

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

Speaker: Dr. Joseph Dolan (San Diego State University)

Topic: Pauli's Only Mistake: The Aberration of Starlight

Time: 3:00 PM, Friday, April 14, 2017 (refreshments served at
2:45 PM)

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

Abstract:

One of the more fascinating personalities of 20th Century Physics, Wolfgang Pauli was famed for his contributions to both quantum mechanics and relativity. He nevertheless published an astronomical howler in his excellent book "Theory of Relativity". The talk will trace the history of our discovery of aberration and explain the effect at a level suitable for advanced undergraduates by using the Einstein-Feynman clock concept. Several apparent difficulties connected with this explanation will hopefully also be resolved.