



"It is dangerous to raise attention to the fact that there is no satisfying explanation for macroevolution. One easily becomes a target of orthodox evolutionary biology and a false friend of proponents of non-scientific concepts."

--Biologist Günter Theißen,
Theory in Biosciences (2006)

Confused Darwinists Play Coroner with IDEA Center

By Casey Luskin

2009 is the bicentennial anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species*, and Darwinists seem more obsessed than ever with death. In particular, they seem suspiciously over-eager to proclaim the alleged death of the intelligent design (ID) movement. Earlier this year, the *New York Times* (an unashamedly pro-Darwin media outlet) tried to jump on the current cultural infatuation with vampires by publishing an article titled "Four Stakes in the Heart of Intelligent Design." (The article merely touts four lightweight books for the lay reader that critique ID.) NCSE affiliates Nick Matzke and Kevin Padian recently published an article in a scientific journal claiming that the "case for ID" has "collapsed," gleefully asserting their hope that "no one with scientific or philosophical integrity is going to take [ID] seriously in future."

The somewhat rough-and-tumble internet Darwinist choir—which tends to live in its own world—has also jumped on this bandwagon of declaring ID dead. In fact, they decided to play coroner over the IDEA Center. To give a couple examples, one internet Darwinist wrote a blog post eagerly calling IDEA "dead." (While he was at it, this person also had the maturity to call ID "stupidity" and William Dembski "either delusional or a bald-faced liar.") The internet Darwinists at PandalThumb apparently accept whatever conspiracy theories they read on these blogs, and proceeded to write their own amusing post rejoicing over an alleged "IDEA obituary." Relying on these sources, the unyieldingly anti-ID online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, now confidently alleges that the IDEA Center is "moribund."

IDEA's death is apparently important to critics. Despite attempts by one high-level Wikipedia editor to correct the error, the other Darwinist editors at Wikipedia have refused to relinquish their grasp on their fantastical claim that IDEA is "moribund."

All of this brings to mind a famous scene from Monty Python's classic movie *The Holy Grail*: "I'm not dead ... I feel fine. I think I'll go for a walk. I feel happy, I feel happy," says a lively chap being prematurely dragged off for dead by an over-eager coroner. Eventually the chap's inconvenient vitality is eliminated by a quick whack on the head. Much like the faux coroner from Monty Python, Darwinists insist that ID is dead, even though it is very much alive. And in their eagerness to declare ID dead, critics are willing to use a club to try to make their claims of IDEA's death a reality, at least in their own minds.

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Celebrating 10 Years of IDEA

As noted in the cover story, 2009 is a year of anniversaries. It's the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species*. There's another important anniversary this year: IDEA has now existed for 10 years. It was in May of 1999 that the first IDEA Club was founded at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). During this time IDEA Clubs have not only educated thousands of students worldwide about ID, but they have inspired a number of students to pursue careers doing scientific research into ID. One IDEA Club sparked the first major ID-focused course taught within a secular university biology department (at an Ivy League school, no less). Many members of the "next generation" of the ID movement found IDEA Clubs to be a place where they could connect with the ID community. As we reflect over the years, we are humbled and honored to see a simple concept of informing students about the merits for and against evolution and ID proliferate into a worldwide movement.

A Brief History of the IDEA Center

1999-2001, The Primordial Origins of IDEA: The first IDEA Club was formed at UCSD in 1999 by Casey Luskin and some of his friends who were tired of taking science classes that did not allow meaningful discussion about origins. The club was a success as many undergrads, grad students, faculty, and community members from a variety of viewpoints and backgrounds participated. The original IDEA Club was organized around the philosophy that the best way to promote ID was to create a friendly, warm, and inviting atmosphere for personal dialogue and discussion, where the scientific and philosophical arguments for ID could speak for themselves. Thus was born the "IDEA Philosophy" which emphasizes intellectual honesty, tolerance, friendship, and civility during disagreement.

