

## Departments of Physics Colloquium

### CIRCE & MIRADAS: Near-infrared Observing from the World's Largest Telescope

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Friday, September 11, 2015

1:30 – 2:30 PM

Venue: OE 134, MMC



**Abstract:** I will give a brief presentation on two near-infrared instruments developed by the University of Florida for the Gran Telescopio Canarias 10.4-meter telescope. The first of these - the Canarias InfraRed Camera Experiment (CIRCE) - is a near-infrared imager and polarimeter, with low-resolution spectroscopic capabilities. CIRCE has just been commissioned on the GTC. I will review the design and capabilities of CIRCE, as well as our science plans and (very early) results. The second instrument - the Mid-resolution InFRARED Astronomical Spectrograph (MIRADAS) - is a medium resolution ( $R=20,000$ ) near-infrared multi-object spectrograph and spectropolarimeter which has just passed its Final Design Review. I will present the MIRADAS science drivers, design and performance expectations, as well as the project status as we aim for delivery in 2018.

**Biography:** Stephen Eikenberry is a Professor of Astronomy and of Physics at the University of Florida. He earned his PhD in astronomy from Harvard University and was the Fairchild Postdoctoral Prize Fellow in physics at Caltech. He then moved to a faculty position at Cornell University where he was a tenured Associate Professor in astronomy before moving to his current position at UF in 2002. Eikenberry's research interests include black holes, neutron stars, and the development of advanced infrared instrumentation for astronomy.

*The event is free and open to the public.*

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