

Evolution Weekend 2014:  
Celebrating Clergy Contributions to Science at the Adler Planetarium

Looking for a fun and unique way to experience Evolution Weekend 2014? The purpose of this month's article is to (1) let you know how the Adler Planetarium plans to commemorate this event; (2) solicit expressions of interest from those of you who might be able to join us; and (3) make a renewed plea to encourage you to fill out the still-open Survey Monkey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VH39L3J> (Sadly, I've only received 9 responses to date.)

Last month, I wrote about some of the ways that clergy and theologians are making notable contributions to science education. These contributions inspire the theme for our Evolution Weekend 2014 event (which is actually being planned for a weekday, when it is our hope that more clergy will be able to participate.) We wish to raise awareness of the fact that not only do clergy support science, but that many have made, and are making, important contributions TO science, in the areas both of research and education. Adler's event will be FREE for participating clergy -- come and hear about the research and educational efforts of some of your colleagues, view our new *Cosmic Wonder* show, and explore activities that highlight scientific discoveries made by clergy for our public audiences. Here's a very small sample to whet your appetite and test your knowledge: Do you know which Jesuit priest is known as the "Father of Astrophysics" for his introduction of spectroscopy to Astronomy? ...The Belgian priest known as the "Father of the Big Bang?" ...The Quaker lay leader who discovered pulsars? ...The Methodist minister and citizen scientist who is credited with the discovery of more than 40 supernovae? ...The Augustinian friar whose work formed the foundation of modern genetics, a critical contribution to Evolutionary Theory? The list goes on, and of course you are welcome to share any examples you might have with other participants.

Please email me directly ([gwolfchase@adlerplanetarium.org](mailto:gwolfchase@adlerplanetarium.org)) regarding your interest in attending a daytime event sometime during the week beginning Monday Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> or Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, Darwin's actual birthday, is one possibility). We need to set the date very soon, so please specify if you have date preferences or conflicts in your email. Respondents will receive subsequent emails directly from me with schedule updates as event planning progresses. Even if you can't physically join us, we hope you'll follow some of the activities via Adler social media venues.

At the Adler Planetarium, we are strongly committed to the proposition that science is for everyone. Unfortunately, science is often taught in a way that highlights the contributions of a handful of people who have secured prominent places in the history books. Scientific progress is made on many different levels, and it is a community effort. Please consider helping us highlight the contributions of clergy by joining our celebration in February!

Wishing you all Happy Holidays,

Grace Wolf-Chase, Ph.D. ([gwolfchase@adlerplanetarium.org](mailto:gwolfchase@adlerplanetarium.org))