

Department of Physics Colloquium

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3:00 PM

A Review of Recent Findings and Progress in Astronomy

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In this talk I will review recent findings in astronomy, some of which have important implications for other areas of physics. Topics include: new radio images and implications relating to supermassive black hole M87*; the important implications of accurate parallax-determined distances from the European Space Agency's GAIA satellite; the possible detection of potential biosignature molecule phosphine in the atmosphere of Venus; the current state of dark matter research; and the now statistically-significant discrepancy in measurements of the Hubble constant. A brief overview of current and near-future space exploration missions and major observatories, including the Arecibo Telescope and the Vera C. Rubin Observatory (formerly LSST), will be presented.