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With the addition of Steven K. Nordeen on September 5, 2008, NCSE's Project Steve attained its 900th signatory. A tongue-in-cheek parody of a long-standing creationist tradition of amassing lists of "scientists who doubt evolution" or "scientists who dissent from Darwinism," Project Steve mocks such lists by restricting its signatories to scientists whose first name is Steve (or a cognate, such as Stephanie, Esteban, Istvan, Stefano, or even Tapani -- the Finnish equivalent). About 1% of the United States population possesses such a first name, so each signatory represents about 100 potential signatories. ("Steve" was selected in honor of the late Stephen Jay Gould, a Supporter of NCSE and a dauntless defender of evolution education.)

Although the idea of Project Steve is frivolous, the statement is serious. It [reads](#) [4], "Evolution is a vital, well-supported, unifying principle of the biological sciences, and the scientific evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of the idea that all living things share a common ancestry. Although there are legitimate debates about the patterns and processes of evolution, there is no serious scientific doubt that evolution occurred or that natural selection is a major mechanism in its occurrence. It is scientifically inappropriate and pedagogically irresponsible for creationist pseudoscience, including but not limited to 'intelligent design,' to be introduced into the science curricula of our nation's public schools."

Highlights from the history of Project Steve include the original [press release](#) [5], Glenn Branch and Skip Evans's [description](#) [6] of the project for *Geotimes*, the [announcement](#) [7] that Steven W. Hawking was Steve #300, the [announcement](#) [8] (on St. Stephen's Day!) of Steve #400, the [publication](#) [9] of a front-page story on Project Steve in a leading Canadian newspaper, and the announcements of Steves [#600](#) [10], [#700](#) [11], and [#800](#) [12]. And, of course, Project Steve proved to be scientifically fruitful in its own

right. "[The Morphology of Steve](#)" [13] (PDF), by Eugenie C. Scott, Glenn Branch, Nick Matzke, and several hundred Steves, appeared in the prestigious *Annals of Improbable Research*; the paper provided "the first scientific analysis of the sex, geographic location, and body size of scientists named Steve."

Additionally, Project Steve appeared in Steven Pinker's recent book, *The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature* (Viking 2007). Pinker, himself a single-digit Steve, described it as "the most formidable weapon in the fight against neo-creationism today," adding, "Part satire, part memorial to Stephen Jay Gould, the project maintains a Steve-O-Meter (now pointing past 800) and has spun off a T-shirt, a song, a mascot (Professor Steve Steve, a panda puppet), and a paper in the respected scientific journal *Annals of Improbable Research* called 'The Morphology of Steve' (based on the T-shirt sizes ordered by the signatories)."

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