**How Life Changes Itself: The Read-Write Genome**

This moth’s exquisite mimicry—of an owl to scare away predator birds—is an evolutionary puzzle. How does that come about? Gradualist explanations are difficult to sustain in the case of mimicry.

**SPEAKER:** Dr. James A. Shapiro, University of Chicago Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is a leading bacterial geneticist and scientific critic of orthodox evolutionary theory, and the earliest proponent of “natural genetic engineering” as a basic feature of evolution. He is the discoverer of transposable elements in bacteria, the key researcher involved in first organizing the field of mobile genetic elements, and author of the 2011 scientific bestseller: *Evolution—A View from the 21st Century.*

**ABSTRACT:** The genome has traditionally been treated as a Read-Only Memory (ROM) subject to change by copying errors and accidents. In this talk, Dr. Shapiro proposes that we need to change that perspective and understand the genome as an intricately formatted Read-Write (RW) data storage system constantly subject to cellular modifications and inscriptions. Cells operate under changing conditions and are continually modifying themselves by genome inscriptions that occur over three distinct time scales, explaining the rapid, large evolutionary changes seen in the DNA that cannot be adequately explained by earlier theories.

**PARKING:** Any “W” lot—the one at College & Howard is closest.

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**College Students & the Public are welcome!**

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