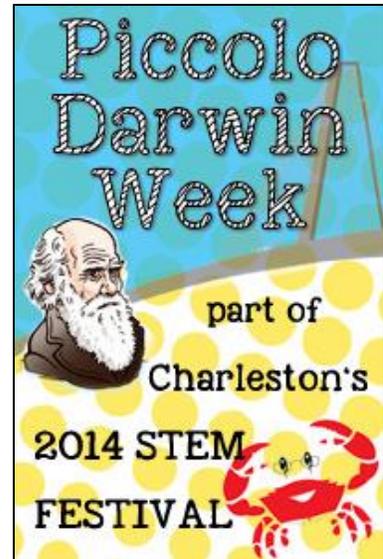


CHARLESTON'S FIRST-EVER PICCOLO DARWIN WEEK!

Since 2001, *Darwin Week* in *Charleston* has brought together a wide range of academic, social and religious speakers to discuss aspects of evolution. While these programs have always been free and open to the public, they were aimed at university level students and adults and the level of presentation was not usually accessible to pre-college students.

Piccolo Darwin Week aims to change that! We have added three "Piccolo Darwin Week" programs to Darwin Week 2014 tailored to be interesting and understandable for middle and high school students:



***Deep-sea communities characterized by incredibly hot, toxic geysers, yet teeming with life feeding off microbes which may represent the beginning of life on our planet;**

***Scientific rhyming verse comic books about the beginning of the universe, our planet, and life on Earth;**

***Adaptations of animals from around the world depicted in close-up, brilliant photographic detail**

Admission is free and, this first trial year, open to all students in grades 7-12 living or studying in Charleston County. But seating is limited! Pre-registration is required and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For an application, contact Dr. Rob Dillon, Biology Department at the College of Charleston:

E-mail: dillonr@cofc.edu

Telephone: 953-8087

Piccolo Darwin Week program sponsored by:

- The College of Charleston School of Science and Math
- The Charleston Chapter of Sigma Xi
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute Grants for Science Education
- The 2014 Charleston STEM Festival
- And special thanks to Ms. Cindy Renkas of Mason Preparatory School, the hardest-working woman in science education!

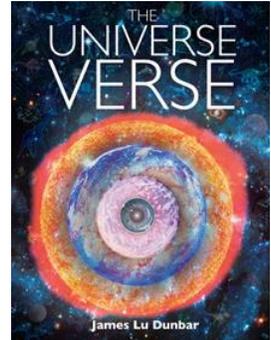
OUR 2014 PICCOLO SPOLETO PROGRAMS

The Universe Verse

Tuesday, February 11, 1:30-2:30 p.m.,

CofC School of Science & Math Auditorium

From the Big Bang to the scientific method, author & illustrator James Lu Dunbar explains the origins of the universe, life on Earth and the human race in *The Universe Verse*, a series of scientifically accurate, rhyming comic books. Mr. Dunbar uses captivating illustrations and whimsical rhymes to make challenging and abstract concepts accessible and engaging for a wide audience. Join the author as he reads from and expounds upon this charming ode to science and evolution.



Animal Attraction

Wednesday, February 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

CofC School of Science & Math Auditorium

What do females want? And just how far are males willing to go to win a mate and pass on their genes? You'd be surprised at what animals do for love! International wildlife photographer Scott Snider will present a fun and fascinating look at courtship in the animal kingdom, revealing amazing discoveries which give new meaning to the words "animal attraction." Mr. Snider will share some of the behind the scene moments and unorthodox techniques used by scientists to reveal some of the sexual selection strategies animals have evolved to find their mates. Mr. Snider's work has been featured on National Geographic Channel, PBS Nature, Discovery Channel, Geo Wild, History Channel, and the Travel Channel.



From Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Your Most Ancient Relatives: Chemosynthetic Bacteria?

Thursday, February 13, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

CofC School of Science & Math Auditorium

In 1977, scientists diving in the submersible *Alvin* made a stunning discovery on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean: vents pouring incredibly hot, mineral-rich, acidic fluids from beneath the seafloor, inhabited by previously unknown organisms thriving on "toxic" compounds in the absence of sunlight. These discoveries forever changed our understanding of Earth and life on it. Marine geologist Dr. Leslie Sautter and marine biologist Dr. Craig Plante will present awe-inspiring video of the one-mile deep hydrothermal vent ecosystem found on Axial Seamount, located 300 miles off the Oregon coast, and discuss new discoveries leading to implications for the origin of life on earth.



From U. Wash. Oceanography