



IISER Kolkata Public Lecture

In association with Science City

February 24th, 2009, 3:00 PM at Science City Mini-Auditorium

Space Travel and Space Research

Loren W. Acton

NASA Astronaut and Professor at Montana State University, USA

Access to space has revolutionized science in many fascinating and beautiful ways. Dr. Acton had the opportunity to experience this personally in 1985 on the space shuttle Challenger when he travelled in space for 8 days as a Payload Specialist on a mission called Spacelab 2. His illustrated lecture will focus on his own experiences as an astronaut and touch on some of the exciting things we have learned about the solar system and the universe through space research.



About the Speaker

Dr. Loren W. Acton is a Research Professor of Physics at Montana State University in Bozeman, USA. He was born on March 7th, 1936 in Lewistown, Montana; his father was a cattle rancher and his mother a home-maker. Dr. Acton often rode a pony to his school near their ranch. He graduated from Montana State University and went on to earn a Ph.D. in Astro-Geophysics from the University of Colorado in 1965; his thesis research was on the "X-Radiation from the Sun". In 1985, Dr. Acton went to space as a Payload Specialist on the Challenger 8 space shuttle mission called SPACELAB 2, which launched on July 29 and arrived back on August 6. This 8 day mission emphasized astronomy, but its 13 experiments ranged from life sciences to high energy astrophysics. His honours include the Spaceflight Achievement award of the American Astronomical Society, the NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal and the George Ellery Hale Prize of the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society.

[IISER Kolkata, Mohanpur 741252, Nadia, West Bengal, Phone: +91-33-64513294](http://www.iiserkol.ac.in/)
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