

# **Supermassive Black Holes: Sculpting the Universe**

Michael DiPompeo  
University of Wyoming

Nearly every galaxy harbors a monstrous black hole at its core – including our own! To get so massive, these black holes go through periods of intense growth, energetic events that fire up their surroundings to luminosities greater than billions of Suns. Over the past 50 years astronomers have worked hard to understand these colossal galactic cores, better known as quasars. I will discuss our current model of quasars, the link between quasar activity and galaxy evolution, and my role in using large new datasets to continue unraveling the mystery of growing black holes.