

Tuesday, March 13, 2006, 7:30pm
Zellerbach Hall

Stephen Hawking



The Origin of the Universe

The J. Robert Oppenheimer Lecture

The J. Robert Oppenheimer Lecture is presented by the Department of Physics, UC Berkeley.

This program is co-sponsored by the College of Letters & Science and Cal Performances.

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About the Speaker

Stephen Hawking

Stephen William Hawking was born on January 8, 1942 (300 years after the death of Gallileo), in Oxford, England. His parents house was in north London, but during the Second World War Oxford was considered a safer place to have babies. When he was eight, his family moved to St. Albans, a town about 20 miles north of London. At 11, Stephen went to St. Albans School, and then on to University College, Oxford, his father's old college. Stephen wanted to do Mathematics, although his father would have preferred medicine. Mathematics was not available at University College, so he did Physics instead.

After three years and not very much work, he was awarded a first-class honors degree in Natural Science. Stephen then went on to Cambridge to do research in Cosmology, there being no-one working in that area in Oxford at the time. His supervisor was Denis Sciama, although he had hoped to get Fred Hoyle, who was then working in Cambridge. After earning his PhD, he became a Research Fellow and later a Professorial Fellow at Gonville and Caius College.

After leaving the Institute of Astronomy in 1973, Stephen came to the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, and since 1979 he has held the post of Lucasian Professor of Mathematics. The chair was founded in 1663 with money left in the will of the Reverend Henry Lucas, who had been the Member of Parliament for the University. It was first held by Isaac Barrow, and then in 1669 by Isaac Newton.

Stephen Hawking is perhaps best known for his discovery, in 1974, that black holes emit radiation, and for his no boundary proposal made in 1983 with Jim Hartle of Santa Barbara. His many publications include *The Large Scale Structure of Spacetime* with G.F.R.

Ellis and *General Relativity: An Einstein Centenary Survey* and *Three Hundred Years of Gravity* with W. Israel. Stephen Hawking has had four popular books published: *A Brief History of Time*, *Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays*, *The Universe in a Nutshell* and, most recently, *A Briefer History of Time*.

Professor Hawking has received 12 honorary degrees, was awarded the CBE in 1982 and was made a Companion of Honour in 1989. He is the recipient of many awards, medals and prizes and is a Fellow of The Royal Society and a Member of the US National Academy of Sciences. Stephen Hawking continues to combine family life (he has three children and two grandchildren) and his research into theoretical physics together with an extensive program of travel and public lectures.

The J. Robert Oppenheimer Lecture

UC Berkeley's annual J. Robert Oppenheimer Lecture in Physics provides a forum for the greatest minds in theoretical physics. It enhances the visibility of breaking theoretical discoveries and highlights UC Berkeley's commitment to engage the broader community in cutting-edge research.