

The **Lois McGlothlin Donaldson**
Endowed Lecture in Physics

Cosmic Evolution



Dr. Eric J. Chaisson

the Rise of Complexity in Nature

April 1, 2016

6:00 pm Reception
6:30 pm Lecture

University Center Theater

Dr. Eric Chaisson
Astrophysicist, Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Free and open to the public
Convenient Parking in the
Zach Curlin parking garage



Department of Physics
and Materials Science

Dr. Eric J. Chaisson, American astrophysicist, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, has multiple appointments, most notably at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. He was the keynote speaker in physics at the University of Memphis Einstein Centennial, and returns as the inaugural speaker for this event.

His research addresses an interdisciplinary study of physical, biological, and cultural phenomena, seeking to understand the origin and evolution of galaxies, stars, planets, life, and society. He seeks to create a unifying cosmic-evolutionary worldview of the Universe and our sense of place within it.

His most recent books are *Cosmic Evolution: The Rise of Complexity in Nature*, and *Epic of Evolution: Seven Ages of the Cosmos*. His widely used textbooks, *Astronomy Today* and *Universe: A Beginner's Guide*, are both now in their 8th editions.

Lois McGlothlin Donaldson was fascinated with how the physical universe functions and came to believe that mankind's advancement as a species and perhaps even our future existence might well depend on those who could develop novel ways to utilize and perhaps reinterpret the physical laws that had so captured her imagination. This memorial endowed lecture is part of her legacy. Learn more at memphis.edu/physics