

The Herald Journal

Biologist to give Darwin lecture

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Biologist and philosopher Francisco J. Ayala will present a public lecture, "Darwin's Gift to Science and Religion," as part of "the year of Darwin" celebration at Utah State University.

Everyone is invited to the free presentation at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Emert Auditorium (room 130) of the Eccles Science Learning Center. The event recognizes the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's "On the Origin of Species."

Ayala, from University of California, Irvine, is known for his research on the genetic mechanisms behind evolution. He is a guest of USU's Center for Integrated BioSystems CIBR student program.

A president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a winner of the National Medal of Science, Ayala is the author or editor of more than a dozen books. He also served as a chief witness in the creationist trials in Arkansas in 1981 that prevented religion from being taught as science in the classroom. Among his recent books is "Darwin's Gift to Science and Religion."

The lecture has received funding from the Utah Humanities Council.