

Current Events

Past Events

Related Links:

- Select a Link -

Edgar Allan Poe's Big Bang Theory and the Power of Imagination

A free lecture sponsored by The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science

Featured speaker: Dr. Harry Lee ("Hal") Poe, Charles Colson
Professor of Faith and Culture, Union University, Jackson, Tennessee



In 1841, Edgar Allan Poe introduced the first mystery story ("Murders in the Rue Morgue") with a discussion of the limitations of empiricism and rationalism, insisting that the great breakthroughs come when Imagination mediates the others. He then related the first mystery story to demonstrate how the same empirical data might be explained rationally with a variety of explanations, all of which might be wrong. In 1848, Poe took this line of thought to the extreme with his 150 page essay *Eureka*. There he argued that the universe expanded from a single primordial atom, that space is curved, that time and space are the same thing, that electro-magnetism and light are related, and that the deity must be responsible for such a universe. Poe was dismissed as a lunatic for denying the well-established scientific truth of the eternality and infinity of the universe, and imagination remained in the closet.

Tuesday, 2 March 2010, at 7:00 pm.

Location: Hostetter Chapel Sanctuary, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Directions and a campus map are here
<http://www.messiah.edu/visitors/direction.html>.

Dr. Harry Lee ("Hal") Poe, president of the Edgar Allan Poe Foundation and Museum of Richmond, also serves as Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. Earlier, he taught at Bethel Theological Seminary and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Before teaching, Poe served on the staff of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as pastor of the Simpsonville Baptist Church, and as a prison chaplain at the Kentucky State Reformatory. He earned both the MDiv and the PhD degrees at Southern Seminary. Author of more than 100 articles and reviews, Poe has

also written or contributed to over thirty books, including his 2009 Edgar Award winning book *Edgar Allan Poe: An Illustrated Companion to his Tell-Tale Stories* (Barnes & Noble, 2008). With chemist Jimmy H. Davis, he has written three books on science and religion: *Chance or Dance* (Templeton, 2008), *Designer Universe* (Broadman & Holman, 2002), which won a Christianity Today book of the year Merit Award, and *Science and Faith* (Broadman & Holman, 2000).

NOTE: In conjunction with this lecture, there will be an exhibit of Poe items in the Messiah College Library. Dr. Poe will lead a tour at 3:45 pm on March 2.

The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis (tdavis@messiah.edu), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.

Messiah College | One College Avenue | Mechanicsburg PA 17055 | 717-766-2511
Comments or questions? Contact the [WebMaster](#).
© 2013 Messiah College