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WEEKLY CALENDAR

January 20 - 24, 2014

DEPARTMENTAL COLLOQUIUM

"Kepler Circumbinary Planets"

3:30 PM January 23, 2014
109 Nicholson Hall

William Welsh

San Diego State University

Host: Juhan Frank

• *Refreshments served at 3:10 PM in 232 (Library) Nicholson Hall* •

While long anticipated in both science and science fiction, the existence of a planet orbiting a pair of normal stars was not definitively established until the discovery of Kepler-16 in 2011. At that time, many questions arose about the nature of circumbinary planets: What kinds of orbits, masses, radii, temperatures, etc., could they have? What kinds of binary stars can host planets? And most of all, was Kepler-16 just a fluke? Since 2011, seven more transiting Kepler circumbinary planets have been discovered, plus several candidates. While still few in number, the sample is now large enough that some intriguing trends are emerging regarding the planets' radii, orbits, host star binary periods, and their proximity to the habitable zone. In this talk I will briefly showcase some highlights of the Kepler Mission, then discuss the discovery and characterization of the circumbinary planets

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The University will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2014 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 7:30 am.

Saturday Science at LSU

January 25, 2014

10:00 A.M.

130 Nicholson Hall, LSU

" Recycling practices in pavement reconstruction"

Mostafa Elseifi

LSU Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering
