



# Is Humankind the Pinnacle of Cosmic Evolution?

*Come and find out ...  
at an award presentation and  
book-signing featuring:*



## **Eric Chaisson, Ph.D.**

Director, Wright Center for Innovative Science Education  
Research Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Tufts University  
Associate, Harvard College Observatory  
Affiliate-Director, Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium, MIT  
Author of *Epic of Evolution: Seven Ages of the Cosmos*

Dr. Chaisson is the 2007 recipient of the Walter P. Kistler Book Award, which recognizes authors of science-based books that make important contributions to the public's understanding of the factors that may impact the long-term future of humanity.

In *Epic of Evolution*, Eric Chaisson leads the reader through all known forms of evolution, for all of known time, showing how the arrow of time, over billions of years, can be neatly partitioned into seven epochs: particle, galactic, stellar, planetary, chemical, biological, and cultural. "Of all the known clumps of matter in the Universe," he writes, "life-forms are surely the most fascinating ... [but] the arrow of time is not pointing at us." The next great epoch, Chaisson writes, will likely be "ethical evolution."

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*Here is a surprisingly integrated universal history that people of all cultures can understand and embrace – a big-bang-to-humankind story about the awe and majesty of twirling galaxies and shining stars, of buzzing bees and redwood trees, of a Universe that has come to know itself. But it's also a story about our human selves – our origin, our existence, and perhaps our destiny.*

*As we enter the new millennium, the scenario of cosmic evolution provides a powerful scientific worldview, perhaps even a cosmological imperative, to help us become wise and humane human beings, thus helping us address the many varied challenges along the future arrow of time.*

—Dr. Eric Chaisson, *Epic of Evolution*

**WHEN**  
**Thursday, March 29, 2007**  
**7:00 p.m.**

- ✿ Awarding of  
**The Walter P. Kistler  
Book Award**  
to Dr. Eric Chaisson
- ✿ On-stage Interview
- ✿ Q&A and Book-signing

**WHERE**  
**Kane Hall, Rm 130**  
**University of Washington**

*This event is FREE and  
open to the public. No ticket  
required; seating is limited.  
Doors open at 6:15 p.m.*

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