

Duncan Lorimer FRS

*Eberly Distinguished Chair for Academic
Excellence*

West Virginia University



The Brightest Pulses in the Universe

Almost two decades ago a group at WVU including a freshman discovered the first example of a new cosmic phenomenon now known as fast radio bursts (FRBs). While the precise origins of FRBs are still unknown, as I describe in this talk, they are likely to be linked to powerful events on or in the vicinity of neutron stars. FRBs are now being used as insightful probes of the large-scale structure of the Universe. In this talk, I recount the story of the discovery and highlight the role of serendipity in science while looking ahead to the future of this field.

What: C. Eugene Bennett Department of
Chemistry In-House Symposium Plenary

When: Wednesday, November 5th, 2025
4:40-5:40 pm

Where: Clark Hall 208