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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UF hosts fifth annual workshop for science teachers *Summer Science Institute focuses on themes from the Year of Science 2009*

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A gathering of middle and high school teachers will help celebrate 2009's Year of Science by studying both historical and recent scientific research. From June 29 to July 2, secondary science teachers will take part in the Celebrate Science workshop of the Summer Science Institute.

The program is offered by the University of Florida Center for Precollegiate Education, known as CPET. It will not only look at the latest research but the nature of science as well. To celebrate the anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and publication of "On The Origin of Species," participants will study evolutionary biology. They will look to the stars in the tradition of Galileo as part of the International Year of Astronomy, and as part of the International Polar Year they will examine global warming and biodiversity loss.

Mary Jo Koroly, the director of CPET, says the goal of the program is to create a greater appreciation of science for participants as well as for their students.

"Science isn't just at the bench," she said. "It's a way of thinking. It's curiosity. It's creativity."

Teachers will gain wide-ranging field experience by visiting research institutions, labs and areas of interest in North Central Florida in order to apply their knowledge to real-world situations. The workshop will help the teachers integrate current scientific issues into their classrooms.

"The SSI was a great opportunity to create contacts to bring current research into the classroom," according to a past participant's written comments. "It was very invigorating and applicable to my classroom curriculum and students."

There are still spots available, and applicants will be accepted until the program is full. Downloadable applications are available on the CPET Web site at <http://cpet.ufl.edu/SSI/Forms.html>.

The 2009 Summer Science Institute is funded by the Laster Center for Learning, the Florida Space Grant Consortium and the UF Alliance. It is designed to provide science teachers with the opportunity to update their knowledge and laboratory experience by working with UF faculty and graduate students, performing authentic research and talking with industry leaders.

For more information, please contact the program administrator, Julie Bokor, at 352-392-2310, or e-mail her at julie@cpet.ufl.edu. The UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training can be found online at <http://cpet.ufl.edu>.

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The UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training (UF-CPET) is a university-wide organization dedicated to fostering educational enrichment and forging research and Florida school partnerships by identifying, coordinating, extending or creating outreach programs that link secondary school teachers and students with UF in science, mathematics and technology.

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