MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | College of LETTERS & SCIENCE

Physics Colloquium

Friday, April 29, 2022
4:10 – 5:00 PM
Barnard Hall 103

The Eclipse Soundscapes Projects: How ARISA Lab is making science more inclusive, accessible, and engaging for everyone

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ARISA lab

Abstract:
NASA has a strong focus on ensuring that their programs reach out to diverse populations. Yet in 2017 there were no plans to provide NASA content or information on the upcoming total solar eclipse in a way that was accessible to people who were blind and low-vision (BLV). With a plan to have members of the BLV community be active participants in an eclipse, the Eclipse Soundscapes team partnered with NASA to build a mobile application using universal design of learning principles to make the eclipse exciting and engaging for sighted and non-sighted users. Using the original Eclipse Soundscapes mobile application project as a template, the ARISA Lab was formed to build upon the lessons learned in 2017 and create even more inclusive and accessible tools and experiences. Eclipse Soundscapes remains an important part of ARISA's portfolio, with a new bilingual version of the original mobile app being the new lab's first project. ARISA Lab is also partnering with NASA to create the *Eclipse Soundscapes: Citizen Science Project* which will engage both sighted and non-sighted participants to work together, on equal footing, to perform meaningful scientific research on how eclipses in 2023 & 2024 will affect wildlife populations across the US. In this talk we will be discussing the strategies used to overcome the challenges of making astronomical events accessible and why making accessible experiences is important to everyone, not just people who have been labeled as disabled.

Host:
Shannon Willoughby

**** Refreshments served in the Barnard second floor atrium at 3:45 ****