

Dean's Distinguished Lecturer Series

# Albert Einstein on Light; Light on Albert Einstein

Speaker: **Douglas Hofstadter**, Indiana University, Bloomington

Introduction: **Francisco Claro**, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Friday, November 4, 2016 | HUB Ballroom | 10:30am to 12:30pm

Douglas Hofstadter, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, will discuss the eternal mystery of light which, over the course of millennia, was puzzled over, pondered on and slowly worked out by a series of great minds, and finally, in the nineteenth century, was definitively settled with clarity and rock-solid certainty. And yet one day in the early spring of 1905, quite out of the blue, came an absurd-seeming new suggestion from an unknown Swiss patent clerk, third class, clashing violently with that rock-solid piece of collective wisdom. How did the brazen patent clerk come up with this crazy idea? How was it received by the physics world? What was its eventual fate? And what can we learn about the workings of the human mind from this twisty story filled to the brim with ironies?

Francisco Claro is a distinguished professor from Santiago, Chile, and is a close friend of Douglas Hofstadter. Professor Claro will reminisce about their time together at the University of Oregon, discuss the discovery of the famous butterfly graph and his other achievements thereafter.



Refreshments will be provided.

Registration is Free: [AEonLight.eventbrite.com](http://AEonLight.eventbrite.com)

Hosted by the College of Science Department of Physics and Astronomy.  
Contact [physics@gmu.edu](mailto:physics@gmu.edu) for more information.

Physics Professor Dr. Indu Satija recently published a book, *Butterfly in the Quantum World*, with contributions from Dr. Douglas Hofstadter.

