

THE
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
of AMERICA



Department of Physics
Colloquium

Dr. Petr Pokorny
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Meteoroids in the Solar System

Every day tens of tons of micrometer and millimeter sized interplanetary particles, meteoroids, enter Earth's atmosphere creating a spectacular show of shooting stars also known as meteors. Though most burn during their journey through our atmosphere, some of them are strong enough to reach the surface and become meteorites. In this talk we will find out where meteoroids come from, how they get to the Earth, and how we can observe them. We will review how meteor showers form, how they evolve and how they finally disappear in the vast population of sporadic meteors. We will try to answer why meteor showers represent only a small fraction of meteors that we currently observe and show the main features of the sporadic meteoroid complex. While the Earth is protected by its dense atmosphere, the Solar System is full of airless bodies, like the Moon or Mercury. We will look at the latest findings from space-probe measurements and how many wrinkles they conjured on the foreheads of theoretical astronomers when they tried to incorporate them in their models.

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

4:00pm

108 Hannan Hall

Refreshments will be served at 3:45

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For more information or if you would like to request disability accommodations, please contact:
Patrick Burke (202) 319-5315