

## University of Maryland Honors Presentations

### ■ **Sonia Belasco**

More Than Skin Deep:  
How Advertisers Use Science to Sell to Teens

### ■ **Josh Fixler**

The Bible Code

### ■ **Mari-Elise Gates**

Imaginary Companions

This is the second special NCAS program to feature outstanding students from the University of Maryland Honors course "Science and Pseudoscience."

**Sonia Belasco** is a senior English major.  
**Josh Fixler** is a junior Sociology student.  
**Mari-Elise Gates** is a junior Dance major.

All will be making presentations that were developed as part of the course final project for Fall 2004.

"Science and Pseudoscience" has been taught by NCAS board member Chip Denman as a seminar in the University of Maryland Honors Program since 1989.

**Saturday February 12, 2-4pm**  
**Montgomery County Library**  
**Bethesda Branch**  
7400 Arlington Road  
Bethesda, Maryland  
(A short walk from the Bethesda Metro station)



### **National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series**

**FREE admission - Everyone welcome - members and non-members**

For more information call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptic Line recording at

(301) 587-3827

e-mail: [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)

[www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org)



# Shadow of a Doubt

FEBRUARY 2005

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

## Smithsonian Resident Associate Program: A Special Tribute to Stephen Hawking

*Monday, February 14, 6:30 p.m.*

In this extraordinary evening, world-renowned physicist and Cambridge University professor Stephen Hawking is awarded the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal to honor his continued ground-breaking research in theoretical physics.

The evening begins with video clips featuring highlights of Prof. Hawking's life and career. Then Prof. James Hartle of UC Santa Barbara presents "Stephen Hawking's Universe," in which he describes some of Prof. Hawking's most important contributions to our current understanding of the universe and its origins.

Prof. Hartle explains the evidence for why our universe began in a big bang, how Hawking's work showed its necessity in Einstein's general relativity, how Hawking's "wave function of the universe" provides a theory of the big bang in a quantum universe, and how that is a part of contemporary theories of everything. Prof. Hartle, a physicist and cosmologist, works on understanding the earliest moments of our quantum universe.

The evening concludes with the presentation of the Smithson Bicentennial Medal to Prof. Hawking. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear brief prepared remarks from this brilliant scientist as he accepts this award.

**Tickets:** General Admission \$28, RAP Members \$22, Full-time students with IDs \$12. Call 202-357-3030, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Location:** Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. N.W., Washington, DC (Foggy Bottom Metro, Blue/Orange line)

## A Day of Hoaxes & Scams

Join NCAS in a special day of Hoaxes and Scams on Saturday, April 30!! Afternoon symposium followed by a

special evening show by magician extraordinaire **Jamy Ian Swiss** at the NOAA Auditorium at the Silver Spring Metro Center (MD). Come to the symposium, the evening show, or both. Either way you'll see Jamy. More details later.

## Art Hoaxes and How to Spot Them—How Experts Uncover Art Forgeries

*Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 p.m.*

Art masterpieces have inspired art forgeries for thousands of years. Once, copying was an acceptable way to learn how to paint—who better to learn from than a master artist?

But, for all the copies innocently created, many more have been faked for devious reasons. Museums and galleries, individual buyers, and auction houses all must determine the authenticity of the art they own or wish to acquire.

To determine authenticity, an evaluation by an appraiser, historical documentation, and scientific testing are the best solutions. This lecture highlights the process of determining authenticity, with an illustrated look at the drama behind high stakes art fakes.

Speaker Ronald Spencer specializes in art law and foundation law for Carter Ledyard & Milburn, New York, where he helps defend legal claims involving decisions on authenticity. He is the author of: *The Expert vs. the Object: Judging Fakes and False Attributions in the Visual Arts*.

A book signing follows the lecture.

**Tickets:** General Admission \$15, RAP Members \$12, Senior Members \$11. Call 202-357-3030.

**Location:** S. Dylan Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive, Washington, DC



**National Capital Area Skeptics**  
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