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DARWIN'S THEORIES EXAMINED AT BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE Dr. Michael Ruse to explore the impact of Darwin's work

BUFFALO, NY (March 2, 2009) -- The Buffalo Museum of Science and Buffalo State College will present the museum's spring Hayes Lecture, ***Charles Darwin: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow?***, at 7:30pm on **Thursday, April 2** in **Rockwell Hall at Buffalo State College**. **Dr. Michael Ruse**, author of *Darwinism and its Discontents*, is the evening's speaker. The lecture is open and free to the public.



2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species*, the volume introducing the theory of evolution by natural selection. What is the social impact of the theory Darwin presented in *The Origin of Species* and how has our thinking changed in the 150 years since it was first published? Dr. Ruse, an expert on Darwin and a strong voice in the ongoing debate between evolution and creationism, will explore the impact of Darwin's work and examine how prominent writers have continued to develop Darwin's theories. The lecture will be followed by a question and answer session as well as a book signing with Dr. Ruse. Copies of his books will be available for purchase.

For more information, call Buffalo State College at 716.878.3756.

ABOUT DR. MICHAEL RUSE

Michael Ruse (born June 21, 1940 in Birmingham, England) is a philosopher of science, working on the philosophy of biology and is well known for his work on the argument between creationism and evolutionary biology. An ardent evolutionist, Ruse, for decades, has fought the Creationist agenda in the classroom, in the courtroom, and in the political and public arenas. He's also unafraid to boldly criticize some fellow evolutionists, such as Richard Dawkins: Ruse believes that by challenging the validity of religious beliefs, these evolutionists actually harm the public image of Darwinism. He argues, deftly, that science and religion can be harmonized. Dr. Ruse took his undergraduate degree at the University of Bristol (1962), his master's degree at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario (1964), and Ph.D. at the University of Bristol (1970). Ruse taught at the University of Guelph Canada for 35 years. Since his retirement from Guelph, he has taught at Florida State University and is since 2000 the Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy. In 1986 he was elected as a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Canada

-HAYES LECTURE cont'd-

and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has received honorable doctorates from the University of Bergen, Norway (1990) and the McMaster University, Ontario, Canada (2003).

HISTORY OF THE HAYES LECTURE

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences began the Hayes Lectures series in 1907 and has since carried the tradition to present day. Prior to the development of other mass media alternatives, Hayes and other lectures offered by the Society were originally offered multiple times throughout the year and served as the principal method of communicating science to the community. Specifically, Hayes Lectures may encompass any aspect of science with emphasis on providing the public with the opportunity to meet people who are exploring their fields of interest. The lectures are supported in part by the 1882 George E. Hayes educational endowment.

The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. General admission to the Museum is \$7 adults; \$6 seniors (age 62+); \$5 students and children over 3; and free for members and children under 3. The Museum also operates Tiff Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, NY, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites.

For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit www.buffalomuseumofscience.org.

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