

CURRY COLLEGE

2019-2020 BEN HIDALGO AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Abigail Hafer, Science

PUBLICATIONS:

- Book: Darwin's Apostles, co-authored with Dr. David Orenstein. Published November 24, 2019 (The 160th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's On the Origin of Species) by Humanist Press.
- Chapter: "Humanism, Sex, and Sexuality" in The Oxford Handbook in Humanism. Published by Oxford University Press (chapter published in online version April 2020, print publication to follow). <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/newsitem/375/whats-new-april-2020>.
- Chapter title: "Evolution is a Fact!" in The Case Against Miracles by John Loftus. Published November 2019 by Hypatia Press.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Legislation submitted: H.471, to the MA legislature: "An Act Relative to Science Curriculum Standards." This act would require that all science taught in public schools be based on peer-reviewed science. Written testimony submitted to hearing at the MA State House that took place on July 9, 2020.
- Oral and written testimony given in support of H.3999, a bill regarding mandatory childhood vaccinations, at a hearing at the MA Statehouse on December 3, 2020.
- Television interview: Appeared on "502 Conversations" with host Brian Kerby, June 2019 (Dedham television).
- "What Today's Fighters Against Fake News Can Learn from Darwin's Apostles" presentation given to the Concord Area Humanists, Feb. 5, 2020 (Concord, MA).
- "What Today's Fighters Against Fake News Can Learn from Darwin's Apostles" presentation given at the headquarters of the American Humanist Association, Feb. 12, 2020 (Washington, DC).
- "What Today's Fighters Against Fake News Can Learn from Darwin's Apostles" presentation given at Boston University on Feb. 20, 2020 (Sponsor: DA Society--a Boston-based philosophical society).
- Interview on August 26, 2019 on the National Science Teachers Association podcast called "Lab Out Loud". The interview was about H.471, the bill in the MA legislature that protects fact-based science education.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Interviewed by Kathleen Cordeiro, Editor-in-Chief, Northwest Group, Gatehouse Media, about H.471 ("An Act Relative to Science Curriculum Standards") in Wicked Local, July 2019. The interview was circulated widely, resulting in a series of negative articles on the anti-evolution website Evolution News. The article's language was later changed, including the removal of offensive and untruthful statements questioning qualifications as a biologist and a teacher, after public pressure and a request from an attorney with Council for Inquiry (CFI). Following this incident, scientist/blogger P.Z. Myers wrote about this series of articles, including stating these qualifications, in *Pharyngula*, a widely accessed science blog.

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- Gave a webinar for the Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES). TIES is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to helping middle schools' teachers learn about evolution, so that they feel comfortable and authoritative when teaching it. The webinar was for middle school science teachers and others, featuring material from "Everything You Know About Sex is Wrong, Part 1--The Gender Binary."
- Interview and radio program about COVID-19, on the Eco-logic program on WBAI radio in New York. The science around coronaviruses and infection, and protection was discussed, and call-in questions were taken from the public. Prepared by reading scientific literature, and materials gathered through interviews with both microbiologists and physicians, including an emergency room physician (March 17, 2020). This was also distributed on MNN, the Manhattan Neighborhood Network.
- Second Eco-logic program about the science of COVID-19, also featuring information from the scientific literature, and interviews with other biologists and physicians. This program was done as a podcast, but also took calls from the public. This was distributed various places, including the MNN. The episode dropped on March 30, 2020.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Reviewed the article titled "Tips to Minimize the Likelihood of Fainting in a Cadaveric Dissection Lab" for the journal The American Biology Teacher.
- Researched, prepared and gave a lecture about the coronavirus pandemic to first-year students in Anatomy & Physiology on March 2 and 4, prior to Spring Break. Students who want to go into health care were given an explanation of the pandemic that they did not yet realize was going to hit the U.S., including how contagious it is, and how deadly it is to older people, and as well as warnings of the danger involved in visiting older relatives.