

From the Director



It is a privilege and pleasure to communicate to you following our fifth anniversary. It is hard to believe that the Origins Project began merely five years ago with our inaugural workshop and event at Gammage. Much has happened since, and Origins has become a well-known and respected brand here at ASU, in Phoenix, and globally. We kicked off our anniversary season Inspiring Wonder: Celebrating 5 Years with the academic workshop Is Our Universe Necessary? The workshop featured top scientists discussing recent findings about the nature of matter. The public component, Great Debate Parallel Realities: Probing Fundamental Physics, found key figures from the workshop presenting their discoveries. Nobel Laureates Frank Wilczek, Brian Schmidt, and David Gross, and

scientists Wendy Freedman and Maria Spiropulu spoke to a packed house about dark matter, the Higgs Boson, and the Large Hadron Collider. In April we hosted the Origins of Violence: From the Brain to World War workshop bringing in an interdisciplinary group of social scientists who discussed the evolutionary basis and future of violence. The Great Debate Transcending Our Origins: Violence, Humanity, and the Future featured two panels: The Origins of Violence with Steven Pinker, Richard Wrangham, Erica Chenoweth, John Mueller, Adrian Raine, and Sarah Mathew, and The Future: From Medicine and Synthetic Biology to Machine Intelligence, with Richard Dawkins, Craig Venter, Kim Stanley Robinson, Esther Dyson, Eric Horvitz, George Poste and Randolph Nesse. As part of Inspiring Wonder, we hosted an elegant gala dinner at the Desert Botanical Garden where Steven Pinker and Richard Dawkins spoke about their experiences at Origins.

We are looking forward to our next five years as we work to grow Origins' activities and impact, both in the scholarly and larger public communities. We have hired Chris Tulumello, a professional with over 25 years of experience, as the assistant director of development and marketing. We have also partnered with a number of academic and research units within ASU to launch The Year of the Anthropocene in 2015, a season focused on the geological era characterized by human intervention in nature. Our events begin on January 15 with a dialogue between screen legend Alan Alda and myself; continue with Great Debate Extinctions: Creative Destruction and workshop on February 7; and Great Debate: The Origins of Water and workshop on April 4, 2015. We are also planning a dialogue in March with Noam Chomsky and myself and an affiliated performance of Haydn's Creation on April 29, 2015. As you can see we are greatly expanding our event series and we look forward to your participation and continued support of our events, including 2016's Life and Death in the 21st Century and 2017's Ideas and History. It is only through your support that we can meet our ambitious goals to become the preeminent center for research and public awareness of the foundational questions relevant to the challenges of this century and beyond.

—Lawrence Krauss

News

Norm Perrill Origins Scholarship Winners Announced

We are pleased to announce the 2014-15 Norm Perrill Origins Project Scholarship recipients. The graduate student winner was PhD English student Kent Linthicum and the undergraduate winner was Biology & Society honors student Rachel Gur-Arie. The recipients had a chance to meet with Norm Perrill and Lawrence Krauss during an end of semester lunch.

Thank you to Professor Emeritus Norm Perrill for his continued generosity to the students of ASU.



Clockwise from top: Lawrence Krauss, and winners Kent Linthicum, and Rachel Gur-Arie.

Applications for the 2015-2016 academic year will be accepted in Spring 2015. Please see origins.asu.edu/funding for more information.

Inspiring Wonder



Is Our Universe Necessary? Probing Fundamental Physics Workshop

February 2014

The world's top physicists and researchers met in Tempe in February to discuss new research on the fundamental nature of the universe. Hosted by the Origins Project and co-sponsored by the Department of Physics and the School of Earth and Space Exploration, the workshop featured novel research from CERN after the Higgs Boson discovery and discussions on the nature of dark matter, early gravitational waves, and the contested structure of the possible multiverse. The workshop culminated in the public Great Debate Parallel Realities.

A Cosmic Mystery Story

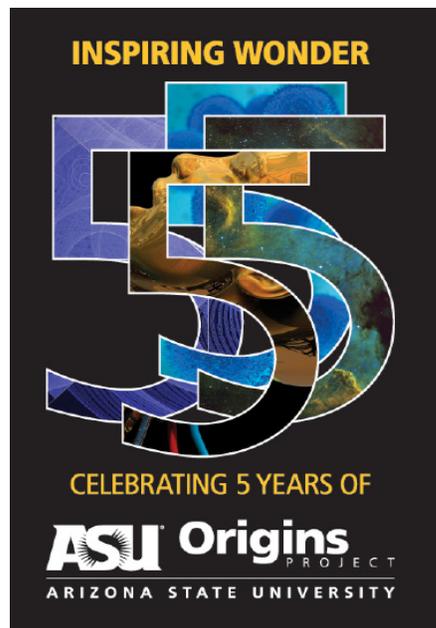
February 2014

Lawrence Krauss spoke during a two-night event on ASU's Tempe campus. The Cosmic Mystery Story featured in-depth lectures on A Tour of the Universe, The Secret Life of Physicists, Energy and the Expansion of the Universe, From Newton to Dark Matter, and Our Miserable Future. The free event filled the auditorium with a wide variety of observers including undergraduates, graduates and faculty members, and interested members of the community as young as nine years old.

