


4-10-2007

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### Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, ""Darwin and Intelligent Design" Lecture Keynotes Keck Science Day, April 26" (2007).  
*Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. Paper 254.  
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## "Darwin and Intelligent Design" Lecture Keynotes Keck Science Day, April 26

**Orange, Calif.** -- Professor Francisco J. Ayala, the Donald Bren Professor of Biological Science at the University of California, Irvine, will be the plenary speaker at the spring 2007 W.M. Keck Student Research Day program Thursday, April 26, 2007 on the Chapman University campus in Orange. His topic is Darwin and Intelligent Design. The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will take place at 4 p.m. in Beckman Hall 404. Call (714) 744-7862 for more information.

Charles Darwin is deservedly given credit for the theory of biological evolution. He accumulated evidence demonstrating that organisms evolve and diversify through time. Most important, however, is that he discovered natural selection, the process that accounts for the adaptive organization of organisms and their features; that is, their design.

Professor Ayala's contention is that Intelligent Design is not science. Moreover, the design of organisms is not intelligent, as would be expected from an engineer, but imperfect and worse: the defects, dysfunctions, oddities, waste and even cruelty and sadism if judged by human values that pervade the living world are incompatible with their being the outcome of an intelligent designer.

Professor Ayala's presentation is part of an all-day program to celebrate and recognize the achievements of students participating in the W.M. Keck Science Education Initiative at Chapman University. Students in physical science, biological science, and honors classes conduct science projects and present them either through presentations or posters.

The W.M. Keck Foundation supports Chapman's innovative science program, emphasizing teamwork and an interdisciplinary approach to research and problem solving. In addition to the Student Research Day, the Keck grant supports professors and visiting speakers, funds special projects for ten to fifteen classes each semester in a variety of disciplines, and supports students' attendance at conferences.

The lecture is part of the spring 2007 W.M. Keck Student Research Day. Student presentations and poster sessions will take place from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A buffet lunch (reservations needed) will take place at noon. Professor Ayala's plenary lecture is from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The program is free and open to the Chapman community and the public. For more information or to RSVP for the buffet lunch, call (714) 744-7862.

**Parking:** Chapman University is located at One University Drive, just north of Old Towne Plaza in the city of Orange. Visitor parking is available with the purchase of a short-term permit. Permit dispensers are located in the the Fred L. Barrera Structure at Lemon and Sycamore or the Lastinger Structure on Walnut just East of Glassell.

**About the Speaker:** Francisco J. Ayala is University Professor and Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Irvine. On 12 June 2002, President George W. Bush awarded him the National Medal of Science at the White House.

From 1994 to 2001, Ayala was a member of the U.S. President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. He has been President and Chairman of the Board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1993-1996), and President of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society of the United States (2004-2005).

He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society and numerous foreign academies, and has received numerous prizes and honorary degrees.

Born in Madrid, Spain, he has lived in the United States since 1961, and became a U.S. citizen in 1971. He has published more than 900 articles and is author or editor of 30 books. His scientific research focuses on population and evolutionary genetics, including the origin of species, genetic diversity of populations, the origin of malaria, the population structure of parasitic protozoa, and the molecular clock of evolution. He also writes about the interface between religion and science, and on philosophical issues concerning epistemology, ethics, and the philosophy of biology.

**For more information on the lecture or Keck Student Research Day, contact:**

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