

the future of physics

University of Maryland

From the Big Bang to Life and the End of the Universe

The history of the universe in a nutshell, from the Big Bang to now, and on to the future - Nobel Laureate John Mather will tell the story of how we got here, how the Universe began with a Big Bang, how it could have produced an Earth where sentient beings can live, and how those beings are discovering their history. Dr. Mather, an Adjunct Professor at UMD, was Project Scientist for NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite, which measured the spectrum (the color) of the heat radiation from the Big Bang, discovered hot and cold spots in that radiation, and hunted for the first objects that formed after the great explosion. He will explain Einstein's biggest mistake, show how Edwin Hubble discovered the expansion of the universe, how the COBE mission was built, and how the COBE data support the Big Bang theory. He will also show NASA's plans for the next great telescope in space, the James Webb Space Telescope. It will look even farther back in time than the Hubble Space Telescope, and will look inside the dusty cocoons where stars and planets are being born today. Planned for launch in 2014, it may lead to a Nobel Prize for another industrious observer.



John Mather (click for bio)

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

Monday

March 22, 2010

7:00 PM

James Hubert Blake High School Auditorium

300 Norwood Road

Silver Spring, MD 20905

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/blakehs/index.htm>