2001-2005, The IDEA Explosion: In 2001, the founders of the IDEA Club at UCSD graduated and formed the IDEA Center as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, helping students start similar "IDEA Clubs" on other campuses. From 2001 and 2005, IDEA Clubs were formed on over 25 university and high school campuses in the U.S. including Vanderbilt, Cornell, University of Virginia, University of Oklahoma, UC Berkeley, University of Nebraska, Stanford, Boise State University, George Mason University, James Madison University, Ole' Miss, University of Texas Austin, and others. These active chapters drew media attention from outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New Yorker*, *NPR*, and *New Scientist*. In 2005, when *Nature* published a feature-story article on ID, it chose to do so by focusing on various leaders in the IDEA student movement. As the article stated, "despite researchers' apparent lack of interest, or perhaps because of it, the movement is catching on among students on US university campuses."

2006-2007, Stasis: By 2006, Casey Luskin had just moved to Seattle to work full time at Discovery Institute in the ID-policy arena. In his new role traveling around the country doing public policy work, it was impossible to keep up with the demand for IDEA Clubs. Unfortunately, this meant that until IDEA hired its first staff member in 2008, growth of the IDEA Club network slowed. Nonetheless, contrary to what the insatiable skeptics are saying, IDEA did not "die" during this time—it just did not grow.

2008 and Beyond, IDEA's New Radiation: In early 2008, the IDEA Center hired its first paid staff member – Caroline Crocker – as an Executive Director working part-time. Dr. Crocker was hired for 6 months and she helped bring the IDEA Center fully "back online" until she moved on in July, 2008. In August, 2008, the Center hired Brian Westad as its first full time paid staff member as its IDEA Club Director. Mr. Westad has been helping new IDEA Clubs to form, and current IDEA Clubs to successfully promote ID in their campuses and communities. Over the next few years, we hope to see increased growth building the IDEA Club network not only back up to previous levels, but to far surpass them. IDEA Clubs are uniquely poised to reach out to many students who typically do not learn in their classrooms about the scientific evidence supporting ID and challenging evolution. Our vision is to see IDEA grow into an increasingly bigger worldwide network of vibrant extracurricular clubs that will impact thousands of students. Our progress is thanks to readers like you who are passionate about ID and academic freedom in our schools. Thank you again for partnering with us and together we will see many accomplishments and triumphs in the next ten years.

Interview with a Graduating IDEA Club Leader

We asked outgoing college graduate and University of Oklahoma (OU) IDEA Club president Ray Martin a few questions about his experience with ID and how his IDEA club impacted his university. Below is the interview.

What is the history of the IDEA Club at your university? How long have you been involved?

The IDEA Club was vibrant about five or six years ago, but died after its leadership graduated. Some of those students were still at OU in graduate school and told me about the club. I decided to start it last fall for the sole purpose of sponsoring speakers, but it turned into much more – it attracted a myriad of students who are deeply interested in the questions raised by scientists on both sides of the debate. I was only involved for a year, but the new leadership will be around for at least three.

Does your club experience any hostilities from other classmates or faculty at your school? How do you respond?

We asked several professors to give lectures, and were denied by some of them. Many professors attempted to force officials at the natural history museum to cancel one of our events scheduled to take place in one of the museum auditoriums.

What recent activities has your club participated in?

We hosted lectures by two scholars from the Discovery Institute – John West and Casey Luskin, and a debate between ID theorist William Dembski and philosopher of science Michael Ruse. We also held weekly meetings, co-sponsored a science and religion conference and passed out literature on campus.

How has leading the IDEA Club impacted you personally?

I received harsh treatment from a few zoology professors when I asked why they opposed a course taught by a professor at OU who attempted to teach on ID and evolution. The faculty lashed out at the professor, who was tenured and highly respected, and the exact same course was previously taught at Cornell. I wondered what the big deal was with ID, and started reading some books and talking to people who were involved with IDEA Club. Three years later it's still one of my favorite things to study, and I think it's one of most important issues in academia. ID coincided with my worldview. It didn't change it.

