

The Russell Frank Astronomy Lecture Series

UNLV Physics and Astronomy Department

7:30pm Thursday March 17

Bigelow Physics Building Rm 102 UNLV

Free Admission



IS THE SOLAR SYSTEM STABLE?

Professor Scott Tremaine

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

The planets in the solar system have completed a few billion orbits since they were born. The behavior of planetary orbits over such long times was not understood until recently despite three centuries of study. Computers now allow us to follow the motion of planets reliably for the lifetime of the solar system. We will see how the Earth's orbit has evolved throughout geological history, and learn of the Earth's ultimate fate. We will also discuss what determines the number and spacing of the planets and whether there are there lost planets.

This talk is intended for a general audience including enthusiasts of all backgrounds and ages.