

AES Seminar



Dan Baker

Director, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics

Understanding Physical Properties Throughout the Solar System

Friday, March 16, 2018 | KOBL 210 | 12:00 P.M.

Abstract: Even before the official dawn of the Space Age – that is, the launch of the Sputnik and Explorer spacecraft in 1957-1958 – the University of Colorado’s Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) was engaged in forefront space research. Using rockets to get to the fringes of outer space, LASP researchers made pioneering observations of the Sun and Earth’s upper atmosphere. This talk will recount some of the earlier history of LASP’s contributions to Sun-Earth (and planetary) studies. A principal focus of the talk will be the modern studies of energetic particles and electromagnetic fields in Earth’s cosmic neighborhood. LASP has been playing an increasingly prominent role in forefront studies of Earth’s environment and LASP researchers are using this core terrestrial knowledge to advance planetary and astrophysical understanding as well. Moreover, study and understanding of the space environment of Earth is absolutely essential for our knowledge of “space weather” which represents a major threat to our modern technological society. The presentation will address all these aspects and will conclude with a look forward to future LASP programs and opportunities.

Bio: Daniel N. Baker is Director of LASP and a CU Boulder Distinguished Professor. He was Group Leader for Space Plasma Physics at Los Alamos National Laboratory (1980-87) and Division Chief at NASA Goddard (1987-1994). He has edited eight books and published over 750 papers in the refereed literature. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the Intl. Academy of Astronautics, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He currently is lead investigator on several NASA missions including the Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission and the Radiation Belt Storm Probes (Van Allen Probes) mission.



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