

SPECIAL PIZZA AMO PHYSICS SEMINAR

“Gyroscopes, NASA & Einstein – a Long Series of Surprises”

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Abstract

Space opens opportunities for many fundamental physics experiments impossible on Earth. It also takes the physicist into worlds different from any he ever expected. The test of General Relativity known as Gravity Probe B, launched in 2004, engaged a fascinating intersection of physics and engineering challenges and a succession of (often pleasant) surprises, including four years of steadily progressing data analysis so full of twists and turns that we venture to call it the Gravity Probe B Detective Story.

Unexpected technologies, a succession of extraordinarily diverse doctoral dissertations, two university departments actually collaborating, and spin-offs to fields as far off as autofarming are just some of the surprises that come from a journey of testing Einstein. To quote P. M. S. Blackett whom I had the good fortune of working with in the very different field of palaeomagnetism, “If you can’t think what experiment to do next, invent some new technology. It’ll always lead to new physics.”

**Thursday, March 11, 2010
1:00 p.m., MIST M102**

**Texas A&M University
Institute for Quantum Science & Engineering**

(PIZZA, salad, soda to be served at 12:00 noon, MIST Foyer)

Related Talk: TROTTER LECTURE SERIES: * March 11, 2010 • 7:00 PM • Rudder Theater • TAMU

Mystery in Science, Reason in Religion: How the Two Overlap and Intersect

Abstract

Science is explanation. It is also adventure, discovery, delight, repeated encounters with mystery, and at its best intense moral discipline. We do well to recall Darwin’s discovery that unless he instantly wrote down any fact contradicting his theory, he was sure to forget it. Those two deep readers of the human unconscious, Freud and St. Paul, would have understood. Mystery and moral discipline also permeate religion. How science and religion meet and how in Christian faith reason enters is the center of this discussion.

* Dr. Francis Everitt is one of the 2010 Trotter Prize recipients! For more information please visit:
<http://ww.science.tamu.edu/trotter>