



Western University
Department of Physics and Astronomy

SPECIAL Physics & Astronomy SEMINAR

Date: FRIDAY, 8th December 2017

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Physics & Astronomy Seminar Room 100

Dr. Robert Weryk

Institute for Astronomy
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

"Discovery circumstances of the first interstellar asteroid"

ABSTRACT



For the first time ever astronomers have studied an asteroid that has entered the Solar System from interstellar space. Observations from ESO's Very Large Telescope in Chile and

other observatories around the world show that this unique object was traveling through space for millions of years before its chance encounter with our star system. It appears to be a dark, reddish, highly-elongated rocky or high-metal-content object. Our team from the Pan-STARRS observatory – being the first to detect the interstellar visitor – has chosen the name 'Oumuamua' for our discovery. The name is of Hawaiian origin and means a messenger from afar arriving first. I will discuss the results that appeared in *Nature* on 20 November 2017.

COFFEE + light snacks will be available in the Atrium, 2nd floor, at 1:15 p.m.