Top 10 Darwin and Design Resources for 2008

Colorado Springs, CO (**Dec 18, 2008**) **–** Following are the Top 10 Darwin and Design resources for 2008 as selected by the News Staff at Access Research Network.

1. *Expelled***:** *No Intelligence Allowed* (**DVD)**. Ben Stein's *Expelled* rolled out in 1,000 theaters across the U.S. on April 18 and quickly climbed to the number 1 political documentary of 2008. Citizens across the nation learned the cold truth that academic freedom and free speech are not so "free" when it comes to doubting Darwin. While the major news outlets viciously attacked the movie (understandable since the film identifies the media as part of the problem), the film revealed a systematic, unfair, and deeply un-American suppression of criticisms of Darwinian theory and distortion of any alternative thought in the academy.

2. *Spore* **Video Game**. Rather than debating the evidence for Darwin and Design, curious minds from age 8 to 80 can now experience the concepts in a new video game. Legendary "Sims" game creator, Will Wright, released *Spore* and admitted that the interactive game about evolution also puts the player in the role of an intelligent designer: "I think the game is really trying to give an overview of evolution in a way that is very toy-like and caricature-like. We put the player in the role of an intelligent designer. When we first started the prototypes (of Spore) that wasn't the case. We had the game carefully mutating things and it just was not emotionally engaging. When we put the players in the role of intelligent designer then people were much more emotionally attached to what they made." The game release spawned articles about ID and evolution in nearly every major news media from the *NY Times* to *USA Today* to *Wired*.

3. *Slaughter of the Dissidents* by Jerry Bergman. Ben Stein's movie *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* has been called the "tip of the iceberg" regarding the discrimination that exists in academic and media communities against those who challenge Darwin's theory of evolution. With the release of Jerry Bergman's new book, *Slaughter of the Dissidents*, you are about to meet the rest of the Titanic-sized iceberg. Bergman experienced the slaughter of his own career over thirty years ago while teaching at Bowling Green University, which started him on a life-long quest to document the academic and religious discrimination exhibited against students, scientists and educators who dare to doubt Darwin. Bergman interviewed over 300 people in his quest to document one of America's growing hate crimes.

4. *Dissent Over Descent: Intelligent Design's Challenge to Darwinism.* University of Warwick sociologist Steve Fuller explains the nature and problem of a scientific consensus on controversial topics, argues that intelligent design is not anti-science (just anti-establishment), and predicts that, as biological study continues to become more like an engineering project, it will be harder for scientists to deny that life is intelligently designed. As one reviewer put it *Dissent Over Descent* "is quite a brilliant, albeit somewhat mad book that is designed to aggravate everyone in this already fraught debate. The best thing about it is that gives intelligent design an intellectual scope and reach that matches that of evolution." Professor Fuller is one of a growing number of agnostics and atheists arguing that ID deserves a fair hearing in the marketplace of ideas.

5. *The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and Its Scientific Pretensions* by David Berlinski. Militant atheism is on the rise as Darwinists try to hijack science to attack traditional religious beliefs and replace it with their own non-theistic religion. Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Daniel Dennett, and Christopher Hitchens have dominated bestseller lists with books denigrating traditional religious belief as dangerous foolishness. "The attack on traditional religious thought," writes David Berlinski in *The Devil's Delusion*, "marks the

consolidation in our time of science as the single system of belief in which rational men and women might place their faith, and if not their faith, then certainly their devotion." A secular Jew, Berlinski nonetheless delivers a biting defense of traditional theistic thought. An acclaimed author who has spent his career writing about mathematics and the sciences, he turns the scientific community's cherished skepticism back on itself.

6. *The Cell's Design: How Chemistry Reveals the Creator's Artistry* by Fazale Rana. Cutting-edge techniques have revealed startling features inside the cell that point to one conclusion–materialistic stepwise processes cannot explain the designed nature of the cell. In *The Cell's Design: How Chemistry Reveals the Creator's Artistry,* biochemist Fazale Rana, Ph.D., highlights the powerful scientific evidence for design. Going far beyond irreducible complexity, Rana shows how the molecular features of the cell—some of the smallest structures in nature—manifest the same characteristics displayed in human designs. Molecular motors, information properties, chicken-and-egg systems, and quality-control checkpoints are only a few of more than a dozen remarkable indicators for design explained in *The Cell's Design.*

7. *Salvo Magazine on Intelligent Design*. The Winter 2008 issue of *Salvo Magazine* was a special issue devoted to ID entitled "What's so Intelligent about Design?" The magazine has a number of excellent articles pertaining to all the different aspects of the debate over intelligent design, penned by a veritable who's who of intelligent design scientists and scholars, including: Michael Behe, John Bloom, Raymond Bohlin, Larry Caldwell, Seth Cooper, Caroline Crocker, William Dembski, Michael Egnor, Logan Paul Gage, Guillermo Gonzalez, Phillip Johnson, Casey Luskin, Angus Menuge, Stephen Meyer, Paul Nelson, Denyse O'Leary, Jay Richards, Ralph Seelke, Geoffrey Simmons, Jonathan Wells, Benjamin Wiker, Jonathan Witt, and Heather Zeiger. This is a great magazine for the twenty-something generation.

8. *Understanding Intelligent Design: Everything You Need to Know in Plain Language* by William A. Dembski and Sean McDowell. *Understanding Intelligent Design* is brief review of the evidence for intelligent design (ID) written for general audiences. In this goal it succeeds marvelously. Easy to follow, well written and well documented, given the length limits of the book. Chapter 5, a response to arguments against ID, was especially helpful. Major topics covered by the book include: 1) the central theories of ID, showing why the presence of information and meaningful complexity require the involvement of intelligence; 2) why ID adheres to the scientific method and is a valid field of scientific inquiry; 3) why scientific evidence increasingly conflicts with evolutionary theories; 4) how both evolutionary theory and ID have religious/philosophical underpinnings, and why this causes so much controversy; 5) how both systems of thought have radical implications for our culture—and what readers can do about it.

9. *Intelligent Design 101: Leading Experts Explain the Key Issues* with contributions from by Michael Behe, Eddie N. Colanter, Logan Gage, Phillip Johnson, Casey Luskin, J. P. Moreland, and Jay Richards. Whether you are looking for your first introduction to intelligent design, wanting to get know some the key players without buying a boatload of books, or want an easy-to-read survey of the keys issues, *Intelligent Design 101* is a book everyone interested in the topic should have in their personal library. The book includes an appendix with a direct rebuttal to Francis Collins' theistic evolution arguments for human/ape common ancestry by Logan Gage and Casey Luskin which deals extensively with "chromosomal fusion".

10. *How To Be An Intellectually Fulfilled Atheist (Or Not)* by William Dembski and Jonathan Wells. Richard Dawkins writes, "Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist" and Cornell's Will Provine has stated that Darwinian evolution "is the greatest engine of atheism ever invented." Dembski and Wells set out in this readable little book to show that atheism must look elsewhere for its intellectual fulfillment. This book is a handy reprint of a key chapter from *The Design of Life*, a selection from the 2007 top ten list. *How To Be An Intellectually Fulfilled Atheist (Or Not)* focuses on materialistic origin-of-life scenarios and finds we have no more evidence for how life arose naturally than Darwin did in his day.

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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.