LSU College of Science Department of Physics & Astronomy

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Weekly Calendar and News

October 17-22, 2016

Departmental Colloquium

"Rogue Waves on Pulsating White Dwarf Stars"

JJ Hermes
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

3:30-4:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016

Room 109 Nicholson Hall

Host: Manos Chatzopoulos

While it has been an efficient planet-discovery machine, the unblinking stare of the Kepler space telescope has also revolutionized the way we look at pulsating stars. I will discuss some of the rapid advances Kepler has enabled in our understanding of stars at the end of their life cycles -- white dwarf stars -- including a completely unexpected new physical phenomenon: large-amplitude outbursts in the coolest pulsating white dwarfs. These outbursts are essentially rogue waves, sporadically increases the overall stellar brightness by up to 15%. The outbursts have provided fresh insight into how pulsation energy can be transferred through nonlinear resonances, as well as the eventual cessation of pulsations in cool white dwarfs.

Awards & Recognition

- Gabriela González received the HENAAC Scientist of the Year award.http://www.greatmindsinstem.org/about-us/press-release/2016/GMiS-HENAAC-Awards-Press-Release-2016-FINAL4.pdf
- Christopher Abadie and Derek Walker received LSU Honors College Sophomore Distinction https://www.honors.lsu.edu/news/2016-sophomore-honors-distinction-recipients
- Gabriela González received Domingo Faustino Sarmiento award, the highest distinction from Senate of Argentina. https://twitter.com/ligo/status/783693720679952384

LSU Physics & Astronomy in the News

- Tabby Boyajian Heading up Mission to Investigate Star
  http://www.lsunow.com/daily/new-lsu-faculty-member-heading-up-mission-to-investigate-star/article_7222bc8a-8b0b-11e6-8f5a-f75599aab162.html

- Amber Stuver Outlines Three Null Results that made the Groundbreaking Detection of Gravitational Waves Possible
  https://www.researchgate.net/blog/post/a-null-result-is-not-a-failure

- Tabby Boyajian was interviewed on Australian TV about the World's most Mysterious Star - KIC 8462852—whose occasional, dramatic dips in brightness has astounded astronomers. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4A5aX-mvQuo

- "Tabby's Star" Keeps Getting Stranger
  https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/tabby-s-star-keeps-getting-stranger/?WT.mc_id=SA_TW_SPC_NEWS

New Publications

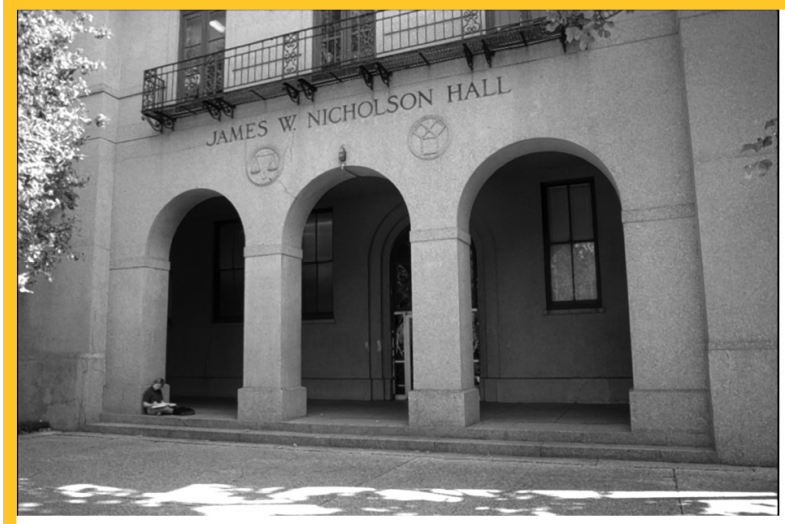
- Landolt, A. U., "Comments on Optical Photometry and the Generation of Standard Stars," Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series, vol. 503,p. 13,(2016).
  http://www.aspbooks.org/publications/503/013.pdf

- Landolt, A. U., "Intermittent Multi-Color Photometry for V1017 Sagittarii," Journal of the American Association of Variable Star Observers, vol. 44, p.45,(2016).
  https://www.aavso.org/media/jaavso/3181.pdf

- Landolt, A. U., "The Variable Star V Sculptoris," Journal of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (JAAVSO), vol. 44, p.50, (2016).
  https://www.aavso.org/media/jaavso/3185.pdf

- Clem, J.L., and Landolt, A.U., "Faint UBVRI Standard Star Fields at +50^o Declination," Astronomical Journal, Volume 152, Issue 4, article id. 91,13 pp.(2016).
  http://bit.ly/2dxVoQ6

Events



Join us for Physics & Astronomy ALUMNI TAILGATE

Saturday, October 22
3-6 p.m.
Nicholson Hall
LSU Quadrangle

Reconnect with fellow alumni and former professors and meet current students while enjoying jambalaya and LN_2 ice cream in the Quad.

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