SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

The 2020 John D. Schopp Memorial Lecture

Sponsored by the SDSU Department of Astronomy and the Mount Laguna Observatory Associates

CAPTURING THE FIRST IMAGE OF A BLACK HOLE

Black holes are so dense that not even light can escape. But, through their immense gravitational pull, they also power the brightest and most efficient engines in the universe, lighting up the centers of galaxies where supermassive black holes dwell. Black holes are predicted to cast a shadow on their bright surrounding material, but our telescopes have not had sharp enough resolution to view a black hole directly and test this prediction. Dr. Johnson will describe how we recently captured the first images of a black hole using a new Earth-sized instrument, the Event Horizon Telescope, and will explain how we are using these images to put Einstein's theories to the ultimate test.

Michael Johnson

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Fri. Apr. 10, 6:30 pm -- Hardy Tower 140

Free Parking in Parking Structure 1, levels 1&2

(Do not park on transition ramps)