

19th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Section of the American Physical Society

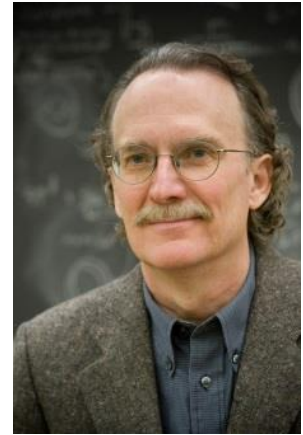
May 31 – June 2, 2018

University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, USA

Banquet details

The conference banquet will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 1, in the Wheelock Student Center Rotunda at the University of Puget Sound.

The after-dinner talk will be given by James Evans, Director of the Program in Science, Technology, & Society and member of the Physics Department at the University of Puget Sound. Professor Evans' research areas are the history of astronomy and of physics, on which he has published 4 books and more than 30 journal articles or book chapters. He is the editor of the *Journal of the History of Astronomy*.



The title of Dr. Evans' talk will be “The Antikythera Mechanism: A Masterpiece of Ancient Astronomy and Engineering.”

He describes the talk as follows:

“The Antikythera mechanism is a gear-work astronomical model and computing machine that was recovered in 1901 from an ancient shipwreck near the Mediterranean island of Antikythera. A wave of recent research has clarified most of its functions. This machine, probably built within a few decades of 200 BCE, recorded time in two calendars (the Egyptian solar calendar and a Greek luni-solar calendar). It displayed the changing positions of the sun and moon in the zodiac as well as the moon's phases. And it predicted the months and times of day of solar and lunar eclipses. Most likely, it also included displays of planetary phenomena. Gear trains provided a natural means of representing astronomical period relations. While the mechanism represents a Greek view of the universe, the underlying mathematics is largely Babylonian. This talk will give an overview of our present understanding of the Antikythera mechanism and will place it in the scientific context of its own day.”