

From: "yvonne thomas" <nsthom@lsu.edu>  
To: <schaefer@geol.lsu.edu>, <jelvert@lasm.org>, <apullen2001@yahoo.com>, <faculty2@phys.lsu.edu>, <gradstudents@phys.lsu.edu>, <resrstaff@phys.lsu.edu>, <undergrads@phys.lsu.edu>, <deptstaff@phys.lsu.edu>, <maindesk@phys.lsu.edu>, "Purchasing Desk" <purchasing@phys.lsu.edu>  
Subject: Departmental Weekly Calendar for 27 September 2005  
Date: Wed, 28 Sep 2005 13:47:52 -0500

## General Seminar

3:40pm / Thursday, 29 September 2005 / Room 109, Nicholson Hall

Host: Dr. Jorge Pullin

*[Refreshments served at 3:15 pm in Room 229, Nicholson Hall]*

## "Gravitational Waves from Unstable Neutron Stars"

John Friedman, PhD  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Abstract: Old neutron stars in binary systems can be observed when matter from a companion spirals onto the neutron star. The accreting matter spins up the neutron star, but the observed spins have an upper limit that is apparently well below the maximum spin of the star -- below the angular velocity of a satellite in circular orbit about the star's equator. An instability driven by gravitational waves has become a leading candidate for the mechanism that limits neutron-star spin. If the instability survives an array of obstacles imposed by neutron-star physics, it may be visible in gravitational waves emitted by these accreting stars.

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## Congratulations to

Dr. Jorge Pullin (General Relativity) for being elected as a corresponding member of the Latin American Academy of Sciences. The Academy has 205 members from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, USA and Venezuela. For more information, please visit <http://www.acal-scientia.org>.

John Richert (Medical Physics & Health Physics) for receiving the 2005-2006 Robert Gardner Memorial Fellowship Award in the amount of \$5000. This graduate student award is jointly sponsored by the Gardner Fund and the Health Physics Society (<http://hps.org>).

## Publications

"The Dwarf Nova PQ Andromedae." J. Patterson, J.R. Thorstensen, E. Armstrong, A.A. Henden, and R.I. Hynes. *PASP* 117:922-927 (September 2005).

"Observational Constraints on Cool Disk Material in Quiescent Black Hole Binaries." R.I. Hynes, E.L. Robinson and M. Bitner. *Astrophysical Journal* 630:405-412 (September 2005).

"ULTRACAM Observations of the Black Hole X-Ray Transient XTE J1118+480 in Quiescence." T. Shahbaz, V.S. Dhillon, T.R. Marsh, J. Casares, C. Zurita, P.A. Charles, C.A. Haswell and R.I. Hynes. *RAS MNRAS* 362:975-982 (2005).

## Welcome to

Dr. Marian Florescu, a Postdoctoral Researcher with Dr. Hwang Lee (Quantum Science & Technologies). Dr. Florescu will be stationed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA.