

# 2022 J. Mark Sowers Distinguished Lecture Series

VIRGINIA TECH COLLEGE OF SCIENCE



## Professor S. James Gates, Jr. Brown University

From SyFy and Marvel Comics to  
Superstring Theory, Evolution, and the CMB  
**March 28, 2022** ■ **7:30 pm ET** ■ **via Zoom**

### Webinar

Register at: [https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/Sowers\\_Gates](https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/Sowers_Gates)



Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. It is, strictly speaking, a real factor in scientific research." This talk aims to illuminate this quote in the life of one scientist.

Professor S. James Gates, Jr. is a theoretical physicist internationally renowned for his work in supersymmetry, supergravity, and superstring theory. He is currently at Brown University, where he is director of the Brown Theoretical Physics Center, the Ford Foundation Professor of Physics, an Affiliate Mathematics Professor, and a Faculty Fellow in the Watson Institute for International Studies and Public Affairs. Prior to that, he was at the University of Maryland for 34 years, where he was a University System Regents Professor, the John S. Toll Professor of Physics, director of the String and Particle Theory Center, and an Affiliate Professor of Mathematics.

Professor Gates has received numerous honors for his work. In 2013, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, becoming the first African-American theoretical physicist so recognized in its 150-year history. President Barack Obama awarded Professor Gates the National Medal of Science at a White House Ceremony in 2013.

He has served the profession of physics in many ways, including as president of the National Society of Black Physicists and most recently in 2021 as president of the American Physical Society. He is also active in the public policy arena, including past service on both the U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and the Maryland State Board of Education.

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