



For Release February 18, 2010

Press Contacts:

Dennis Wagner, Executive Director

Phone: 719-633-1772

Email: dwagner@arn.org

or

Kevin Wirth, Director of Media Relations

Phone: 360-990-5422

Email: kwirth@arn.org

Website: see <http://www.arn.org/top10> for web version

with hyperlinks to source information on the top ten stories

Top 10 Darwin and Design Resources for 2009

Colorado Springs, CO (Feb 18, 2010) – Following are the Top 10 Darwin and Design resources for 2009 as selected by the News Staff at Access Research Network.

1. *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* by Stephen C. Meyer. Stephen Meyer forcefully outlined the positive case for design and refuted arguments that ID isn't science in his seminal book, [Signature in the Cell](#), published by HarperCollins in June of 2009. The book was named one of the top books of 2009 in the prestigious [Times Literary Supplement](#) (TLS) annual "Books of the Year" issue. The selection was made by prominent philosopher (and noted atheist) Thomas Nagel at New York University. A companion three minute animated video, [Journey Inside the Cell](#) was released providing a stunning visual illustration of Meyer's points.

2. *Darwin's Dilemma: The Mystery of the Cambrian Fossil Record (DVD)*. The final film in Illustra Media's long-planned Intelligent Design trilogy, [Darwin's Dilemma](#), was released in September 2009 and quickly made headlines when it was [barred from public viewing](#) by the California Science Center. The documentary examines what many consider to be the most powerful refutation of Darwinian evolution—the Cambrian explosion. The Cambrian explosion is the sudden appearance of the majority of phyla over the history of life. *Darwin's Dilemma* is a high-quality documentary that includes interviews with world-class paleontologists Simon Conway Morris and James Valentine, as well as leading intelligent design theorists and scientists Paul Nelson, Jonathan Wells, Stephen C. Meyer, Paul Chien, Doug Axe, and Richard Sternberg. As with the first two Illustra Media ID documentaries, [Unlocking the Mystery of Life](#) and [The Privileged Planet](#), *Darwin's Dilemma* is full of high quality animations to help the viewer visualize the amazing complexity and design of the Cambrian creatures.

3. *Seeking God in Science: An Atheist Defends Intelligent Design* by Bradley Monton. In the breakthrough book of the year, an atheist professor of the philosophy of physics at a secular university has written a book to defend intelligent design. As Professor Monton would admit, it's a partial defense, as he does not find all ID arguments overwhelmingly convincing, but he also does not find them trivial, and he believes they should be allowed on the table and in the classroom for discussion. He even went so far as to defend intelligent design in a public debate in 2008, and his position as a true educator seeking truth has brought the wrath of Darwinists and fellow atheists down on his head. But that did not prevent him from publishing his position in [Seeking God in Science](#). Monton's work on a rigorous definition of intelligent design in chapter one is worth the price of the book alone. The good news is you don't have to be a philosopher to understand this book. Monton has done a great job of making his arguments accessible to the general reader.

4. *Nature's IQ* by Balazs Hornyanszky and Istvan Tasi. Hungarian scientists Balazs Hornyanszky and Istvan Tasi offer a novel contribution to the intelligent design literature by extending Michael Behe's theory of irreducible complexity from biological form to biological behavior. Where did the mysterious instincts of animals originate? [Nature's IQ](#). The authors document more than 100 astonishing, unexplained phenomena from the animal kingdom, with 200 amazing color pictures. The authors point out how Darwinian "just so" stories fail to explain these irreducibly complex instincts and behaviors. This book is a valuable addition to any library for its amazing photos of animal life and its catalog of fascinating animal behavior regardless of

whether you believe they were a product of random mutations and natural selection or a product of artful, purposeful design.

5. *Why Us? How Science Rediscovered the Mystery of Ourselves* by James Le Fanu. The second international book to make the Top Ten list this year is [Why Us?](#) by James Le Fanu, a British medical doctor who publishes in peer-reviewed medical journals like the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* and the *British Medical Journal*, a columnist for the London *Telegraph*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Award for his book [The Rise and Fall of Modern Medicine](#) (2001). In *Why Us?* we discover Dr. Le Fanu is also a Darwin doubter. Le Fanu's main point is that the more science reveals about the most important question a human can ask—What is man and how did he come to be?—the more we have to admit that we don't know. Le Fanu demonstrates this by masterfully recounting the epic demise of expectations that prevailed until recently for the prospects of three scientific enterprises. Darwinian evolution, genetics, and brain research were supposed to combine to give a compelling, coherent and united naturalistic account of man's origin and nature. They did no such thing and the prospect of their doing so in the future appears hopeless. This is a great book to give your Darwin-devoted friends. Intelligent design is never mentioned, but the foundation for the materialist, reductionist worldview is systematically dismantled by a well-known authority on science and medicine.

6. *The Darwin Myth* by Benjamin Wiker. According to Wiker's provocative new biography, [The Darwin Myth: the Life and Lies of Charles Darwin](#), Charles Darwin was an honorable and likable man, a family man. He loved his siblings; he was devoted to his wife; he loved his children and grieved deeply over his daughter's death. But Darwin was also someone who presented to the public an elaborate and even deceptive story about himself and his work to advance a philosophical agenda. While there are many biographies of Charles Darwin, Wiker's deserves attention because of its fascinating account of the complex interaction between Charles Darwin, the man, and Darwinism, the theory he advocated and popularized. Wiker's presentation of Darwin's human contradictions is a valuable contribution to the 2009 Darwin anniversary literature (the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species*). Anyone wishing to probe the broader implications of Darwin's theory, as well as the contradictions of Darwin's character, will want to read Wiker's book.