In your own words, describe the importance of having an IDEA Club on your campus.

If we would not have offered opposing viewpoints, no one would have, which is extremely unfortunate at a university that labels itself a "marketplace of ideas." The IDEA Club is essential to preventing a monopoly of those ideas at OU, it also encourages students to think for themselves and not take everything their professors say at face value.

What are your future plans after graduation?

I'm going to continue trying to advance my career as a journalist, and study journalism, the history of science, or both sometime in the future.



Quotable Quote:

“Conformity and group-think are attitudes of particular danger in science, an endeavor that is inherently revolutionary because progress often depends on overturning established wisdom.... What’s wrong with consensuses is not the establishment of a majority view, which is necessary and legitimate, but the silencing of skeptics.”


(Nicholas Wade, “Researcher Condemns Conformity Among His Peers,” *New York Times Blog*, July 23, 2009)

IDEA Rising.

For an organization that is supposedly “dead” (see cover story), the IDEA Center has sure accomplished a lot in 2009. This past year, new IDEA Clubs have formed (not exhaustively listed here), IDEA Center staff spoke multiple times around the U.S.—from Alaska to Texas—on the evidence for ID, and IDEA Clubs nationwide celebrated the importance of protecting academic freedom. Here is a sampling of some events and accomplishments from IDEA during the past year:

- **December, 2008:** The first meeting was successfully held for a community IDEA Club based in South Dakota, despite intense internet attacks and attempts to derail the meeting from anti-ID bloggers like P.Z. Myers and his followers.
- **January, 2009:** IDEA Clubs in the Boise, Idaho area (Boise State University and others) sponsor a lecture by Brian Westad speaking to dozens of students on academic freedom and intelligent design.
- **February 2009:** The IDEA Club at the University of Oklahoma sponsors a series of Academic Freedom-Day events including lectures by Dr. John West, Casey Luskin, Dr. William Dembski, and Dr. Michael Ruse. These events attract many students and successfully counter a number of pro-Darwin-only events sponsored by the University of Oklahoma.
- **February, 2009:** Students interested in forming an IDEA Club at Seattle Pacific University (SPU) celebrate Academic Freedom Day by showing the documentary *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*. Many students attend, and the event is followed by a panel discussion featuring IDEA’s Casey Luskin and some SPU faculty.

- **February 2009:** Casey Luskin publishes an op-ed in *U.S. News and World Report* titled, “Darwin, Intelligent Design, and Freedom of Discovery on Evolutionists’ Holy Day,” mentioning the IDEA Center and the fight to protect academic freedom on the university campus.
- **March, 2009:** Brian Westad lectures to hundreds of college students in Texas about the evidence for intelligent design, getting them excited about IDEA Clubs.
- **April, 2009:** Brian Westad is featured in an article titled “Intelligent Design for dummies” at *OneNewsNow* telling his personal story of how intelligent design gave him rational reasons to defend his worldview. The article plugs IDEA, noting that “Westad’s job is to assist students form IDEA clubs, which promote discussion of Intelligent Design at high schools and on college campuses. His goal is to help students who ‘want to find the resources to challenge the Darwinist paradigm that is forced upon them every day.’ After all, he’s been there.”
- **Spring, 2009:** Brian Westad is again featured in interview in *Salvo Magazine* discussing his journey towards becoming a proponent of intelligent design and his involvement with IDEA. The interview highlights a quote from Brian stating: “The level of anger, and in some cases—dare I say it—hate, that I’ve observed in the Darwinists since I started working at the IDEA Center is astonishing. To me, it says that they’re replacing evidence with emotion, and that they’re not very objective about analyzing the issue.”
- **June, 2009:** Casey Luskin speaks to hundreds of high school and college students in Colorado, leading to the formation of another new high-school based IDEA Club
- **September, 2009:** Casey Luskin lectures in Juneau, Alaska (organized by Brian Westad) on the positive case for intelligent design. An evolutionary biologist in attendance listened attentively but at the end posed no scientific objections. Instead, this scientist asked “Who do you think the designer is?” In reply, Casey reiterated what he had already said during the lecture: He believes the designer is the God of the Bible, but this is his personal religious view, but not a conclusion of intelligent design. This lecture also results in interest in students in starting an IDEA Club in Alaska.
- **October, 2009:** The University of Oklahoma IDEA Club sponsors the Midwestern premier of the new pro-ID documentary *Darwin’s Dilemma: The Mystery of the Cambrian Fossil Record*, and featuring a panel discussion with Stephen C. Meyer, Jonathan Wells, and Richard Sternberg. Dr. Meyer also lectures on his new book *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design*. The club rented out the Sam Noble Museum for Natural History, prompting an outcry from local Darwinists who opposed the rights of the IDEA Club to rent out the facility. The museum honored the contract, but issued a statement disclaiming the event.

