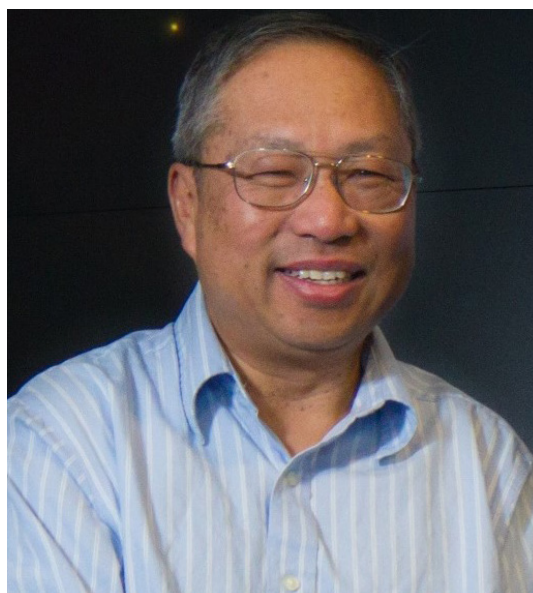




DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
SPEAKER SERIES

*The Physics of Thin Air: Tracking
the Aurora and Related Weather
Phenomena in Space*

Andrew Yau
University of Calgary



Thursday, Feb 7
1:40-2:55PM
D632

Everyone welcome!

Ever wonder why comets have a long comet tail? And ever wonder if our planet is gaining or losing “weight” (its mass)? In this talk, we will explore the fascinating link between these two topics using two basic laws of physics - the law of gravity, and Gauss’s law of magnetism. We will examine if space is indeed empty, and how the Earth’s upper atmosphere and magnetic field respond to the Sun’s electromagnetic

and particle radiation. We will discuss how the resulting web of space weather phenomena, including the aurora, magnetic reconnection and space storms affect our increasingly technology-dependent society.

University of
Lethbridge