Great Debate Parallel Realities: Probing Fundamental Physics

February 2014

As part of the Is Our Universe Necessary? Workshop, The Origins Project hosted the public event Great Debate Parallel Realities: Probing Fundamental Physics at Gamma Auditorium. The evening featured scientists Maria Spiropulu, Wendy Freedman, Nobel Laureates Frank Wilczek, David Gross, and Brian Schmidt, and moderator-presenter Lawrence Krauss. The presenters spoke to a full house on exciting discoveries found at CERN after the announcement of the Higgs Boson, the makeup of dark matter, and the role of supersymmetry with each new discovery. The panel discussion and audience Q&A proved enlightening.



Clockwise from top: A packed audience during Great Debate Parallel Realities: Probing Fundamental Physics; Inspiring Wonder: Celebrating 5 Years of the Origins Project poster; Wendy Freedman and Lawrence Krauss congratulate Frank Wilczek during Parallel Realities.





Great Debate Transcending Our Origins: Violence, Humanity, and the Future

April 2014

One of the highlights of Inspiring Wonder: Celebrating 5 Years of the Origins Project event series was Great Debate Transcending Our Origins. A two-panel event, the first part of the event featured Steven Pinker, Richard Wrangham, Erica Chenoweth, Adrian Raine, John Mueller, and Sarah Mathew discussing the origins of violence from the brain to world wars. The second panel focused on the origins of the future, from medicine and synthetic biology to machine intelligence and featured Richard Dawkins, Craig Venter, Kim Stanley Robinson, Esther Dyson, Eric Horvitz, George Poste, and Randolph Nesse. This sold out event was one of our most popular yet in attendance and audience reaction. You can watch Great Debate Transcending Our Origins: Violence, Humanity, and the Future on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/asuorigins>.

Julia Friedman Lecture on Gustave Courbet's Origin of the World

April 2014

Visiting Professor Julia Friedman gave a provocative lecture on Gustave Courbet's infamous painting, The Origin of the World to art enthusiasts as part of the Inspiring Wonder event series.



Clockwise from top:

Richard Wrangham and Sarah Mathew discuss the origins of violence; Randolph Nesse and Lawrence Krauss ponder evolutionary medicine and the origins of the future during the Great Debate; Chihuly in the Garden during the anniversary gala.

The Origins of Violence: From the Brain to World Wars Workshop

April 2014

A retinue of top scholars on violence visited the Origins Project for an academic workshop dedicated to questioning the origins and cause of violence. The workshop was organized by Origins Project external advisory board member Steven Pinker and spanned the origins of historical violence, biological concerns within the developing brain, the state of world violence at present, and what the future may hold for humanity. The workshop culminated in the public event Great Debate Transcending our Origins: Violence, Humanity, and the Future.

5th Anniversary Gala Dinner & Reception

April 2014

In April the Origins Project celebrated its fifth anniversary with the Inspiring Wonder event series. A kick off to these events was a gala dinner and reception at the Desert Botanical Gardens. Supporters mingled with top scientists and admired the Chihuly in the Garden exhibit. Richard Dawkins and Steven Pinker spoke at the event.



Exciting Upcoming Events

January 15, 2015

February 7, 2015

April 4, 2015

April 29, 2015

Alda & Krauss Dialog: Science & Art, Long Lost Lovers

Great Debate The Origins of Extinctions: Creative Destruction

Great Debate The Origins of Water

Haydn's *Creation*: An Origins Project affiliated musical performance with the School of Music

Origins Project Around the Globe

- **Lawrence Krauss** visited the Galapagos Islands, Italy, Switzerland, Australia, England, and Canada among other places for various speaking engagements and awards
- **Manfred Laubichler** visited Germany, Iceland, and Spain, among other places for various speaking engagements and research
- **Michelle Iwen** visited Finland and Sweden for a conference presentation and research

Your Generosity Makes a Difference

Supporting the Origins Project expands scientific literacy through public events, academic workshops, curricular initiatives, intimate dialogs and discussions.

Meeting our mission generates a platform to examine the most fundamental questions of our lives. Exceeding our mission produces a unique transdisciplinary approach to touching an enthused audience with creative new thoughts and ideas.

Your generosity makes you a vital part of the Origins Project. <https://origins.asu.edu/support>

Origin Project Postdoctoral Prize Lectureship

We are excited to announce that we are now accepting nomination letters for the inaugural Postdoctoral Prize Lectureship. Open to junior scholars from around the globe, the award features one of the largest cash prizes of its kind, \$10,000, as well as round-trip travel to ASU and accommodations during the winner's stay. The winner will give up to four lectures while at ASU as well as participate in an awards ceremony.

Support for this award was provided by Epstein VI Foundation. For information see origins.asu.edu/origins-project-postdoctoral-prize-lectureship

Origins Project Welcomes Chris Tulumello

We are happy to welcome Chris Tulumello as Assistant Director of Development and Marketing. Chris joins us with



over 25 years of experience in marketing, development, and communications for both non-profit and for-profit organizations. Chris is a key player in efforts to expand the Origins Project and bring you even more exciting science and culture projects. Say hello to Chris at our next event or email him at Chris.Tulumello@asu.edu.

The ASU Origins Project is an exciting transdisciplinary initiative that fosters new research and dialogue, partners to transform university and K-12 education, and advocates for science education and public engagement of science-related issues. For more information on supporting or partnering with the ASU Origins Project, please visit us on the web at <http://origins.asu.edu>

Coming Spring 2015

The Year of the Anthropocene