- **November, 2009:** IDEA Center hosts its annual fundraiser in San Diego, California, premiering *Darwin's Dilemma*, followed by a discussion about the film. The event also features a lecture by scientist Dr. Donald Johnson on "The Cell's Computer-like Design." Dr. Johnson holds two Ph.D's—one in chemistry from Michigan State University and another in computer and information science from the University of Minnesota.
- **November, 2009:** The first IDEA Club in Rwanda is formed.
- **November, 2009:** The founder of a high school-based IDEA Club in the State of Washington, RJ Miller, is interviewed for a European magazine for teenagers, *Spot On*.
- **November, 2009:** As of the printing of this newsletter, there are about a dozen active IDEA Clubs, with about 6 IDEA Clubs in the process of forming. 

Start an IDEA Club

Students are starting IDEA Clubs around the United States and internationally on college and high school campuses. Do you want to become one of them?

Join the
IDEA Revolution!

Starting an IDEA Club is easy. First, contact Brian Westad (brianw@ideacenter.org) and request an IDEA Club Leadership Manual. Next, if you meet the basic qualifications, then fill out an application to start an IDEA Club student chapter. Finally, the IDEA Center sends you a packet of many pro-ID books, videos, handouts, and other materials to help get your club jump-started into action. Not a student? Not a problem. IDEA Clubs are also popping up off-campus in communities. Join the IDEA Revolution today!

Quotable Quote:

"In the short run, new ideas that do not mesh well with mainstream ideas may encounter vigorous criticism, and scientists investigating such ideas may have difficulty obtaining support for their research. Indeed, challenges to new ideas are the legitimate business of science in building valid knowledge. Even the most prestigious scientists have occasionally refused to accept new theories despite there being enough accumulated evidence to convince others."

(F. James Rutherford, Andrew Ahlgren, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, *Science for All Americans*, pg. 9 (Oxford University Press, 1990).)

The Matter of Philosophy and Science in the Intelligent Design Debate

By Dr. H. Wayne House, J.D., Ph.D.

The old adage of the church father Tertullian, what has Athens to do with Jerusalem? (*Quid ergo Athenis et Hierosolymis*) seems similar to the question before us in this short article, namely, what does philosophy do to do with science? Is there a point at which they may work together? More to the point, can science even come to knowledge or truth without the aid of philosophy? Additionally, should scientists, who are largely ignorant of philosophy (see Moreland, *Intelligent Design 101*), properly do their work without having an understanding of philosophy? It is the contention of this brief article that worldviews are necessary for any form of scientific investigation, and that worldviews are based on a philosophy of meaning and life.

