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### Dr. James Van Allen, noted physicist, to lecture at University of Montana August 6

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# NEWS

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DR. JAMES VAN ALLEN, NOTED PHYSICIST,  
TO LECTURE AT UM AUG. 6

MISSOULA--

World-famous physicist Dr. James Van Allen will give a lecture entitled "Exploring the Planets" at the University of Montana Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The lecture, part of the UM Summer Session, will begin at 8 p.m. in Room 215 of the UM Women's Center. The public may attend free of charge.

Dr. Van Allen, a native of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, was graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, and received both his master's degree and his doctorate in physics from the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

He worked for three years at the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C., and was then appointed a physicist in the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Van Allen served in the U.S. Navy and then returned to Johns Hopkins, where he became supervisor of high altitude research. He began working in rocketry and cosmic rays, doing his first experiments with a captured German V-2 rocket.

He led three expeditions for cosmic-radiation study, to Peru in 1949, to the Gulf of Alaska in 1950 and to Greenland in 1952. He has also participated in several other expeditions.

In 1951 Van Allen was named professor of physics at the University of Iowa, where he is now head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. There he began to direct work on the basic design of the Explorer rockets, the first American series. He also headed the development of the cosmic-ray recording device which, aboard the Explorer satellite and the Pioneer space probes, revealed the existence of two Van Allen Radiation Belts.

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DR. VAN ALLEN--2--

The radiation belts are bands of charged particles which encircle the earth, one at an altitude ranging from 600-3,000 miles above the equator, the other ranging from 6,000-50,000 miles high. The particles which make up the bands are believed to originate in solar radiation trapped by the earth's magnetic field.

Dr. Van Allen was also instrumental in the organization of the International Geophysical Year, which was devoted to study of the physics of the earth, and participated in its earth satellite program.

In 1958 he was appointed to the Space Science Board of the National Research Council, which was established to survey problems and progress of U.S. space research.

The physicist is also known for development of the rockoon, a rocket which is elevated high above the earth by a balloon before being fired.

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