

## The Bennington Conference on Mind and Brain Hosts Renowned Scholars

**BENNINGTON, VT** - During the week of November 8, Bennington College hosted an international conference/workshop, The Bennington Conference on Mind and Brain: An Integration of Evolutionary Origins and Emerging Developmental Principles. Participating were biologists, neuroscientists, psychologists, philosophers, and artists from outside of and within the Bennington community. Among the outside participants were **Robert Berwick**, who teaches computer science at M.I.T. and co-directs its center for biological and computational learning; Terrence Deacon, author of *The Symbolic Species: The Co-Evolution of Language and the Brain*, who teaches biological anthropology at Boston University and also teaches at Harvard Medical School; **David DePew**, professor of communication studies at the University of Iowa and co-author of *Darwinism Evolving*; **Scott Gilbert**, professor of biology at Swarthmore College and author of the standard text on developmental biology; **Peter Godfrey-Smith**, author of *Complexity and the Function of the Mind in Nature* and associate professor of philosophy at Stanford University; **Paul Griffiths**, professor of the history and philosophy of science at the University of Sydney, whose most recent book is *What Emotions Really Are*; **Celia Moore**, co-author of *Developmental Psychobiology: An Interdisciplinary Science*, who teaches psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston; and **Susan Oyama**, professor of psychology at the City University of New York and author of *The Ontogeny of Information*, a seminal work in the field of developmental systems theory.

In conjunction with the conference, **Bruce Weber**, who heads the department of chemistry and biochemistry at California State University, Fullerton, and directs its minority student development and minority international research training programs, taught a seven-week intensive course at Bennington this fall. One-third history, one-third philosophy, and one-third biology, the course, Philosophy of Biology: Darwinism Evolving and Extended, explored the social, political, religious, and moral implications of the Darwinian revolution. Weber's most recent book, *Darwinism Evolving*, written in collaboration with David DePew, examines the Darwinian research tradition in evolutionary biology from its inception to its turbulent present, arguing that recent advances may well catalyze the next major phase of Darwinian evolutionism.

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