



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
ENRICO FERMI INSTITUTE
ARTHUR H. COMPTON LECTURES
SEVENTY-SIXTH SERIES



“CONSTRUCTING THE SOLAR SYSTEM:
A SMASHING SUCCESS”

BY THOMAS DAVISON
POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR, GEOPHYSICAL SCIENCES

Dear Friends of the Enrico Fermi Institute:

We cordially invite you to join us for the next series of the Arthur H. Compton Lectures. The Lectures are intended for the general public, friends of the Enrico Fermi Institute, members of the University community, and interested citizens of the Chicago area. They provide a descriptive account of some of the frontiers of present-day science. We don't expect you to have a formal background in mathematics or science, but hope to appeal to your curiosity and to share with you some of the excitement of modern scientific research.

The history of the Solar System is one of the oldest subjects studied by scientists – and one in which we still don't have all the answers. We now have a reasonable understanding of how the Sun and the planets formed, but there are still some parts of the story that are unexplained. Recent advances in numerical modeling, experimental techniques and astronomical observations are leading to a more thorough understanding of our Solar System's origins.

In these lectures, Dr. Davison will discuss the current state of our understanding of the formation and evolution of the Solar System, with a particular emphasis on the fundamental role of high velocity impact processes. This is a diverse subject that encompasses elements of physics, chemistry, geology and astronomy. The discussions will cover the formation of our Sun, the building of the planets, and the effects of impacts throughout the history of the Solar System. No scientific background is required -- just bring your curiosity.

We hope you can join us for the first lecture on Saturday, October 6, 2012 at 11:00 AM in Room 106 of the Kersten Physics Teaching Center, 5720 South Ellis Avenue. Enter through the door at the southeast corner. The series will run on Saturdays from September 29 through December 15, 2012. **There will be no lectures on November 24th (Thanksgiving weekend) or December 8th (“Physics With a Bang!”).**

Sincerely,

Emil J. Martinec, Director