

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND DEPARTMENT OF
ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM

Speaker: Dr. Jon Mauerhan (University of California, Berkeley)

Topic: Tracing the Shapes of Supernovae with Spectropolarimetry

Time: 3:00 PM, Friday, May 19, 2017 (refreshments served at
2:45 PM)

Place: Room 215, Physics-Astronomy Building (PA-215)

Abstract:

Spectropolarimetry is a powerful observational tool that can be used to probe the three-dimensional nature of supernovae and their circumstellar environments. Such data provide clues on the explosion mechanisms, progenitor scenarios, and modes of stellar mass loss leading up to death. I will give an overview of the spectropolarimetric characteristics of several classes of SNe, highlighting some recent examples that provide new insights on the late stages of stellar evolution and the origin of pre-SN mass loss from massive stars.