

The Lunar and Planetary Institute Presents

# COSMIC EXPLORATIONS: A SPEAKER SERIES

January 31, 2013

## DARK ENERGY: A UNIVERSE OUT OF CONTROL

About five billion years ago the Universe slipped quietly into a phase of evolution where normal gravity no longer controls the future. Instead, a strange form of negative pressure overcame the mutual gravitation of all the matter in the Universe. Dark Energy, a cosmological constant, anti-gravity; it has many names only because we have no idea what it is. What is this energy which now makes up 75% of all the mass/energy of the Universe? Dr. Nicholas Suntzeff of Texas A&M University will discuss the discovery of Dark Energy, bizarre explanations of what it could be, and the present attempts of astronomers and physicists to make some sense of a nonsensical Universe.

This FREE presentation at 7:30 p.m. is intended for inquisitive adults and will be followed by a light reception and an opportunity to meet Dr. Suntzeff.

Speaker presentation held at  
USRA's Lunar and Planetary Institute  
3600 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston TX  
(entrance on Middlebrook Drive)

For more information, please call  
281-486-2163 or visit  
[www.lpi.usra.edu/education/lectures](http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/lectures)