With chemistry, all things are possible?
The current status of origin-of-life chemistry

BSB A108, Monday, November 17, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Did life begin as a result of purely chemical processes, or is that view only a materialistic/ naturalistic assumption?

Discoveries in origin-of-life chemistry are announced in the popular scientific press on a regular basis. But these reports tend to be sensationalized and rarely if ever put in the perspective of the problem to be solved, which is the extreme complexity of even the simplest imaginable living cell.

This talk will present the current state of prebiotic chemistry in the context of the problem to be solved: what kinds of organic structures and what organizational processes would be necessary for a chemical origin of life to take place?

THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION

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Dr. Charles Garner, Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Dr. Garner is in his 26th year at Baylor, where he teaches organic chemistry I and II, an advanced organic laboratory and an undergrad/graduate course on organic spectroscopy. He has been twice recognized by the Mortar Board for teaching excellence, and has written organic laboratory and advanced organic laboratory manuals, the latter published nationally. He has about 40 peer-reviewed research papers, including five in the Journal of Chemical Education. During his career, he has secured approximately $1M in external research funding from both federal and private sources, and a major instrumentation grant.

His research in the synthesis and analysis of organic compounds has resulted in the discovery of new organic gelling agents, new ways to analyze chiral compounds, new ligands for transition metals, and he has recently begun to pursue new materials for use in gas chromatography and laser technology.