DR. LYNN COMINSKY
Sonoma State University

Spacetime Symphony: Gravitational Waves from Merging Binaries

Professor Cominsky grew up in the snows of Buffalo, New York, and attended college at Brandeis University, where she studied Chemistry and Physics. After graduating from college, she worked at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, analyzing data from the first X-ray astronomy satellite, Uhuru. When she found out that she could get paid for studying black holes, she went to graduate school in physics at MIT, and after getting her PhD there in 1981, she moved to California. She has been on the faculty at Sonoma State University for over 30 years, where she is now Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, as well as the director and founder of SSU’s Education and Public Outreach group. Her group offers many interesting opportunities for students, including building rocket payloads and CubeSats, and helping to develop and test STEM curricula and other education products. The group also runs a robotic telescope north of campus that can be used over the internet by high school and college students nation-wide. On a personal note, she and her husband, who is also a physicist, live at the Little H-bar Ranch, where they are the servants to four horses, two miniature horses, a three-legged goat, three cats, five chickens, one pheasant, one rabbit and one dog.