

# Our Cosmic History\*

Lecture #5 - April 29, 2010

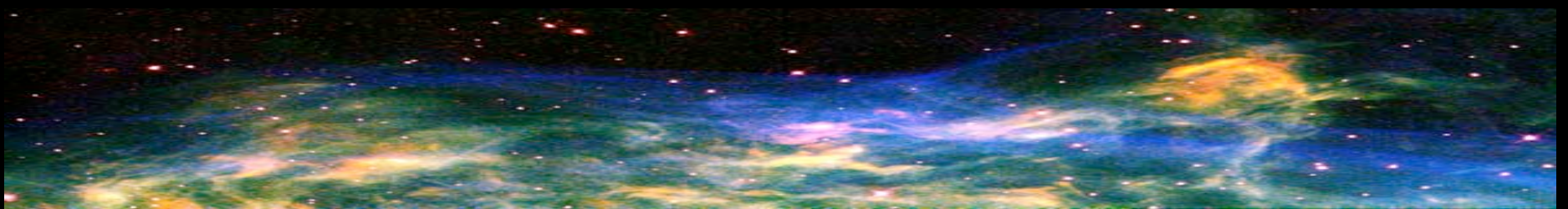
“Evolution of Life and Awareness”

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<http://sites.google.com/site/toddstardust/>

*\* Lecture series sponsored by the PSU Center for Science Education & the Science Integration Institute, and made possible by a generous grant from the Oregon Dept. of Education*



# Themes of the series...

- Reflecting on what it means to be *you*, in this moment, within the context of the universe as we currently understand it. What is the cosmic *story* we are part of?
- Gaining perspective on how we connect to the universe: we are children of the *whole cosmos*, not just our immediate surroundings
- Framework for teachers and students to see how the details of science fit into a big picture that gives meaning and context to those details



# Series Web Site...

...for schedule, resources, & continuing discussion...

<http://oregonteacherscholars.pbwiki.com/Our-Cosmic-History>

(or link from [www.scienceintegration.org](http://www.scienceintegration.org))

Upcoming...



Lecture #6:

“Connecting to Your Cosmic Context”

May 13th at 7 pm

**\*\* Note we're skipping a week!! \*\***

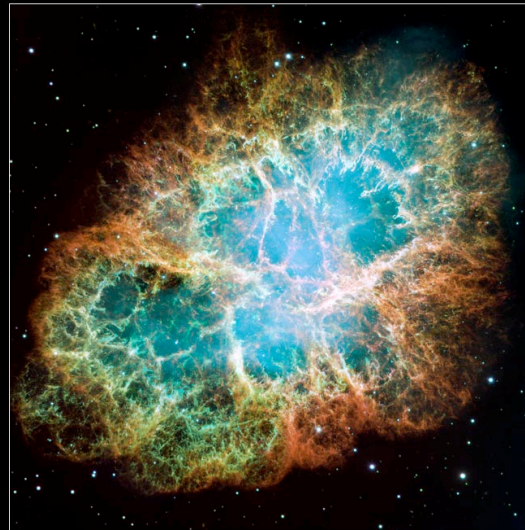
(same location - 71 Cramer)

# Cosmic Ancestry



Crab Nebula • M1

HST • WFPC2



NASA, ESA, and J. Hester (Arizona State University)

STScI-PRC05-37

Video - Stacey Halpern's lecture from last year

“Emergence of Complex Life”

Keep in mind as you watch, that *gravity* is the ultimate energetic driving force for these “endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful (from so simple a beginning)”

# *How is it that conscious awareness exists in the universe?*

At least 2 possible answers:

- 1) It was put there “intentionally”
- 2) It was an “accidental” byproduct of other processes

What do you think about each of these answers? Can you come up with others?

Just considering the question makes you face the fact that there IS some answer, and how you answer affects how you view your life.

# Thanks to...

- Oregon Dept. of Education Math/Science Partners Grant  
(primary funding for this lecture series)
- Portland State University Center for Science Education
- Beaverton and Hillsboro School Districts
- Pacific University
- Science Integration Institute



# References/Suggested Reading

- Stacey Halpern lecture from last year -  
<http://www.beavton.k12.or.us/media/district/psu/index.html>
- Christian, *Maps of Time*, chs 4 - 14 (2004)
- Duncan & Tyler, *Your Cosmic Context*, chs 13 & 14 (2009)
- Carroll, *Remarkable Creatures* (2009)
- \* Collected resources: <http://www.scienceintegration.org>  
(click on “our cosmic history series” link)