Let's face it, nobody comes to any area of investigation without preconceived ideas. This however, is often how the public views scientists. What is even more disconcerting, and maybe scary, is how many scientists see themselves. The famous Harvard evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould explained why this view of science is false:

Our [scientists'] ways of learning about the world are strongly influenced by the social preconceptions and biased modes of thinking that each scientist must apply to any problem. The stereotype of a fully rational and objective 'scientific method,' with individual scientists as logical and interchangeable robots, is self-serving mythology.¹

The term "science," which many persons today consider in the same vein as people in the West used to view theology—namely, true beyond doubt—is from the Latin *scientia* meaning "knowledge." Knowledge is in fact what is true rather than what is in dispute, yet uncertainty and unsettled perspective is generally characteristic of investigation in all branches of science. Supposedly what is so great about science is that all questions are still open but if this is so then a scientist may claim truth only rarely. In fact, many scientific "truths" are later found to be either erroneous or non-universal. Even when scientific laws are recognized this is only one type of knowledge because facts are investigated and truth may be known in a variety of disciplines, not just "science."

Moreover, scientists study a plethora of individual data but putting these into workable theories that may be regarded as knowledge (what is true) is actually a philosophical question more than a scientific one. Now how is this so? "Every person, whether they are examining a statement in a book or looking at a rock strata in the earth, asks questions of what they are looking at. These questions are based in the person's assumptions and preconceived notions of reality (see Theodore Dalrymple's *In Praise of Prejudice*). We simply can't start over every time we begin investigation of something. But, having said that, the worst case scenario is when a person doesn't even know that he or she has made assumptions that may *not* be true. Truth is that which conforms to reality. Scientists and non-scientists hold thousands of beliefs that they have not personally

¹ Stephen Jay Gould, 1994. In the Mind of the Beholder. *Natural History*. 103 (2):15.

tested but assume others have tested them and that they are then true, or they simply accept something as true without being able to justify the belief.

One can be an intelligent design advocate or a naturalistic evolutionist looking at the same piece of datum and yet both come to vastly different conclusions. The datum is the same, so why the difference? It relates to the fact that one does not merely examine facts but chooses which facts to examine, and into what worldview cubicle the facts will be placed. This is philosophy, not empirical science.


If there is any doubt that a worldview and philosophy is what undergirds much of evolutionary thinking, consider this admission by another Darwinian scientist from Harvard, Richard Lewontin:

[W]e have a prior commitment ... to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to ... produce material explanations ... [T]hat materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.²

This materialist philosophy has real-world implications for scientific thinking. Take for example the origin of life. According to many naturalistic scientists, over 4 billion years ago lightning strikes in the earth's primitive atmosphere energized chemical reactions that generated amino acids – the building blocks of life – into a “primordial soup.” The catch is that, as origin of life theorist Stanley Miller demonstrated in 1953, this kind of chemistry only works if there were reducing gasses in the atmosphere. Thus, Miller made a striking admission that he assumed the atmosphere was reducing not because of the evidence, but because it was necessary in his scheme of life's chemical origins:

We believe that there must have been a period when the earth's atmosphere was reducing, because the synthesis of compounds of biological interest takes place only under reducing conditions.³

Geochemists today know that Miller was wrong. The earth's early atmosphere was not the methane and ammonia rich reducing atmosphere that Miller used in his experiments. Nonetheless, Miller's view persisted for many years simply because of philosophy-driven science.

Philosophy is key to this debate. Which philosophical view is true, and thus is knowledge, is where our discussion needs to begin. Naturalists cannot prove that the universe had a purposeless beginning and they cannot explain the seeming evidence of complex design and necessity of an intelligent cause by calling names and questioning motives. Philosophical assumptions and logical analysis must underlie any credible and defensible scientific view; it is a requirement not an option. As long as philosophy is ignored or rejected in the science debate over evolution and intelligent design, further progress toward legitimate scientific knowledge will not be possible. 

² Richard Lewontin, “Billions and Billions of Demons,” *New York Review of Books*, p. 28 (January 9, 1997).

³ *The Origins of Life on the Earth*, by S. L. Miller and L. E. Orgel, p. 33 (Englewood Cliffs, Prentice Hall, 1974).

Continued From Page 1: Confused Darwinists Play Coroner with IDEA Center

It's hard to take these kinds of people seriously, not only because of their hyperbolic rhetoric and their obsession with the death of ID, but also because of all the exciting activity occurring presently at the IDEA Center! To say the least, we at the IDEA Center got a good laugh reading these IDEA Center death certificates fabricated by these highly imaginative internet Darwinists.

