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## **Captivating new book takes unique look at historic science myths**

PITTSBURGH—Did Ben Franklin fly a kite in a thunderstorm? Did a falling apple lead Newton to universal gravity? Did Galileo drop objects from the Leaning Tower of Pisa?

*Science Secrets: The Truth About Darwin's Finches, Einstein's Wife, and Other Myths* answers these questions and many others. Alberto A. Martínez offers a unique study of how myths evolve in the history of science. Some tales are partly true; others are mostly false, yet all illuminate the tension between the need to fairly describe the past and the natural desire to fill in the blanks. *Science Secrets* will be published this spring by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Energetically narrated, *Science Secrets* pits famous myths against extensive research in order to accurately portray important episodes in the sciences. Martínez analyzes how such myths grow and rescues neglected facts that are more captivating than famous fictions. Moreover, he shows why opinions that were once secret and seemingly impossible are now scientifically compelling. The book includes new findings related to the Copernican revolution, alchemy, Pythagoras, young Einstein, and other events and figures in the history of science.

Allan Franklin at the University of Colorado said *Science Secrets* will be "very interesting to, and understood by, a generally educated reader." Jeremy Gray at The Open University in the United Kingdom described the book as "at once a work of solid scholarship and an education in how to do history of science, and it can be read with pleasure and excitement by anyone who cares about the place of science in the modern world."

Martínez is associate professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Kinematics: The Lost Origins of Einstein's Relativity* and *Negative Math: How Mathematical Rules Can Be Positively Bent*.

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