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WHY THE FUSS ABOUT DARWIN AND EVOLUTION?

Charles Darwin proposed 150 years ago that all living things have descended with modification from common ancestors by the process of Natural Selection. This is the key to understanding every area in biology, including for example biochemistry, genetics, cell biology, organismal biology, population biology, ecology, and medicine. Evolution is the single most important idea in biology, and the glue that holds biology together as a coherent science. In the words of Theodosius Dobzhansky, "Seen in the light of evolution, biology is perhaps intellectually the most satisfying and inspiring science. Without that light, it becomes a pile of sundry facts, some of them interesting or curious, but making no meaningful picture as a whole."

Nonetheless, the teaching of evolution, particularly in K-12 grades, remains a contentious issue in the United States today, for reasons that touch upon religion, science, history, and – inevitably – politics. Dr. Eugenie C. Scott, Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education, and a foremost authority on evolution and the creationism/evolution controversy, will help to clear the air about the publicly, but not scientifically, controversial topic of evolution. Dr. Scott will provide a clear explanation of the facts and fallacies of the debate and invite questions from the audience.

- **DATE: WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2009**
- **VENUE: SATELLITE STUDENT UNION**
 - **TIME: 7:30-9:00 P.M.**

This special lecture continues the University's Sesquicentennial celebration of the publication of Charles Darwin's "On the Origin of Species ...", and is co-sponsored by the California State University, Fresno Consortium for Evolutionary Studies, the Tri-Beta Biology Honors Club, the National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, the Kremen School of Education, the Natural Sciences Student Club, and the Associated Students of California State University, Fresno.