



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exploring the Role Religion Plays in the Schools

SANTA ANA, CA (February 17, 2007) –The Orange County Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State is proud to present Dr. Gavin Huntley-Fenner, a current trustee of the Irvine Unified School Board. The event will be on **March 17th at 2:00 p.m. at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.**

Dr. Fenner will be exploring what role religion has to play in a secular education system in a nation where many people are religious. Dr. Huntley-Fenner sees the need for schools to both teach and reinforce ethical behavior and to prepare students to interact in society with mutual understanding and respect. Given the need for the separation of church and state and the understanding that for most Americans ethics and faith are closely intertwined, Dr. Huntley-Fenner will discuss how these roles can be fulfilled and will focus on the role science education plays.

Dr. Huntley-Fenner received a Ph.D in Brain and Cognitive Science from MIT, and specialized in research and professional experience in child development. In addition, as a former professor at UC Irvine, he has published original research on language development and children's learning of mathematics, and has over 15 years of experience conducting research in areas related to child development, human learning, memory, and information processing. He currently is a managing scientist at Exponent, Inc.

Founded in 1947, Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a non-profit religious liberty watchdog organization dedicated to preserving the Constitutional rights of religious freedom.

There is no charge for meeting attendance and refreshments will be served. For additional information regarding the March 17th event and/or the AU-OC Chapter, please contact:

Stephanie Campbell – AU-OC President
3337 S. Bristol #251, Santa Ana, CA 92704
Phone (714) 299-4551 or (714) 957-0748
Fax: (714) 515-4248
E-mail: orangecountyau@yahoo.com
Chapter Website www.au-oc.org

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