The Michelson Lecture Series, sponsored by the United States Naval Academy Class of 1969, commemorates the achievements of Albert A. Michelson, Naval Academy graduate Class of 1873 and instructor, and the first American scientist to receive a Nobel Prize. Each year since 1981, a distinguished scientist has come to the Naval Academy to present the Michelson Lecture. This year the Michelson Lecture is hosted by the Physics Department. The Class of 1969 is proud to sponsor this lecture by Professor and Nobel Laureate, Dr. Adam Riess, of Johns Hopkins University.

Michelson Memorial Lecturers

1981 Professor Herbert C. Brown, Nobel Laureate, Purdue University
1982 Professor Charles H. Townes, Nobel Laureate, Univ. of California, Berkeley
1983 Professor Arthur L. Schawlow, Nobel Laureate, Stanford University
1984 Honorable James M. Beggs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
1985 Admiral Grace Hopper, United States Navy
1986 Dr. Ronald L. Graham, Bell Laboratories
1987 Dr. James A. Watson, Nobel Laureate, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
1988 Dr. Stirling A. Colgate, Los Alamos Laboratory
1989 Dr. Robert Ballard, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
1990 Dr. Richard Hamming, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA
1991 Dr. John H. Conway, Princeton University
1992 Dr. Michael F. Shlesinger, Director of Physics, ONR
1993 Dr. Richard E. Smalley, Nobel Laureate, Rice University
1994 Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, NOAA, Chief Scientist and Astronaut
1995 Dr. Arnold Penzias, Nobel Laureate, Bell Laboratories
1996 Dr. Aaron Hauptman, Nobel Laureate, Hauptman-Woodward Research Foundation
1997 Dr. Dudley R. Herschbach, Nobel Laureate, Harvard University
1998 Dr. Leon N. Cooper, Nobel Laureate, Brown University
2000 Dr. Vinton G. Cerf, Senior Vice President of Internet Technology, WorldCom
2001 Dr. David Donoho, Stanford University
2002 Dr. E. Sherwood Rowland, Nobel Laureate, University of California, Irvine
2003 Dr. William D. Phillips, Nobel Laureate, NIST & University of Maryland
2004 Dr. Howard Bluestein, University of Oklahoma
2005 Dr. Jeffrey Weeks, Freelance Mathematician
2006 Dr. James J. Heckman, Nobel Laureate, University of Chicago
2007 Sir Harold W. Kroto, Nobel Laureate, Florida State University
2008 Dr. James Gates, University of Maryland
2009 Dr. Christos Papadimitriou, Univ. of California, Berkeley
2010 Dr. Eric J. Barron, The Florida State University
2011 Dr. Bernd Sturmfels, University of California, Berkeley
2012 Dr. Peter Diamond, Nobel Laureate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2013 Dr. Ada Yonath, Nobel Laureate, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel

United States Naval Academy
34th Annual Michelson Memorial Lecture

“Supernovae Reveal An Accelerating Universe”

Dr. Adam Riess
Thomas J. Barber Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
Johns Hopkins University

Mahan Hall
October 22, 2014
7:15 p.m.

The Lecture is Sponsored by the USNA Class of 1969
**Abstract:** In 1929 Edwin Hubble discovered that our Universe is expanding. Eighty years later, the Space Telescope that bears his name is being used to study an even more surprising phenomenon: that the expansion is speeding up. The origin of this effect is not known, but is broadly attributed to a type of “dark energy” first posited to exist by Albert Einstein and now dominating the mass-energy budget of the Universe. Professor Riess will describe how his team discovered the acceleration of the Universe and why understanding the nature of dark energy presents one of the greatest remaining challenges in astrophysics and cosmology.