For example, one piece of evidence they cited to declare IDEA “dead” was their assertion that IDEA hasn't published all of its “quarterly” issues of *The Light Bulb*. Perhaps that's because our Light Bulb newsletter isn't published quarterly, it's published semi-annually (i.e. it comes out 2 times per year, not 4 times). As our newsletter page has long stated, “The IDEA Center publishes a semi-annual newsletter called, ‘The Light Bulb,’” and it lists both issues for 2008. And here's the latest issue of *The Light Bulb*, with some illuminating updates about IDEA activities that should prove even to the most hardened skeptics that we're still alive.

Another assertion was their claim that IDEA has no listserves--but members of the general public have been welcome to join our IDEA Center's Member Listserve for years, and in fact our members listserve currently has over 1200 members hailing from over a dozen countries! Feel free to submit your request to join our IDEA Center Member's listserve today!

The internet Darwinists' main piece of evidence that IDEA is “dead” was their claim that our IDEA Club chapter locations page is out-of-date. It is out-of-date, and we're actually working on revamping the entire page which is a long-term project requiring the production of new hyperlinked maps.

But IDEA Clubs are certainly not “dead.” In fact, the IDEA Center's primary program is helping students to start extra-curricular IDEA Clubs on university and high school campuses around the United States and the world. In August of 2008, the IDEA Center hired its first full-time staff member, Mr. Brian Westad, as its new IDEA Club Director, to oversee the IDEA Club program.

Right now, as of Fall 2009, there are about a dozen IDEA Club chapters that are active, with about six others in information. In fact, since the Darwinists first started proclaiming the false death of IDEA, we've received over fifteen inquires into starting new IDEA Clubs. Not only are rumor's of IDEA's death greatly exaggerated, but the more the internet Darwinists declare IDEA to be dead, the more IDEA seems to be growing. If you're interested in learning more about starting an IDEA Club, please contact Brian at brianw@ideacenter.org.

Quite amusingly, these kinds of Darwinists seem to alternate between proclaiming the death of ID, and crying that the sky is falling because ID allegedly threatens to impose theocracy and destroy science, democracy, and free, modern civilization. You can't destroy civilization if you're dead, so which is it? Forgive us if we at the IDEA Center somehow doubt that these Darwinists actually believe what they are saying.

Regardless, it seems clear that these Darwinists wish not to see the contradictions in their own arguments, so our advice is this: if you need a coroner, don't call the internet Darwinists because they're not very good at assessing whether something is dead. After all, the Darwinists have been wrong before. In the volume *Intelligent Design 101*, Phillip Johnson tells the story of how Darwinists declared a false victory over their opponents during the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species* exactly fifty years ago in 1959:

[A]s 1959 approached, evolutionary scientists thought that the mid-century would be an ideal time to hold a triumphant celebration. A professor at the University of Chicago organized the Darwin Centennial Celebration and landed the most prominent Darwinian speaker, Sir Julian Huxley to keynote the event.


Huxley was the grandson of Thomas Henry Huxley, the British naturalist who pushed for public debates in favor of Darwinism in the early years. Grandfather Huxley became known as “Darwin’s bulldog,” because of his spirited advocacy for Darwin’s theory. Grandson, Huxley was a prominent zoologist in his own right and one of the founders of what would later come to be called the Neo-Darwinian Synthesis, the modern version of Darwinism. He was also an international statesman, a founding father of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Huxley was also the would-be founder of a new religion of evolutionary humanism. He wrote a book called *Religion Without Revelation* (Harper, 1957) that attempted to found a religion upon the scientific way of thinking. Science replaced revelation as the source of knowledge, and humanity, rather than God, sat at the top of Huxley’s *scala naturae*.

