



2013 Honors Institute Symposium
Mysteries of the Universe
March 8, 2013

BREAKOUT SESSIONS I
9:30-10:45 a.m.

Conceptions of the Cosmos

Presenters:

Dr. Rebecca Edwards, Associate Professor, Classics, Wright State University
Dr. Awad Halabi, Associate Professor, History, Wright State University

This session will examine the dialogue among Ancient Greek and Roman thinkers regarding the origins of the universe, especially the debate between creationism and atomism. It will also explore the Islamic theological understanding of the cosmos and how Medieval Muslim scholars understood the universe from a scientific and religious perspective.

Space and American Foreign Policy

Presenters:

Dr. Jonathan Winkler, Associate Professor, History, Wright State University
Mr. Alex Elkins, Adjunct Professor, Political Science, Wright State University

This session will discuss historical and contemporary issues relating to space. It will examine how and in what ways the U.S., the Soviet Union/Russia, and China have sought to use space to further national ambitions and prestige. It will also raise questions about the implications of emerging space-capable state and non-state actors, as well as the larger challenges space and its dangers pose for the United States and the world.

Recollections of the Space Race: Growing Up in the 1960s

Presenter:

Dr. Michael Carrafiello, Professor, History, Miami University

A child of the '60s, Dr. Carrafiello will offer his personal recollections and historical analysis of the exhilarating events surrounding America's manned space program during the heady days of Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo.