

James Schombert

PROFESSOR of PHYSICS

University of Oregon

Email Correspondence

March 14 – 19, 2015

PREFACE

Most of Professor Schombert's classes are in astronomy or cosmology. Among the reasons Schombert was on my recipient list is that he teaches at the University in my home town, and I found his webpages informative and lighthearted:

abyss.uoregon.edu/~js/

For kicks, I recently looked up Schombert on the "rate my professors" website. Evidently his students' impressions are consistent with the one I got from his brief reply to my email. One student described Schombert as "rude and belittling." A slew of "Awful" ratings were similarly critical.

Oh well.

To: jschombe@uoregon.edu
From: Richard J Benish <rjbenish@comcast.net>
Subject: Galileo's Gravity Experiment
Attachments: <Galileo's-Belated-Experiment.pdf> <Mr-Natural-Says-LR.pdf>

Dear Professor Schombert,

I hope you find the attached documents to be within your scope of interest.

I'd be grateful for any feedback.

Thanks for your good work.

Sincerely,

Richard Benish

Subject: Re: Galileo's Gravity Experiment
To: Richard J Benish <rjbenish@comcast.net>
From: James Schombert <jschombe@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 30 Dec 2015 23:45:27 -0800

Oddly, I didn't find it interesting at all.

To: James Schombert <jschombe@gmail.com>
From: Richard J Benish <rjbenish@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Galileo's Gravity Experiment
Attachments:

Dear Professor Schombert,

Not that the opinions of others should make any difference, but you may nevertheless be interested to know that Harvard Professor Gerald Holton replied:

"Nice...a very charming article."

Other reputable scholars have also replied positively.

If you found it uninteresting then I find it curious that you should have been affected enough to feel motivated to share your negativity.

Cheers,

Richard Benish

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James Schombert



Professor of Physics

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[Website](#)

ACADEMIC AREAS: Observational Cosmology

Teaching Philosophy

The goal of my courses is to provide honors college students with an overview of the current state of modern physics and astronomy. The most active fields at the start of the 21st century are quantum physics and cosmology. However, my courses are not designed to turn you into an active researcher, but rather expose you to the concepts and terminology, at a high enough level, to pursue your own questions or recognize issues in the media. There is no requirement of advanced math or science other than what was taught in your high school.

Past Courses

[HC 207H 21st Century Science](#)

[HC 441H The History of Space Flight](#)

[HC 441H Cosmology](#)

Academic Background

Ph.D., Astronomy, Yale, 1984

B.S., Astronomy, University of Maryland, 1979

Research Interests & Current Projects

Professor Schombert is an observational astronomer whose research focuses on galaxy evolution and formation, as well as topics in cosmology. His recent papers have involved the star formation history of low surface brightness galaxies, the structure of ellipticals, and the baryonic and dark matter content of galaxies.

Scholarship & fellowship opportunities

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