



American Chemical Society Southern Arizona Section



Dinner meeting

October 29, 2024

Social Session: 6 pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Talk: 7:30 pm

El Charro Café Downtown
311 N. Court Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85701



OSIRIS-REx:

Unveiling the Secrets of Asteroid Bennu Through Sample Analysis

Dr. Dante S. Lauretta

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The OSIRIS-REx mission, NASA's first asteroid sample return mission, has successfully delivered pristine material from asteroid Bennu to Earth. This mission marks a major milestone in planetary science, providing us with a unique opportunity to study a near-Earth object up close. In this talk, I will discuss the journey of OSIRIS-REx, from launch to sample recovery, and provide insights into the latest findings from the analysis of Bennu's material. These samples hold critical clues about the formation of our solar system, the delivery of organic compounds to Earth, and potentially the origins of life itself. I will also explore how the data from Bennu will inform future missions and enhance our understanding of planetary defense and the role of asteroids in the solar system's evolution.

