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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

EIU-SPONSORED EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE 'DARWIN DAY'

CHARLESTON – Charles Darwin's birthday has evolved into an internationally recognized annual celebration that includes a week of events at Eastern Illinois University.

Darwin Day marks the 196th anniversary of the Feb. 12 birth of the British scientist whose theory of evolution through natural selection has sparked discussion for decades.

EIU professors Gary Fritz, Ann Fritz and Stephen Mullin have organized a series of free presentations on campus. The public is invited to attend.

According to Gary Fritz, the goals of the events are to facilitate interaction between the public and scientific community, to promote participation and interest in science and to decrease the prevalence and adverse effects of misinformation.

- The film "Darwin's Dangerous Idea," from the PBS "Evolution" series, will be shown at 4 p.m. Feb. 7 in Room 2080 of the Life Science Building.
- The lecture "Evolution: Is It a Logical Fallacy?" will be given by Massimo Pigliucci from the State University of New York at Stony Brook at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 in Roberson Auditorium (Room 2030) in Lumpkin Hall.
- Pigliucci will also present "Why Do Living Organisms Look the Way They Do?" at 9 a.m. Feb. 9 in Lumpkin Hall's Roberson Auditorium.
- John Wagner of the Field Museum of Natural History will present "Conversations with the Past: Charles Darwin" at 3 p.m. Feb. 9 in the Physical Science Building auditorium (Room 2120).
- "An Evolving Creation: No Oxymoron" will be the topic of a lecture by Keith Miller from Kansas State University at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 in Lumpkin Hall's Roberson Auditorium.
- Miller will also present "Darwin, Common Descent and the Fossil Record" at 10 a.m. Feb. 10 in Room 3120, Physical Science Building.
- A lecture titled, "Eye of Newt and Filet of Fenny Snake: The Witches' Brew of Coevolutionary Arms Races," will be presented by Edmund Brodie of Indiana University at Bloomington at 4 p.m. Feb. 10 in Room 2080, Life Science Building.

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- "What About God?," another film in the PBS "Evolution" series, will be shown at 3 p.m. Feb. 11 in Room 2080, Life Science Building.

More information on EIU's Darwin Day activities is available online at www.eiu.edu/~biology/news/darwin_day_2005.htm.