



Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series

The Dawn of Creation—The First Two Billion Years

As part of the 10th annual Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series, astronomer Steven Beckwith, the former director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, which runs the Hubble Program, will discuss *The Dawn of Creation: The First Two Billion Years*, an illustrated, non-technical lecture, **Wednesday, March 4, at 7 p.m.** in the Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. This talk is part of the local events celebrating the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. Admission is free and the public is invited. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Arrive early!

All the great islands of stars got their start in the first billion years after the beginning of time, the Big Bang. Every deep picture of the sky reveals thousands of these galaxies, each made up of billions of stars like the Sun. The intricate structures of the Milky Way and other galaxies took shape slowly, building up from many pieces in the debris of the initial explosion. This process was governed by the mysterious dark matter that we can sense but still not see. Modern instruments like the Hubble Space Telescope have made it possible to look back to a time when the universe looked very different than it does today. Dr. Beckwith will show some of the deepest images of the universe ever taken and share recent discoveries about the early days of the cosmos.

Beckwith is currently the vice president for research and graduate studies for the University of California's 10 campuses. His 30-year research career spans many areas of astronomy, including the formation and early evolution of planets around other stars and the birth of galaxies in the early universe. In 2004, he led the team that created the Hubble Ultra Deep Field Image, resulting in the discovery of the most distant galaxies ever seen.

The free lecture series is sponsored by the Foothill College Astronomy Program, NASA Ames Research Center, SETI Institute and Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Past lectures from the series are available online in MP3-format.

Foothill College is located on El Monte Road in Los Altos Hills off Interstate 280. Visitors must purchase a campus parking permit for \$2. Parking lots 1, 7 and 8 provide stair and no-stair access to the theatre. For more information, access www.foothill.edu or call (650) 949-7888.



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Meet at San Antonio and El Camino at 5:45 for dinner at the Pasta Market or 6:30 for carpooling, Wed. Mar 4. The lecture is at 7:00. For more information visit <http://palocatholic.org/aofa.html>, or contact Carrie, ckarnos@yahoo.com, or Randy, 408.739.2881, age-of-aquinas@palocatholic.org.