



The Research Scholars in Residence Program
at Cal Poly

is pleased to present a

Lecture

for the University and Local Community.

There's More to a Solar Eclipse Than Darkness

by **George A. Alers**
Research Scholar in Residence

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 7:00pm
Cal Poly Kennedy Library
Bldg. 35, Room 510-B

Light refreshments will be served.

This lecture describes the experiences and observations of the speaker during the 2010 eclipse that could be seen in totality only over a path that crossed the south Pacific from Tahiti to Easter Island. It was a long way to go to experience the darkness of a total solar eclipse for only about 4 minutes. However, the whole process actually took over two hours so there was ample time to observe the actions of over 200 amateur astronomers lined up on the beach fussing with their portable telescopes and cameras.

As the sun went out, the stars came out, the animals settled in for the night, the temperature dropped and the sun itself turned into a black disc surrounded by the shining luminescence of the corona. The entire expedition took a week so there was ample time to enjoy relaxing on a South Pacific island and observing the daily life of the local natives separate from the usual tourist mob.

Dr. Alers received his PhD from the University of Iowa. His thesis work used ultrasonics to study the properties of metals. In addition to being an amateur astronomer, he currently is using novel ultrasonic techniques to locate corrosion damage in buried gas pipelines.

Sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Programs.