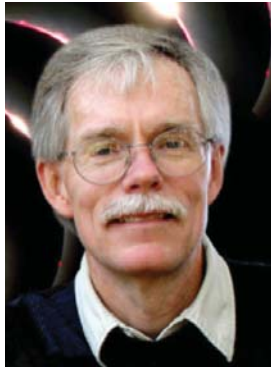


FRED ESPENAK, AKA MR. ECLIPSE, TO SPEAK

By Joe Wright

The Astronomical Society of Kansas City will host Fred Espenak on April 14, 2017, in Royall Hall on the campus of UMKC. He is a retired emeritus American astrophysicist who worked at the Goddard Space Flight Center, though he is best known for his work on eclipse predictions.

Espenak became interested in astronomy when he was seven or eight years old and got his first telescope



when he was around nine or ten years old. All through elementary and high school he maintained his interest in astronomy which led him to a bachelor's degree in physics from Wagner College, Staten Island, N.Y., where he worked in the planetarium. His master's degree is from the University of Toledo in Ohio

and is based on studies he did at Kitt Peak Observatory of eruptive and flare stars among red dwarfs.

He was employed at Goddard Space Flight Center, where he used infrared spectrometers to measure the atmosphere of planets in the Solar System.

The first eclipse he saw was the solar eclipse of March 7, 1970, which sparked his interest in eclipses and he has since seen over 20 eclipses. He created and published NASA's eclipse bulletins series from 1993 to 2009 and authored several canonical works on eclipse predictions, such as the *Fifty Year Canon of Solar Eclipses: 1986–2035* and *Fifty Year Canon of Lunar Eclipses: 1986–2035*, both of which are standard references on eclipses. He is co-author with

Jean Meeus of *Five Millennium Canon of Solar Eclipses*, which covers all types of solar eclipses (partial, total, annular and hybrid) from 2000 BC to AD 3000. He is also a co-author (with Mark Littmann and Ken Willcox) of "Totality: Eclipses of the Sun." He was the co-investigator of an atmospheric experiment flown on Space Shuttle Discovery.

He gives public lectures on eclipses and astrophotography. Astronomical photographs taken by Espenak have been published in the *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, *Nature*, *New Scientist* and *Ciel et Espace*. He retired in 2009. Asteroid 14120 Espenak was named in his honor in 2003.

April 14, 2017

7:00 P.M.

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Royall Hall, Room 111

5200 Charlotte Rd., Kansas City, Mo.

Books available for purchase and signing include: *Eclipse Bulletin: Total Solar Eclipse of 2017 August 21*, by Fred Espenak and Jay Anderson; *Road Atlas for the Total Solar Eclipse of 2017*, by Fred Espenak and *Total Eclipse or Bust! A Family Road Trip*, by Patricia Espenak

The Warkoczewski Observatory will be open following the talk, weather permitting.

This event made possible through a matching fund grant from Missouri Space Grant Consortium.