



February 6

David Klumpar, MSU

“Made in Montana by Montana students: MSU’s Earth-orbiting satellites”

Undergraduate and graduate students at MSU are designing, building, testing and operating Earth-orbiting satellites through a unique program in MSU’s Space Science and Engineering Laboratory that prepares them for high-tech careers following graduation. Montana’s first satellite, which has been in orbit since Oct. 28, 2011, passes over MSU several times each day, allowing student operators to communicate with the satellite, via radio, from a tracking station in Cobleigh Hall.

David Klumpar, research professor of physics at MSU and director of the space lab, will describe the satellite program that provides specialized training for hundreds of MSU students to turn them into tomorrow’s scientists and engineers.

Klumpar earned a PhD in physics from the University of New Hampshire after receiving bachelor’s and master’s degrees in physics from the University of Iowa. After a 35-year career conducting experimental investigations of particle acceleration and loss mechanisms in Earth’s geospace, Klumpar took early retirement from the Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center in Palo Alto, CA, in late 2000 and returned to academia. He is currently on an extended temporary assignment to NASA Headquarters where he serves as program scientist for NASA’s Magnetospheric Multiscale Mission.