

Physics Department Colloquium

Dr. John Bochanski

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Title: Where does the Milky Way end?

M giant stars offer our best opportunity to explore the outer reaches of the Galactic halo with today's modern wide-field surveys. While it is challenging to distinguish from the overwhelming number of nearby dwarf stars, M giants, when identified, are luminous tracers of the structural and kinematic properties of the Milky Way's halo. Using optical and near-infrared photometry from the SDSS and UKIDSS surveys, we have collected a sample of candidate M giants with estimated distances ranging from 30 to well over 200 kpc. I will report on our group's findings to date, which includes the two most distant stars ever found in our galaxy.

Date: Friday, October 16, 2015

Time: 12:30 PM

Where: Science Complex, P-317

