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# HONORS AND AWARDS BANQUET

## Skyline Room, Trinity University

### April 22, 2009

## **"Threats and Opportunities of Near-Earth Objects Striking the Earth"** **by James D. Walker, Ph.D.**

- **Social Time:** 6:00 p.m.
- **Dinner:** 6:40 p.m.  
(Italian Buffet with Two entrees)
- **Scholarship Awards:** 7:15 p.m.
- **Keynote Address:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Section Awards:** 8:00 p.m.

**COST: \$15: Members and their Guests**  
**\$7: Students**

The annual Honors and Awards Meeting is the meeting where the section recognizes the winners of the Alamo Area Regional Science Fair Junior and Senior award winners, presents scholarships to ME students at UTSA and Trinity University, recognizes members of the section for their service, and introduces the section officers for the next year.

This year we are especially pleased to have a keynote address by Dr. James Walker, who is the winner of the prestigious ASME Holley Medal, on a subject of timely interest. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has been directed by Congress to assess the threat to the earth from the impact of comets, asteroids, and other near-earth astronomical objects. Dr. Walker, an Institute Scientist at Southwest Research Institute, was a member of a SwRI group that provided information to NASA on possible ways to change the trajectories of these objects through conventional methods so as to mitigate the threat of impact. In this talk, Dr. Walker will discuss this information as well as collaborative work with Los Alamos National Laboratory and computational methods of assessing the threats.

Dr. James Walker has worked for twenty years in the field of impact physics. He received a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Utah in 1988 at a very young age. He has won awards for the best papers at numerous technical conferences. In October 2004, *Popular Science* recognized him as one of the ten young "brilliant scientists to watch". ASME awarded Dr. Walker the 2005 Holley Medal for his research on the causes of the *Columbia* space shuttle accident, and he was the author of one of the main chapters in the NASA report on this disaster. Dr. Walker also serves on the Board of Directors for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.