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Department of Physics

THE EDISON LECTURE SERIES

EXPLODING STARS AND THE ACCELERATING COSMOS

Einstein's Blunder Undone



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ABSTRACT

Recent observations of exploding stars located half-way across the Universe reveal an astonishing fact: the expansion of the Universe is speeding up! Apparently, the universe is dominated by a mysterious "dark energy" that drives cosmic acceleration. Robert P. Kirshner, a distinguished astronomer and science educator, explains this astonishing new picture of the universe in a lively, richly illustrated presentation, drawing his own first-hand account of the discovery.

BIOGRAPHY

Robert P. Kirshner is one of the world's leading astronomers. He is the Clowes Professor of Science at Harvard University. The author of over 200 scientific publications, Kirshner has also written for National Geographic, Sky & Telescope, Natural History, and Scientific American magazines and is a frequent public speaker on science. His award-winning popular-level book *The Extravagant Universe: Exploding Stars, Dark Energy, and the Accelerating Cosmos* has been translated into four languages. At Harvard, Kirshner teaches a large undergraduate course for students who are not concentrating in the sciences called *The Energetic Universe*. Kirshner is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. He has just finished a term as President of the American Astronomical Society. Kirshner received the Caltech Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004. In September 2007, Kirshner and his colleagues of the High-Z Supernova Team (including many of his former students and postdocs) shared the Gruber Prize in Cosmology.

Photo: NASA

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