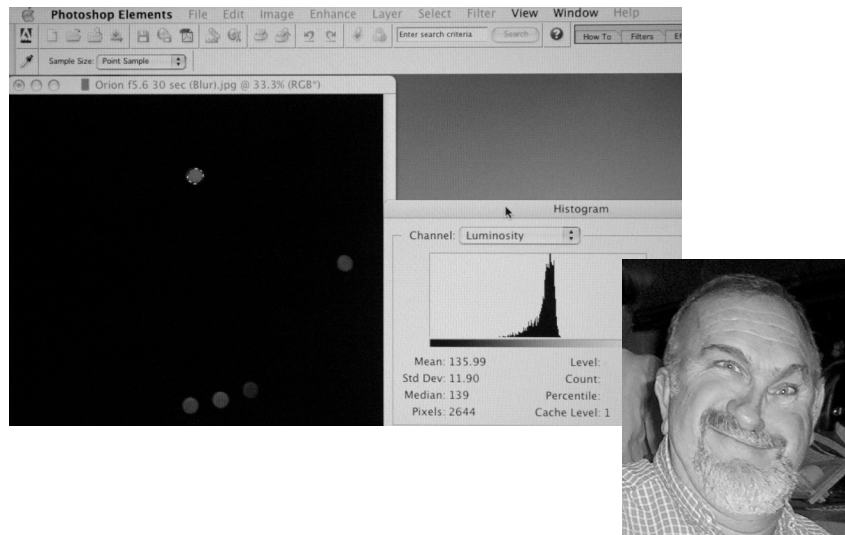


Physics Department Seminar

Friday March 4th, 2005

11:00am in PhSc 105

“Stellar Photometry with a Digital Camera”



Mr. Scott Perry

Chief Astronomer

Forest Ranch International Observatory

Abstract:

A digital camera can be used to get quantitative data on the brightness of stars in three, color bandwidths. The individual pixels in the camera's CCD can be read out using the histogram function in the Adobe PhotoShop program. With this data it is possible to determine: the relative magnitude of two or more stars, the temperature of the stars, the so-called 'light curve' for an eclipsing binary like Algol, and even the approximate distance to a star using some rather naïve assumptions.