On Thursday 13 February, the traditional Celsius-Linnaeus lectures will be held at THE ÅNGSTRÖM LABORATORY, SIEGBAHNSALEN.

14.00 – CELSIUS LECTURE
The Birth of the Universe
GEORGE EFSTATHIOU

15.30 – LINNAEUS LECTURE
Paleofantasy: What Our Evolutionary Past Really Tells Us About Modern Life
MARLENE ZUK
Modern physics attempts to explain the full complexity of the physical world in terms of three principles: gravity, relativity and quantum mechanics. This raises important fundamental questions such as why is our Universe so large and old? Why is it almost, but not perfectly, homogeneous and isotropic? There will be a presentation of how recent measurements of the cosmic microwave background radiation made with the Planck Satellite can be used to answer these questions, and to elucidate what happened within 10^{-35} seconds of the creation of our Universe.

George Efstathiou is a Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Cambridge. He received his Ph.D. in Astronomy from Durham University in 1979. Professor Efstathiou has received several prizes for his research including the 1990 Maxwell Medal and Prize of the Institute of Physics, the 2005 American Institute of Physics Heineman Prize for Astronomy, and more recently the 2013 Nemitsas Prize in Physics. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1994. Professor Efstathiou has wide interests in theoretical and observational cosmology and has contributed to studies of large-scale structure in the Universe, galaxy formation, dark energy and the cosmic microwave background radiation. He is a member of the Science Team for the European Space Agency Planck Satellite, launched in May 2009, which is mapping the temperature and polarization anisotropies of the cosmic microwave background to unprecedented precision.

Marlene Zuk is an evolutionary biologist. She is a Professor at the University of Minnesota, USA, in the department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, since 2012. Before this she served as Professor of Biology at the University of California, Riverside, from 1989. She earned her Ph.D. in 1986 at the University of Michigan, where she and W.D. Hamilton published the now-classic hypothesis that parasites influence sexual ornaments to be indicators of good genes. Her honors include being President of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology, fellow of the Animal Behavior Society, and receiving an honorary Doctorate from Uppsala University. She has written about evolution and sexual selection for the public in newspapers and several books, her latest being Paleofantasy: What Evolution Really Tells Us about Sex, Diet, and How We Live (2013).

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The Celsius and Linnaeus Honorary Lectures are arranged annually by the Faculty of Science and Technology in memory of Anders Celsius and Carl Linnaeus, world-renowned professors of Uppsala University.

Anders Celsius was appointed professor of Astronomy at Uppsala University in 1730 at the age of 28. He established the first professional astronomical observatory in Uppsala around 1740. His scientific activities included work on celestial mechanics, studies on comets and satellites, pioneering contributions to stellar photometry, to geodesy and to geophysics. He discovered that aurorae caused magnetic disturbances and he invented the temperature scale that bears his name. Anders Celsius died in 1744.

Carl Linnaeus was appointed professor of Medicine at Uppsala University in 1741 at the age of 34. Linnaeus had already in 1735 declared that the two most important tasks in natural history were “classification and naming” (divisio et denominatio). His Systema naturae was published in 1735 at Leiden. Here we meet his permanent contribution to science, the naming practice, the binary nomenclature or binominal system. Linnaeus founded the Royal Academy of Sciences, now responsible for the Nobel Prize awards, and of which he became the first president. He died in 1778.