



## Lightning Round Talks

**Speaker:** Prof. Stephen M. Barr

**Title:** Is the Universe Made for Life?

**Abstract:** In recent decades physicists have discovered that many features of the fundamental laws of physics are “just right” to make life (including complex living things such as ourselves) possible. These are sometimes called “anthropic coincidences.” Do these show that the universe was made with us in mind? Or does the “multiverse” idea explain them? Or possibly both?

**Speaker:** Prof. Maureen Condic

**Title:** *What is a human being and when does life begin?*

**Abstract:** The questions of who is a human person with rights and when does a person arise during the process of human development have profound implications for society, for medicine and for the law. Dr. Condic will discuss the scientific evidence for when human life begins, and how human beings are different from mere human cells.



Maureen Condic is an Associate Professor of Neurobiology at the University of Utah. Her research focuses on the role of stem cells in development and regeneration, and has been recognized by both the Basil O'Connor and the McKnight awards. She is currently a member of Pontifical Academy for Life, and in 2018, was appointed by the President of the United States to the National Science Board. Dr. Condic's works include *Human Embryos*, *Human Beings*, (recipient of the 2020 International Expanded Reason Award), and *Untangling Twinning*, as well as numerous basic scientific articles. Dr. Condic participates in both graduate and medical education, having taught Human Embryology in the Medical School for 20 years. She has a strong commitment to public education, and has presented over 250 seminars and interviews, both nationally and internationally, on science policy, bioethics and her own research.

**Speaker:** Prof. Peter Dodson

**Title:** God and the Dinosaurs

**Abstract:** Prof. Dodson will talk about the adventure of being a paleontologist making discoveries about dinosaurs and how these strange and wonderful creatures fit into our understanding of God and the world He created.



Peter Dodson holds a Ph.D. in geology and geophysics from Yale University (1974). He also holds a B.Sc. (geology) from the University of Ottawa and an M.Sc. from the University of Alberta. He is professor of veterinary gross anatomy and dinosaur paleontology at the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught for 47 years at UPenn. Besides Canada and the U.S. he has participated in field projects in Madagascar, Egypt, Argentina, India and China. With his students he has named seven genera (kinds) of dinosaurs, three from the United States, three from China and one from Egypt. He is the author of more than 100 scientific papers, co-editor of *The Dinosauria*, (1990);

2004); author of *The Horned Dinosaurs* (1996); and of several children's books, including *An Alphabet of Dinosaurs* (1996).

**Speaker:** Prof. Lawrence M. Principe

**Title:** Catholicism and the Sciences: Overturning the Myths

**Abstract:** There is a great deal of popular misinformation about the historical interactions between science and religion, especially Catholicism and the sciences. This talk will contrast these myths with the actual historical record and point out where and why the myths began (the answer will surprise you!) and why they have persisted until now despite the historical evidence against them.

Lawrence M. Principe is the Drew Professor of the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University and is professor there in both the Department of the History of Science and Technology and the Department of Chemistry. He is also **Director of the Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe**. His research focuses on the early modern period (1450-1750) and the interactions of science and religion. His books include *The Scientific Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2011) and *The Secrets of Alchemy* (Chicago, 2013), both written for broad audiences. He also produced the DVD course "Science and Religion" for The Teaching Company. He is the inaugural recipient of the Francis Bacon Medal and in 2016 was awarded the Prix Franklin-Lavoisier by the *Maison de la Chimie* (Paris).



**Speaker:** Cory Hayes

**Title:** The Galileo Affair: Conflict or Confusion?

**Abstract:** The so-called "Galileo Affair" (1516-1533) is often cited as evidence of the Roman Catholic Church's antagonism towards science. In this talk Dr. Hayes explores the history, characters, and issues surrounding the trial and condemnation of Galileo Galilei in order to show that the affair was far more complex than modern pundits make it out to be.

Cory Hayes is a professor of Philosophy and Theology at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, LA. He holds a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. His research and teaching interests include: Byzantine and Eastern Christian theology, Philosophy of Nature, and the relation between Catholic theology, philosophy, and empirical science. He and his wife Jennifer reside in Covington and they have 8 children

