

Friday Nights Celestial Lights Lecture Series on a Special Night and Time!

Join us January 31st at 6:30 PM in the Flawn Science Bldg room 2.02.02 when we will have returning lecturer Dr. Bharat Ratra from Kansas State University for his talk titled:

***THE ACCELERATING EXPANDING UNIVERSE:
DARK MATTER, DARK ENERGY, AND EINSTEIN'S COSMOLOGICAL CONSTANT,
OR WHY JIM PEEBLES WAS AWARDED HALF OF THE 2019 PHYSICS NOBEL
PRIZE***

Dark energy is the leading candidate for the mechanism that is responsible for causing the cosmological expansion to accelerate. In this non-technical talk, Bharat Ratra will describe the astronomical data which persuade cosmologists that (as yet not directly detected) dark energy and dark matter are by far the main components of the energy budget of the universe at the present time. He will review how these observations have led to the development of a quantitative "standard" model of cosmology that describes the evolution of the universe from an early epoch of inflation to the complex hierarchy of structure seen today. He will also discuss the basic physics, and the history of ideas (many developed by Jim Peebles), on which this model is based.



This is a free event and open to the public. Seating is limited.