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[Project Steve](#) [4] — NCSE's lighthearted response to the creationist tradition of amassing lists of "scientists who doubt evolution" — [debuted](#) [5] ten years ago, on February 16, 2003. The signatories endorse a statement describing evolution as "a vital, well-supported, unifying principle of the biological sciences," affirming that "there is no serious scientific doubt that evolution occurred or that natural selection is a major mechanism in its occurrence," and characterizing the inclusion of creationism in the public schools as "scientifically inappropriate and pedagogically inappropriate."

Project Steve is named in honor of the late paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould, a valiant supporter of both evolution education and NCSE, and only scientists with PhDs (or the equivalent) who share his first name — Steve, Steven, or Stephen, or cognates such as Stephanie, Stefan, Esteban, and so on — are allowed to endorse the Project Steve statement. After ten years, the official Steveometer reads 1239, and because only about 1% of the population possesses a qualifying first name, that implies that at least 123,900 scientists would agree with the statement, dwarfing any creationist list.

Described by Steven Pinker as "the most formidable weapon in the fight against neo-creationism today," Project Steve is indeed a superlative accomplishment, demonstrating the emptiness of the creationist attempt to appeal to authority. So to celebrate its tenth year in existence, here are twenty-five suitably light-hearted superlatives from Project Steve, one for each letter of the alphabet for which there's a Steve. (NCSE would be overjoyed to [hear from](#) [6] any qualified applicant whose surname starts with the letter X. Steve Xi, Stephanie Xenopoulos, Esteban Ximenes, where are you?)

Alphabetically first Steve

Stephen T. Abedon

Chronologically first Steve

Stephen Burnett (Steve #1)

Prior Steve

Steven J. Prior (Steve #587)

Alphabetically last Steve

Steven W. Zucker

Chronologically last Steve (so far)

Steve Chemtob (Steve #1239)

Most common Steve surname

Smith, with nine Steves: Stephen J. Smith, Stephen M. Smith, Stephen S. Smith, Steve Smith, Steve E. Smith, Steven J. Smith, Steven J. Smith, Steven O. Smith, and Steven Thomas Smith.

Most edible Steve

A five-way tie: R. Stephen Berry, Stephen Corn, Stephen Curry, Stephen M. Pickles, Steve Rice.

Most lupine Steve

Steven J. Wolf. Honorary mentions: Stefan Leo Wolff, Stephen S. Wolff.

Most piscine Steve

A two-way tie: Steven M. Bass, Steven Haddock.

Steve with the most Nobel prizes

A two-way tie: Steven Chu, Steven Weinberg.

Steve with the most appearances on The Simpsons

[Stephen W. Hawking](#) ^[7]

Most colorful Steve

Plenty of contestants — two Blacks, five Browns, three Greens (and one Greene), two Roses, two Whites

— but the prize has to go to Steve #4, who isn't merely pink: he's Pinker.

Steve with the shortest surname

Stephen So

Steve with the short surname

A two-way tie: Stephen J. Short, Steven M. Short.

Steve with the longest surname

Steve Cronen-Townsend. Honorable mention: Stephen Kowalczykowski, Stefan G. Llewellyn Smith.

Steve with the long surname

Stephen P. Long

Steve with the most exotic variant of Steve

Two-way tie: Istvan Kecskes, Tapani Salmi.

The family that most Steves together

Two-way tie: Steven Piantadosi and Steven T. Piantadosi (father and son); Steve G. Belovich and Stephanie J. Belovich (brother and sister).

Most regal Steve

Five-way tie: Stephen J. King, Stephen J. King, Steve King, Steven C. King, Steven C. King.

Most authoritative Steve

Stephen K. Boss

The kiloSteve

Steven P. Darwin ([Steve #1000](#) ^[8])

Steve with the highest diacritical mark density in surname

Steeve Côté (50%)

Most stochastic Steve

Two-way tie: Steven Fortune, Steven J. Luck.

Steve most disappointed by the Project Steve degree requirement

Two-way tie: former NCSE employee Stephen E. "Skip" Evans (B.S.), current NCSE employee Steven Newton (M.S.).

Steve most likely to be confused with an "intelligent design" creationist

Stephen C. Meyers. Honorable mention: Steven Myers, Steven F. Myers, Steven T. Myers.

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