of Mission and Identity, this year's celebration is slated for Sunday, Feb. 1, through Friday, Feb. 6, and includes special events for employees dedicated to increasing awareness of the Spiritan legacy.

New this year is a historical exhibition of *The Spiritan Story* that was originally developed in France for the 300th anniversary of the Spiritan Congregation. A series of panels, reproduced with original artwork and an English translation, which trace the history of the Spiritans from their founding in 1703 through 2003 will be on display throughout the week in the Power Center.

The Rev. Paul V. Kollman, C.S.C., assistant professor of theology, University of Notre Dame, has been invited to deliver the presentation, *Spiritan Evangelization of Slaves in Eastern Africa: Courageous Endeavor or Moral Misstep?*

All members of the University are invited to participate in the following events as their schedules permit. An RSVP to mission@duq.edu is required for all events except vespers.

Founders Day Schedule of Events

Sunday, Feb. 1

11 a.m., Mass in the University Chapel
Noon, brunch in the Bayer Rotunda

Monday, Feb. 2

Feast of Venerable Francis Libermann, C.S.Sp.

Noon, Mass in the University Chapel
Lunch following in the Duquesne Room

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Exhibit of The Spiritan Story

9 a.m. – 5 p.m., PNC Atrium, Duquesne Union, 2nd floor
Official opening with light refreshments at 12:15 p.m.
This pictorial exhibit, reproduced with original artwork from the French Province and an English translation, traces the history of the Spiritans from their founding in 1703 through 2003.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Student Dinner with the Spiritans

5 p.m., Power Center
Students are invited to join the Spiritans for an evening of fine food and fellowship.

Seating is limited; Dinner tickets available on a first-come, first-serve basis, Jan. 26-28 in the Duquesne Union, 3rd floor.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Founders Week Guest Speaker

3 – 4 p.m. in the Duquesne Room
The Rev. Paul V. Kollman, C.S.C., assistant professor of theology, University of Notre Dame
Spiritan Evangelization of Slaves in Eastern Africa: Courageous Endeavor or Moral Misstep?

Spiritan Reception

4 – 5:30 p.m., Trinity Hall

Friday, Feb. 6

Luncheon for Administrators, Faculty, Staff

Noon, Duquesne Room
The Rev. Don McEachin, C.S.Sp., Spiritan missionary in the Dominican Republic
Spiritan Mission Today: A Contemporary Approach in the Dominican Republic

4:30 p.m., Vespers with the Spiritan Community, Trinity Hall Chapel



DU Campus: Tops in the State in "Ask Here PA" Library Service

By Randy Cole

Ask Here PA is a 24/7 online chat reference library service available for free to all Pennsylvania residents and students. According to Ask Here PA Coordinator Vince Mariner, Duquesne had the highest usage of any academic single institution facility in 2008.

Ask Here PA is staffed by reference librarians across Pennsylvania, as well as librarians participating in a national cooperative. Gumberg Library reference librarians have been staffing this service since August 2007.

The DU community—students, faculty and staff alike—apparently take advantage of the opportunity to access reference help around the clock. The online service provides fast answers to questions, using information found on the Internet and in research databases funded by libraries. In most cases, Ask Here PA librarians will provide an answer online in 15 minutes or less. If a question involves lengthy research, the librarians will provide patrons with a starting point and/or provide a referral for more information.

Duquesne users may access this service at www.library.duq.edu by clicking on "Ask a Librarian" and then the Ask Here PA logo.