The Department of Physics, Applied Physics and Astronomy presents

The Resnick Lecture

Peter Saulson

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Listening in on Black Holes with Gravitational Waves



A year ago, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) recorded a signal generated by the collision of two black holes 1.3 billion light years away. Minute vibrations of space were all that remained of one of the most powerful events in the universe. Remarkably, we can listen to this signal simply by amplifying it and playing it through speakers. The sound tells the story, never before witnessed, of what happens when black holes collide. We'll learn what gravitational waves are, how LIGO detected them, and what discoveries might come next from this new way of exploring the universe.

Wednesday October 26 4:00 p.m. Sage 3303 Refreshments at 3:30 Contact: Joel Giedt giedtj@rpi.edu

