

April 9, 2014

A Panel Discussion on Careers in the Optics Industry

Followed by a presentation on

Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA): Overview and First Science Results

Dr. Eric Becklin

USRA SOFIA Chief Scientific Advisor

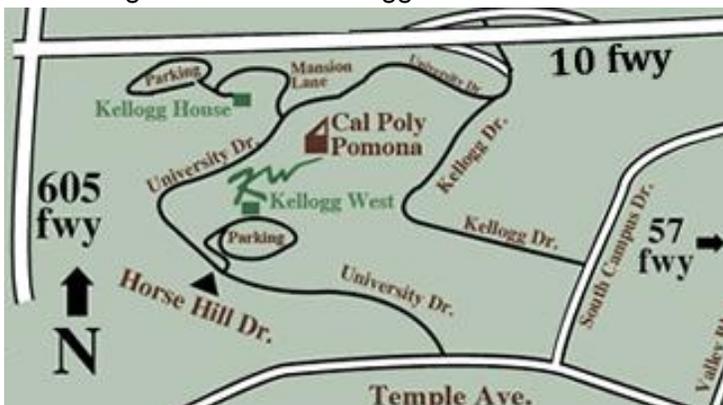
UCLA Department of Physics and Astronomy

Abstract: The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), a 2.5-meter infrared airborne telescope in a Boeing 747SP, has obtained its first science with 4 optical and infrared instruments. An overview of the telescope and performance will be presented. The operation of the FORCAST 5 to 40 micron camera, the GREAT heterodyne spectrometer in the 110 to 240 micron region, the HIPO occultation visible photometer, and the FLITECAM1 to 5 micron camera will be mentioned. The first science infrared images and spectra reveal several discoveries and show the potential for determining how massive stars form in our Galaxy. A very successful occultation of Pluto with HIPO will be described. Future plans and upgrades will also be discussed.



About our speaker: **Eric Becklin** has more than 45 years of experience in infrared astronomical observations and instrumentation. Research topics have included our galactic center and its massive black hole, dust debris clouds, galactic nuclei, gamma-ray bursts, astrobiology, formation of massive stars, and searches for low mass stars, brown dwarfs and extra-solar planets. He was involved in the design and construction of the 3-meter NASA Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) at Mauna Kea, and served as its first director. He was also the principal investigator (PI) for two successful experiments which flew NASA's Kuiper Airborne Observatory into the shadow of the Sun during a total solar eclipse to measure the Sun's far infrared and sub millimeter emissions. Becklin also played a pivotal role in infrared instrumentation for both the Hubble Space Telescope (NICMOS) and the Keck Observatory (NIRSPEC), and was a PI for investigations conducted by the Infrared Astronomy Satellite (IRAS) and Infrared Space Observatory (ISO). Presently, Becklin is Chief Science Advisor on SOFIA.

Enter campus from Temple Avenue, turning right on University. Once on campus, turn right at sign for Kellogg West, and go up the hill. Parking is free in the Kellogg West lot.



Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Panel discussion on careers: 5:00

Reception: 6:00; Dinner: 7:00; Talk: 8:00

Meal: Buffet Style

Cost: \$30 for registration by Apr. 1, \$35 after
(OSSC Student Members register free by
Apr. 1, \$10 after)

[Kellogg West Conference Center](#)

[Cal Poly Pomona Campus](#)

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909-869-2222

On-line Registration: www.osscc.org or

Contact: Matt Samson

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