This centennial was held at the University of Chicago on Thanksgiving weekend, 1959. It attracted so much press attention that it seemed to signify to the world, as intended, that Darwinism was triumphant everywhere. Huxley, in his keynote address, made it clear that this was a triumph in science and in religion. He said that there is now no room for a divinized father figure, an imaginary god who is really just a projection of our human father. Huxley was branding a new religion in which “[i]n the evolutionary pattern of thought there is no longer either need or room for the supernatural. The earth was not created: it evolved. So did all the animals and plants that inhabit it, including our human selves, mind and soul as well as brain and body. So did religion.” Essentially, then, one religion is replaced by another—triumphant evolutionary science explains everything.

At that point, many scientific authorities had the view that only a minor “mop-up” operation was necessary in the cultural war against theistic religion. Christianity, in particular, had been beaten. Science, the new religion, would replace it, with evolution as the creator....Each of these events were said to make the case for the triumph of scientific materialism and Darwinism. That triumph fell apart, however, once people started scrutinizing the evidence.

(Phillip Johnson, “Bringing Balance to a Fiery Debate,” *Intelligent Design 101: Leading Experts Explain the Key Issues*, pgs. 24-26 (H. Wayne House, ed., Kregel, 2008), internal citations removed.)

Of course anyone who knows their history of the evolution-debate knows what happened next: serious scientists rose up and started publicly questioning Darwinism, leading to the birth of the creation science movement in the 1960s, and later, the birth of the intelligent design movement in the 1980s and 1990s.

The IDEA Center doesn’t promote creation science, and intelligent design is of course very different from creationism, but it will be interesting to see how opposition to Darwin surges in the coming years now that Darwinists are using this current anniversary as another occasion to wrongly declare their opposition to be dead. Perhaps in another 50 years, future historians of evolution will be once-again writing that “That triumph fell apart, however, once people started scrutinizing the evidence.” 

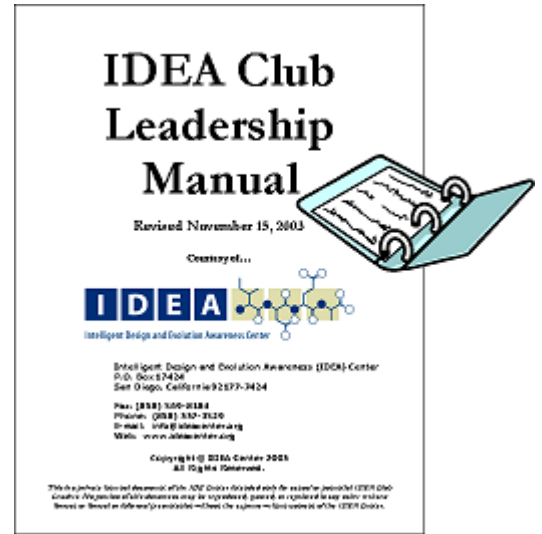
Editor’s Note: This article is an updated version of an article originally published on the IDEA Center website at <http://www.ideacenter.org/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/1478>

Request an IDEA Club Leadership Manual!

The *IDEA Club Leadership Manual* is a “how-to” reference guide for running an IDEA Club, with tips and advice to help a prospective or current IDEA Club leader to deal with just about any situation that could arise. Topics covered include:

- How to Start a Club
- Background on the IDEA Center
- How to Schedule Meetings and Choose Meeting Topics
- How to Start and Lead Discussion
- How to Handle Heated Meetings
- How to Create a Budget and Plan an Event
- How to Publicize Events and Meetings
- Promoting Intelligent Design with Integrity
- Answering Common Objections to Design

To request an *IDEA Club Leadership Manual*, contact Brian Westad at brianw@ideacenter.org.



Please make me an IDEA Center Member:

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- Complex Member (\$25 donation)
- Irreducibly Complex Member (\$100 donation)
- Sustaining Member (\$500 donation)
- Founding Member (\$1000+ donation)
- I would like to receive an IDEA Club Leadership Manual! (free)

Members receive our free electronic newsletter, and e-mail updates. Please make any donation checks out to the “IDEA Center.” Thanks for your support!

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