

Dr. Brian Schmidt, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Physics

“The Accelerating Universe”

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 7p.m

At the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Campus Center

Talk is Free to the public



Dr. Brian P. Schmidt, one of three people awarded this prize, will speak at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Campus Center on October 19, 2011 at 7p.m. The discovery of what is called “dark energy” led to Dr. Schmidt’s 2011 Nobel Prize. Schmidt’s Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded for a remarkable discovery that the Universe is accelerating as it expands.

The accelerating expansion of the Universe, first reported in 1998, was confirmed by the two separate groups. This accelerating cosmological expansion and the hypothesis that it is driven by dark energy has now become one of the most important areas of study in astronomy and physics today.

At the time, “We were a little scared,” Schmidt said. Subsequent cosmological measurements have confirmed that roughly 70 percent of the universe by mass or energy consists of this anti-gravitational force called dark energy.

In fact, Albert Einstein introduced this bizarre behavior with a fudge factor in his equations in 1917 to stabilize the universe against collapse. He later abandoned this idea, and then considered it his greatest blunder. “Every test we have made has come out perfectly in line with Einstein’s original cosmological constant in 1917,” Schmidt said.

Brian P. Schmidt, U.S. and Australian citizen. Born 1967 in Missoula, MT, USA. Ph.D. 1993 from Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA. Head of the High-z Supernova Search Team, Distinguished Professor, Australian National University, Weston Creek, Australia.
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For more information on the 2011 Nobel Prize for Physics
<http://www.gemini.edu/node/11688>
http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/2011/press.html



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