Thursday April 12, 2012
7:30pm
Tate Laboratory of Physics, Room #150, 116 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

“How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming”

Mike Brown
Professor of Planetary Astronomy
California Institute of Technology

Dear UM Alumni and Friends,

Our new Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics would like to welcome you to a most exciting evening with Professor of Planetary Astronomy at the California Institute of Technology, Mike Brown. Professor Brown specializes in the discovery and study of bodies at the edge of the solar system. Among his numerous scientific accomplishments, he is best known for his discovery of Eris, the largest object found in the solar system in 150 years, and the object which led to the debate and eventual demotion of Pluto from a real planet to a dwarf planet. Feature articles about Brown and his work have appeared in the New Yorker, the New York Times, and Discover. In 2006 he was named one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People. He has authored over 100 scientific papers, and at Caltech he teaches undergraduate and graduate students, in classes ranging from introductory geology to the formation and evolution of the solar system. He recently received the Richard P. Feynman Award for Outstanding Teaching at Caltech.

The Kaufmanis Lecture is presented in memory of beloved Professor of Astronomy Karlis Kaufmanis. One of the U’s greatest teachers, he taught more than 26,000 students and is often remembered for his popular “Star of Bethlehem” lectures. Professor Kaufmanis’ enthusiasm for astronomy affected everyone who came into contact with him. The Kaufmanis Lecture Series brings distinguished scientists to the campus to provide public lectures on the latest hot topics in research.

In conjunction with the Kaufmanis Lecture, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics. Replacing the former Department of Astronomy, the new Institute brings together 24 faculty members of the School of Physics and Astronomy conducting research in astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology, planetary science, and space science under a unified association of scientists. We look forward to celebrating and seeing all of you at this year’s exciting lecture!

Ad astra—to the stars
Robert Gehrz, Director

Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics