



Herrmann Lectures

on Faith and Science

Owen Gingerich

"On the Nature of Science"

October 8-10, 2013

“On the Nature of Science”

October 8 Was Copernicus Right?

October 9 Was Darwin Right?

October 10 Was Hoyle Right?

October 8-10, 2013

Ken Olsen Science Center

4 P.M. Reception, Loggia

4:30 P.M. Lecture, MacDonald Auditorium

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Gordon College is partnering with the John Templeton Foundation to honor the pioneering work of Dr. Robert Herrmann, who throughout his distinguished career addressed the “Big Questions” surrounding science and religion.

The unique three-part format enables a world-class thinker to develop an in-depth, original perspective on a topic on the threshold of science and religion.

These lectures are free and open to the public.



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@HerrmannLecture



Owen Gingerich

Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and History of Science at Harvard University and a senior astronomer emeritus at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

Owen Gingerich's research interests have ranged from the recomputation of an ancient Babylonian mathematical table

to the interpretation of stellar spectra. He is co-author of two successive standard models for the solar atmosphere, the first to take into account rocket and satellite observations of the sun; the second of these papers has received over 700 literature citations.

In recent decades Professor Gingerich has become a leading authority on the 17th-century German astronomer Johannes Kepler and on Nicholas Copernicus, the 16th-century cosmologist who proposed the heliocentric system. The Harvard-Smithsonian astronomer undertook a three-decade-long personal survey of Copernicus' great book *De revolutionibus*, examining over 580 16th-century copies in libraries scattered throughout Europe and North America, as well as in China, Japan and Australia. His annotated census of these books was published in 2002 as a 434-page monograph. In recognition of these studies he was awarded the Polish government's Order of Merit in 1981, and subsequently an asteroid was named in his honor. An account of his Copernican adventures, *The Book Nobody Read*, is in fourteen foreign editions.

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Respondents

Randall D. Isaac

Physicist and Executive Director of the American Scientific Affiliation

Randy Isaac received his bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in Illinois and his doctorate in physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He joined IBM in 1977 to work at the Thomas J. Watson Research Center and most recently served as the vice-president of systems technology and science for the company.

Stephen G. Alter

Professor and Department Chair of History at Gordon College

Stephen G. Alter is the author of two books, *William Dwight Whitney and the Science of Language* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), and *Darwinism and the Linguistic Image: Language, Race, and Natural Theology in the Nineteenth Century* (Johns Hopkins, 1999).

Professor Alter's interests include 19th century American social thought, the Darwinian revolution, and critical and biblical scholarship in America. He earned his B.M. at Southern Methodist University, M.A. at Rice University, and Ph.D. at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Edward B. Davis

*Distinguished Professor of the History of Science
at Messiah College*

Though mainly known for his work on Robert Boyle and the scientific revolution in Europe, Edward B. Davis has also written about religion and science in the United States. His essay on modern Jonah stories has been featured on two radio programs produced by the British Broadcasting Company. In the May-June 2005 issue of *American Scientist*, he analyzed religious pamphlets written by leading scientists from the Scopes era. With support from the National Science Foundation and the John Templeton Foundation, he is currently writing a book about the religious beliefs of American scientists of the early 20th century.



**CENTER FOR
FAITH AND INQUIRY**
AT GORDON COLLEGE

JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION
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