

Traces of Creation

The Big Bang, COBE, and the Relic Radiation

Berkeley physicist George F. Smoot won the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics, together with John Mather of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, for "the discovery of the blackbody form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation." This research looks back into the infant universe and provides a better understanding of the origin of galaxies and stars and the structure of space-time, providing increased support for the Big Bang theory. The Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) NASA satellite launched in 1989 carried instruments that measured various aspects of cosmic microwave background radiation and produced the data for these compelling results that opened up a field that continues very actively into the present. English physicist Stephen Hawking called the COBE results "the greatest discovery of the century, if not of all times."

George F. Smoot has been professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, since 1994, as well as a research physicist at the UCB Space Sciences Laboratory and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. An experimental astrophysicist, Professor Smoot is an active researcher in observational astrophysics and cosmology. After graduating from Upper Arlington High School, Professor Smoot did undergraduate and graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received a Ph.D. from MIT in 1970. His honors include the NASA Medal for Exceptional Science Achievement (1991), the Kilby Award (1993), the Lawrence Award (1995), the Daniel Chalonge Medal from the International School of Astrophysics (2006), and the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics.

The Ohio State University Department of Physics
presents the
45th Annual Smith Lecture

Thursday, April 12, 2007
8 p.m.
131 Hitchcock Hall
2070 Neil Ave.

George F. Smoot *Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
University of California at Berkeley
Winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics*

