



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

Evolutionary biologist and theologian to discuss faith and science issues

Lectures at Duquesne University explore the relationships between religious faith and evolutionary thought

The year 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his *Origin of Species*. These anniversaries also offer an opportunity to reexamine the relationship of evolution and religion, a study that can often lead to much heat and very little light.

We would like to invite you to two very special lectures this spring at Duquesne University that will examine the often-contentious areas of evolution and religion.

Both lectures will take place on Duquesne's campus in the Power Center Ballroom and are free to the public.

Darwin in the History of Ideas: From Natural Theology to Natural Selection

Francisco Ayala, University of California - Irvine

March 18, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Power Center Ballroom



Dr. Francisco Ayala, Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at UC-Irvine, has a longstanding interest in the relationship of science and religion and has written a recent book (*Darwin's Gift to Science and Religion*) that puts his thinking on

Lectures, events and more
Visit us @Darwin2009



You are invited to attend the upcoming lectures from the Duquesne Evening Lecture Series:

- **March 18, 2009**
["Darwin in the History of Ideas: From Natural Theology to Natural Selection"](#)
Francisco Ayala
- **April 23, 2009**
["Can You Believe in God and Evolution? A Guide for the Perplexed"](#)
Martinez Hewlett

[Why is Duquesne University, a prominent Catholic university, organizing the Darwin celebration?](#)

More information:

[Francisco Ayala](#)

[Martinez Hewlett](#)

[Directions to the Power Center at Duquesne University](#)

[More about the Duquesne Evening Lecture Series and the Darwin 2009 celebration](#)

Contact Us

Visit [the Darwin 2009 site](#) or email darwin2009@duq.edu.

these matters into a popular form.

His lecture, "Darwin in the History of Ideas: From Natural Theology to Natural Selection," will address two contrasting ideas to explain order and design in the biological world: the ancient natural theology "argument from design", and Darwin's seminal idea of evolution by natural selection. He will discuss why the apparent design in nature is not intelligent, and how chance and necessity, randomness and determinism, act to create well adapted and diverse organisms.

[More information about Dr. Ayala's lecture](#)

[back to top](#)

Can You Believe in God and Evolution? A Guide for the Perplexed

Martinez Hewlett, University of Arizona and Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

April 23 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Power Center Ballroom



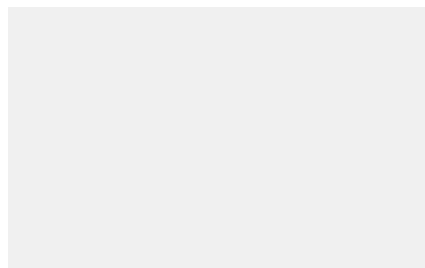
Are evolution and a belief in God necessarily mutually exclusive? Or is it the case that the science of evolution is compatible with a theism that is, in fact, enriched by this understanding of nature? Dr. Martinez Hewlett will address these questions by exploring the task of science, the science of Darwin, and philosophical and theological reactions to this science, ultimately proposing a peaceful middle ground termed "theistic evolution."

Dr. Hewlett, who is professor emeritus of molecular and cellular biology at the University of Arizona in Tucson and adjunct professor at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, has been active in the philosophy of science and the conversation between science and religion for over fifteen years. Some of his published work includes *Evolution: From Creation to New Creation, A Theological and Scientific Commentary on Origin of Species*, and *Basic Virology*, one of the most utilized textbooks in the field of

molecular virology.

[More information about Dr. Hewlett's lecture](#)

[back to top](#)



This initiative is made possible with the generous support of Duquesne University Deans David Seybert, Albert Labriola, and Olga Welch; Duquesne University Provost Ralph Pearson; the Department of Biological Sciences; and a Science Education Partnership Award to J. Pollock from the National Center for Research Resources (NIH).

