



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674/4846 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 3780

www.uct.ac.za

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Renowned physicist to speak about ‘Evolution of the Universe’

Professor John Barrow to present UCT Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture

Wednesday, 9 July 2014, at 18h00 in Lecture Theatre LS2A, Leslie Social Sciences Building, Upper Campus

How did the Universe come to be? Where is it going? And could it be just one of many universes? These are some of the questions that Professor John Barrow from Cambridge University, United Kingdom, will unpack at the University of Cape Town’s fourth Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture for 2014. The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 9 July 2014, at 18h00 in Lecture Theatre LS2A, Leslie Social Sciences Building, Upper Campus.

In his talk, titled “The Evolution of the Universe”, Professor Barrow will speak on the latest ideas about the nature of the Universe and how it came to be. He is a professor of mathematical sciences at Cambridge University and the Director of the Millennium Mathematics Project, a programme aimed at improving the teaching, learning and appreciation of mathematics and its applications.

Professor Barrow is also one of the distinguished guests invited to address participants in the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) 2014, held at UCT from 3 to 13 July 2014. Presented by the South African Mathematics Foundation in partnership with UCT, it is the first time in its 55-year history that the IMO is held in Africa.

At the UCT Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture, Professor Barrow will introduce evidence for the Hot Big Bang theory of the Universe, together with the idea of cosmological “inflation”. He will describe some important recent observations to test these ideas and how these theories make further predictions which revolutionise ideas about the history and geography of the Universe.

Professor Barrow is a Fellow of Clare Hall College, Cambridge. He was recently the Gresham Professor of Geometry at Gresham College, London, and formerly the Gresham Professor of Astronomy. His research interests are in cosmology, gravitation physics and the interface between particle physics and astronomy.

Professor Barrow has received various awards, including the 2006 Templeton Prize; the Royal Society’s 2008 Faraday Prize; the 2009 Kelvin Medal of the Institute of Physics; and the 2012 Zeeman Medal of the London Mathematical Society. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a member of the Academia Europaea. He wrote books such as *100 Essential*

Things You Didn't Know You Didn't Know about Sport, about mathematics and sport, and *Cosmic Imagery*, about the role of pictures in the history of science.

MEDIA INVITATION:

Media are invited to attend the UCT Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture featuring Professor Barrow at:

Time 18h00

Date Wednesday, 9 July 2014

Venue Lecture Theatre LS2A, Leslie Social Sciences Building, Upper Campus

Media wishing to attend must RSVP to Kemantha Govender at 021 650 5672, 084 737 6522 or kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za by 13h00 on 4 July 2014.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Kemantha Govender

Media Liaison Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Welgelegen, Upper Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank
Tel: (021) 650 5672
Cell: (084) 737 6522
E-mail: kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za