

## Connecticut Science Center Launches Renaissance Series to Celebrate the Year of da Vinci

### *Lectures are Geared Toward Lifetime Learners and Adults Seeking Personal and Professional Inspiration*

**Hartford, CT**— February 22, 2016 — Leonardo da Vinci is known as the embodiment of the Renaissance Man: he was a painter, anatomist, astronomer, and inventor of unparalleled ingenuity. Drawing on his varied intellectual and experimental pursuits, as expressed in the blockbuster traveling exhibit, *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion*, the Connecticut Science Center is proud to announce a new series of lectures for adults that will relate our modern experiences to da Vinci's, and allow each participant to find an inner Leonardo.

Presentations will engage audiences with scholarship and storytelling, blending scientific research, creativity, and personal discovery. Compelling narratives about each presenter's work and inspiration will celebrate lifetime learning and major accomplishments within STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math) and art. Launching on February 24 with a presentation from world-renowned astrophysicist Dr. Jedidah Isler, this programming is the first of its kind for the Connecticut Science Center. The series of lectures and workshops is supported through partnerships with the Petit Family Foundation and Voya Financial.

"The Connecticut Science Center has never had so many unique program offerings for adults," notes Amy Sailor, the Connecticut Science Center's Community Programs Coordinator. "These lectures reflect Leonardo da Vinci's entrepreneurial spirit. Like da Vinci's era so long ago, today's society is in a constant state of change and discovery. We hope visitors will use the information presented to bring their imaginings to life."

Attendees will be delighted by innovations in STEM professions and stories of personal success and perseverance as told first-hand by scientists, engineers, artists, and mathematicians who lived the journey. Plus, visitors will have the opportunity to interact with these inspired individuals through Q&A sessions at the conclusion of each program.

All events require a modest fee for admittance as listed below. The complete schedule and highlights of the adult lecture series include:

- **February 24, 6–8 PM:** Jedidah Isler, Ph.D., *Blazing Quasars and Blazing Trails: A Journey of Discovery*  
Blending cutting-edge research with personal storytelling, Dr. Isler explores her life-long journey of personal and scientific discovery. Isler's work as an astrophysicist has led to a better understanding of particle acceleration in black holes and the advancement of how scientists study the universe. Offering an encouraging and practical set of strategies for those who see

themselves as lifetime learners, Isler will address her experience as a trailblazer. This lecture is part of the Connecticut Science Center's Women in Science initiative, with additional support provided by the Legacy Foundation of Hartford. **\$5 for Connecticut Science Center members, students, and seniors, or \$10 for non-members; ticket includes admission to reception with light refreshments, talk with Dr. Isler, and entry to the traveling exhibit, *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion*.**

- **March 23, 6–8 PM:** Marjorie Senechal, Ph.D., *To See A World in a Grain of Sand*  
A century after William Blake wrote the words, 'to see a world in a grain of sand', scientists figured out how to view our world in the context of crystals, x-rays, and geometrical models. Dr. Senechal seeks to enlighten listeners to the ongoing issues and mysteries within this landscape and discuss her work within the field. This lecture is part of the Connecticut Science Center's Women in Science initiative. **\$5 for Connecticut Science Center members, students, and seniors, or \$10 for non-members; ticket includes admission to reception with light refreshments and talk with Dr. Senechal.**
- **April 13, 6–8 PM:** *STEAM: A Catalyst for Entrepreneurial Innovation*, a panel discussion moderated by Steven Dahlberg

Leonardo da Vinci epitomizes interdisciplinary, creative thinking and doing. He was able to imagine and visualize what is "not yet" and bring those ideas to life. He married art and science, as well as the natural world, with technology. In this dialogue, we will highlight the accomplishments of individuals who work at the crossroads of creativity, community, science, and innovation. Led by Steven Dahlberg, the panel will explore how to bring da Vinci's creative genius into our everyday lives. This panel discussion is geared toward entrepreneurs, inventors and big thinkers with interactive group discussions.

Panelists include Kate Emery, CEO of reSET Social Enterprise Trust, and Founder & CEO of the Walker Group; Rich Holland, Founder & CEO of CO:LAB; and Manon Cox, President & CEO of Protein Sciences. **\$15 for Connecticut Science Center members, students, and seniors, or \$25 for non-members; ticket includes admission to reception with light refreshments, one drink ticket, and panel discussion.**

- **April 15, 6–8:30 PM:** Steven Dahlberg, *Applied Creativity: How da Vinci Can Help You Move From Imagination to Ideas to Invention*  
Join us for Leonardo da Vinci's Birthday and National Creativity Week! Work with Steven Dahlberg to take on da Vinci's worldview, asking "what if?" Redefine your problems and brainstorm creative solutions. Apply creative thinking to bring your projects and dreams from ideation to invention. Dahlberg serves as the director of the International Centre for Creativity and Imagination, an organization dedicated to applying creativity to improving well-being at the individual, organizational, and community levels. This workshop is geared toward professional and novice entrepreneurs and inventors. **\$25 for Connecticut Science Center members, students, and seniors, or \$35 for non-members; ticket includes workshop and materials, admission to reception with light refreshments, one drink ticket, and entry to the traveling exhibit, *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion*.**

- **May 5, 6–8 PM:** Talk and Book Signing with Wendell Wallach, author of *A Dangerous Master: How to Keep Technology from Slipping Beyond Our Control*  
From combat drones to nanotechnology, 3-D printers to synthetic organisms, our most recent inventions increasingly defy the norms for acceptable uses of technology. How do we regulate trades performed by an algorithm? What responsibility do we, as creators and users, have for the technologies we build? This conversation will propose ways to maximize the benefits of emerging technologies, such as robots and artificial intelligence while minimizing their risks. **\$15 for Connecticut Science Center members, students, and seniors, or \$25 for non-members; ticket includes author reception and book signing with light refreshments, one drink ticket, and entry to the traveling exhibit, *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion*.**

More programs will be added throughout the year. All Adult and Women in Science events will be presented in the Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Science Theater or the Science Hall at the Connecticut Science Center. Preregistration is highly recommended. For more information and to register, contact Amy Sailor at [asailor@ctsciencecenter.org](mailto:asailor@ctsciencecenter.org) or visit [CTScienceCenter.org](http://CTScienceCenter.org).

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**About the Connecticut Science Center:** The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving more than 2 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: [www.CTScienceCenter.org](http://www.CTScienceCenter.org) or 860.SCIENCE.

**About the Women in Science Initiative:** The Connecticut Science Center's Women in Science initiative encourages girls and young women to pursue studies and career paths in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and celebrates the achievements of women in the sciences. The initiative seeks to bridge the gender gap in STEM by developing original programming to engage girls in science and to build the community of women in the sciences.