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RIVERSIDE: Atheist author to speak

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On Sunday, May 5, outspoken atheist, evolutionary biologist and author PZ Myers will give a free lecture at UC Riverside, which will be hosted by Inland Empire Atheists and Agnostics.

Myers is a celebrity in the atheist community as the founder and co-author of the influential blog "Pharyngula," which Nature listed as the top-ranked blog by a scientist in 2006. Myers is an award-winning public critic of intelligent design and of the creationist movement. He is also a leading activist in the American creation–evolution controversy.

Atheists and non-believers are one of the fastest growing and most controversial demographics in the United States. Myers' lecture is one part of a growing trend of visibility and outreach by Atheists and Agnostics in Riverside, a trend that included the Mt. Rubidoux cross debate.

In the coming years, it is likely that atheists and the non-religious will continue to grow as an important and visible demographic. According to Reuters, the non-belief segment is the fastest growing religious affiliation category in the United States. Within Riverside County there are thousands of active atheists and agnostics, and according to a May 2010 Gallup poll, 16 percent of Americans currently have no religious affiliation.

The lecture will take place at 11 a.m. at UCR in room 1020 of the CHASS Interdisciplinary building, north. Parking will be available at UCR Lot 1.

Inland Empire Atheists and Agnostics is the largest organization of non-believers in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. For more information, please contact: Gregory McKinley-Powell of the Inland Empire Atheists and Agnostics, 951-3182628 or gsm54321@gmail.com

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