

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM

"Your Textbook was Wrong
About the Milky Way Galaxy"

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When most people picture the Milky Way galaxy, they imagine only the bright spiral arms and maybe the black hole in the center. The light from the spiral arms, though comes from only a very few bright young stars. They are immersed in a roughly spheroidal distribution of dark matter and older spheroid stars. Our understanding of how the Milky Way, and galaxies like it, is rapidly evolving. Some recent breakthroughs have been made possible by the availability of the huge stellar database of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. Come find out about small galaxies ripped apart by tidal forces, the growth of galaxies through mergers, the possibility that invisible dark matter from a shredded galaxy is passing through your body at this very second, and be one of the first to learn about our latest breakthrough in understanding the stellar spheroid.

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4:00 PM IN 102 JFB
REFRESHMENTS AT 3:30 PM IN 219 JFB