

2002 Nobel Laureate Riccardo Giacconi

Riccardo Giacconi is a University Professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md. He was born in Genoa, Italy, Oct. 6, 1931. He grew up in Milano and received his Dottorato from the University of Milano in 1956 with a thesis on cosmic ray astronomy, confirming one of Enrico Fermi's models of nuclear interactions. He held postdocs in high energy physics at Indiana University (on a Fulbright Fellowship) and at Princeton University before joining American Science and Engineering in 1959. He started a group to do space science, proposed the first X-Ray telescopes and designed and built X-ray instruments for rocket flights to search for X-ray stars. In 1962 his group flew a rocket that discovered the first X-ray star, Sco X-1. That discovery was the beginning of X-ray astronomy, leading to the X-ray satellites UHURU, Einstein and Chandra. He discovered the cosmic X-ray background, many binary X-ray stars that contain neutron stars or black holes and the massive X-ray halos of clusters of galaxies. For this initial work in X-ray astronomy, he received one half the 2002 Nobel Prize, along with Ray Davis and Masatoshi Koshiba (for the detection of astrophysical neutrinos).

He was appointed a professor at Harvard University in 1973. There, Giacconi and his team developed the "Einstein" satellite and sophisticated data management techniques to allow X-ray observatories to produce standard data products for use by astronomers world-wide. In 1982, he became the first director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, applying the techniques developed for "Einstein" to create the operations planning and data reduction and archiving system for the Hubble Space Telescope. In 1990, he became the director general of ESO and led the successful development of the four, 8-meter optical telescopes that make up the Very Large Telescope. In 1999, he returned to the U.S. as President of the Associated Universities Inc., the consortium responsible for developing the Atacama Large Millimeter Array, due to be finished in 2012.

Giacconi thus had a leading role in developing the largest telescopes in four areas of astronomy: X-ray, ultraviolet, optical and radio. He has played an unparalleled role in the development of observational capabilities in the modern era.



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE
**Distinguished
Lecture Series**

Make group lecture series reservations for:

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Business Phone (____) _____ - _____

Check events attending:

_____ Public Lecture

_____ Colloquium

Other participants from your organization:

Name _____

Title _____

Name _____

Title _____

Early submission recommended for guaranteed seating.

Detach this card and send registration to:

UW-L Foundation Inc.

Cleary Alumni & Friends Center

P.O. Box 1148

La Crosse, WI 54602-1148 USA

608.785.6803

Fax 608.785.6868

E-mail: olsen.nata@uwlax.edu

Lectures

Public Lecture

A New Revolution in Astronomy 400 years after Galileo

We live in a new heroic period of astronomical discoveries comparable for its impact on human understanding of the universe to that which occurred from Copernicus to Newton. New observatories in space and on the ground have opened up the study of the entire range of wavelengths emitted by celestial bodies reaching Earth from the farthest reaches of the cosmos. These studies have revealed the crucial role played by explosive events in the formation and development of the structures we now see. They also reveal the prevalence of unknown forms of matter and energy in our universe, where normal matter made of nucleons provides only 3% of the total. These discoveries require new physics, just as it happened 400 years ago.

Physics Colloquium

X-Ray Astronomy 2009

It has been 10 years since the launch of the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, still in full operation today. Chandra has reached greater sensitivity and finer angular resolution than any other X-ray astronomy mission to date. Its sensitivity is some 10 billion times greater than the one necessary to discover the first X-ray star Sco X-1 in 1962. Its angular resolution of 0.5 arc seconds is comparable to that of ground based optical telescopes. X-ray observations play a unique role in the study of some of the objects of greatest current astrophysical interest and their grasp rivals that available with the most powerful observatories in space and on the ground at all wavelengths.

Distinguished Lecture Series in PHYSICS

The UW-L Physics Department, with 130 majors, is one of the largest undergraduate physics programs in the country. The department has eight full-time faculty and offers a B.S. in physics with the options of emphases in astronomy, computational physics and optics, as well as physics majors with business or bio-medical concentrations. The department has a dual-degree program (physics and engineering) in cooperation with the engineering programs at UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and the University of Minnesota. The department is active in undergraduate research and in the past few years has received nearly \$1.5 million in research grants. The department was profiled as a successful undergraduate program for the National Task Force on Undergraduate Physics report, which is available at www.aapt.org/Projects/ntfup/casestudies.cfm, and was featured on the cover of the September 2003 issue of Physics Today. The department was awarded the 2004 UW Regents Teaching Excellence Award for Academic Departments and Programs.

For more information on UW-L's physics department, visit our Web site at www.uwlax.edu/physics.

The UW-L Distinguished Lecture Series in Physics is funded by private gifts to the UW-La Crosse Foundation Inc. and through support from the Department of Physics, the College of Science and Health and Wettstein's. The series annually brings to La Crosse a physicist whose significant accomplishments and communication skills can inspire and enrich the careers of students, faculty and the community.

October 8-9, 2009

Thursday, October 8, 2009

- 4:30 p.m. Reception**
260 Graff Main Hall
Refreshments served
- 5 p.m. Public Lecture**
260 Graff Main Hall
**A New Revolution in Astronomy
400 years after Galileo**

Friday, October 9, 2009

- 3 p.m. Reception**
Strzelczyk Great Hall
Cleary Alumni & Friends Center
Refreshments served
- 3:20 p.m. Physics Colloquium**
Strzelczyk Great Hall
Cleary Alumni & Friends Center
X-Ray Astronomy 2009

All events are open to the public, but we suggest making arrangements in advance by filling out and sending the form attached.

Groups of five or more must make special arrangements with the Foundation. Persons attending the public lecture Thursday may park in any commuter lot. Parking will be available at the Cleary Alumni & Friends Center parking lot on Friday.

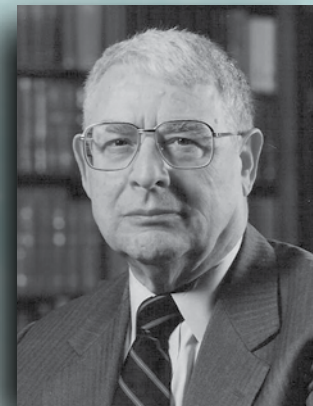
For further information contact:

www.uwlax.edu/physics

Gubbi Sudhakaran, Ph.D., Physics Department
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601
608.785.8431
E-mail: sudhakar.gubb@uwlax.edu

Distinguished Lecture Series in PHYSICS

October 8-9, 2009



2002 Nobel Laureate
Riccardo Giacconi

Co-sponsored by the
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation Inc.,
Department of Physics
College of Science and Health
Wettstein's