

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
CENTER FOR SCIENCE/MATHEMATICS EDUCATION RESEARCH
Sigma Xi
PUBLIC LECTURE

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Monday, February 27, 2006; 7:00-9:00 PM
Conference Center CN1.212

**COSMOLOGY: THE SCIENCE OF THE WHOLE
UNIVERSE**

Professor Wolfgang Rindler
Department of Physics, UTD

An elementary survey of modern cosmology, wherein the whole universe – its galaxies stretching without limit in all directions – is treated as a huge dynamical system whose motion is governed by its own gravity. How did it all start, and how will it end? And what is the universe made of? Ordinary matter, as we know it here on earth, accounts for less than 5% of it! The rest is mysterious “dark matter” and “dark energy”, the subjects of intense ongoing research. All these matters will be discussed, along with brief excursions into life in the universe and the possible existence of other universes.

This interactive, and lively, discussion is designed to give teachers material that can be woven into current curricula. Teachers will receive two hours of professional development credit.

About the speaker: W. Rindler was born in Vienna. He was educated in England during World War II, getting his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Liverpool University (under A. G. Walker) and his Ph.D. from Imperial College, London (under G. J. Whitrow). He taught at Liverpool, London, and finally Cornell University, before joining the faculty at the then newly created Southwest Center for Advanced Studies in 1963. That, of course, eventually became UTD. So Prof. Rindler is among the few who have been here continuously for over 40 years (with various leaves of absence at the universities of Rome, Cambridge, and Vienna). His field of study is Relativity and Cosmology, and he is the author or co-author of seven books (with translations into Russian, Italian, Japanese, and Greek), and over 60 papers. He loves to teach.