7. *Alfred Russel Wallace's Theory of Intelligent Evolution* by Michael A. Flannery. Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913), co-discoverer of natural selection, was second only to Charles Darwin as the 19th century's most noted English naturalist. Yet his belief in spiritualism caused him to be ridiculed and dismissed by many, leaving him a comparatively obscure and misunderstood figure. In [this volume](#) Wallace is finally allowed to speak in his own defense through his grand evolutionary synthesis *The World of Life* published nearly a century ago in 1910. More than just a reprinting of a near-forgotten work, Michael A. Flannery places Wallace in historical context. Flannery exposes Charles Darwin's now-famous theory of evolution as little more than a naturalistic cover for an extreme philosophical materialism borrowed as a youth from Edinburgh radicals. This is juxtaposed by his sympathetic account of what he calls Wallace's intelligent evolution, a thoroughly teleological alternative to Darwin's stochastic processes. Though based upon very different formulations of natural selection, the Wallace/Darwin dispute as presented by Flannery shows a metaphysical clash of worldviews coextensive with modern evolutionary theory itself - design and purpose versus randomness and chance. This book will be of value to scholars and students alike seeking to understand the historical and philosophical roots of a controversy that still rages today.

8. *The Deniable Darwin & Other Essays* by David Berlinski. It only takes one dose of Berlinski to get hooked. His wit, his way with words, his sharp mind, and the ease at which he is able to poke holes in the Darwinian worldview catch you off guard. Those who watched [Expelled](#) were treated to a taste of Berlinski as Ben Stein interviewed him in his flat in Paris. Now you can get a "seven course meal" of Berlinski with this new compilation of 32 of his best essays written over the past fifteen years. The volume is named after his 1996 essay "The Deniable Darwin" that appeared in *Commentary* and launched Berlinski into the middle of the Darwin or Design debate, where he has happily remained ever since. What makes this volume so great is it includes not only Berlinski's essay but also reprints the dozens of letters received in protest and support from notable scientists and philosophers (Allen Orr, Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Arthur Shapiro, Paul

Gross, Tom Bethell, Michael Behe, Phillip Johnson, M.P. Shutzenberger, etc) along with a response to the letters by Berlinski. Berlinski's replies are witty and sharp. For the first time, [*The Deniable Darwin*](#) collects all of these essays and exchanges into a single volume.

9. *Exhaustive Survey of Evolution Case Law* by Casey Luskin. The legal journal [*Hamline University Law Review*](#), Vol. 32(1):1-64 (Winter, 2009), published a [comprehensive collation](#) and summary of the relevant law cases regarding the teaching of biological origins. The teaching of biological origins in public schools remains a contentious scientific, cultural, and legal debate. With the increase of public interest in this topic, it is essential for attorneys, legal scholars, and educational authorities to have an awareness of the full breadth of case law on this issue. Moreover, few have bothered to engage in a careful review of the case law to determine if evolution actually is beyond scrutiny in public schools. This article exhaustively surveys the case law relevant to the teaching of biological origins, dividing the cases into three major categories: (1) Cases upholding the right to teach about evolution; (2) Cases rejecting the teaching of alternatives to evolution; and (3) Cases rejecting disclaimers regarding the teaching of evolution. The range of constitutionally permissible policies for teaching evolution can also be understood by studying policies that have not engendered lawsuits. Twenty-one cases are reviewed, as well as various policies that have not faced legal challenges, revealing that while courts have firmly upheld the rights of educators to teach evolution and have rejected attempts to teach creationism, none of these cases stands for the proposition that a curriculum that teaches scientific critiques of evolution would necessarily place a school board in constitutional jeopardy. Indeed, case law and the public policy history of this issue suggest precisely the opposite: curricular policies in public schools need not unilaterally support evolution. Rather, as the U.S. Supreme Court has stated, “scientific critiques of prevailing scientific theories [may] be taught” provided that such curricula are enacted with the “clear secular intent of enhancing the effectiveness of science instruction.” Educators that choose to improve science education by teaching both the scientific evidence supporting modern Darwinian theory, as well as the scientific evidence that challenges this view, can rest assured that they are on firm legal ground.

10. *The College Student's Back to School Guide to Intelligent Design* by Discovery Institute. There are a lot of false urban legends promoted in academia about intelligent design (ID). They often start with myths promoted by misinformed critiques in scientific journals, court rulings, or even talks by activists at scientific conferences. Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for this misinformation to then be passed down to college students, who may know very little about ID and lack the resources to correct their professors' misinformed and misplaced attacks on ID. Not anymore. If you're a college student, recently gone back to school and expecting to hear a lot of anti-ID views from your professors, this [free](#) “Back to School Guide” was written for you. The guide contains suggestions for helpful pro-ID books, articles, and websites for students to read when investigating the issue. Additionally, it contains “Answers to Your Professor's Most Common Misinformed Objections to Intelligent Design.” Even if you are not a student, you may find this a great resource for understanding ID and answering common objections to the theory.

###

Many of these resources, as well as many more about the Darwin and Design debate, can be found on the Access Research Network website www.arn.org. **Access Research Network** is a 501(c)3 scientific and educational organization dedicated to providing accessible information on science, technology and society issues from an intelligent design perspective.