Public lecture
Using space science and technology to help solve energy and environmental problems on Earth
4 p.m., April 23, 100 Lindquist Hall

Scientific lecture
Propellantless propulsion: Propelling spacecraft using the natural environments of space
2 p.m., April 22, 128 Jabara Hall

Les Johnson is the technical adviser for NASA’s Advanced Concepts Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. There he serves as the principal investigator of the Near Earth Asteroid Scout solar sail mission. He is an author of several popular science books, including “Solar Sails: A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel”; has appeared on numerous documentaries on The Science Channel, NatGEO and PBS; and was featured in the January 2013 issue of National Geographic.