



# Beyond the Bubble

In December 2013, Edward C. Stone, Caltech's David Morrisroe Professor of Physics, paid a visit to *The Colbert Report*, a late-night television show on Comedy Central. He was there to talk about a historic milestone for the Voyager mission: the NASA spacecraft had traveled beyond the solar magnetic "bubble" and entered interstellar space. Stone has served as project scientist for the mission, now in its 37th year, since its inception. As an expert on travel beyond the solar system, he was able to answer host Stephen Colbert's questions with ease. Nonetheless, Colbert was able to catch him off guard in the final segment when, dressed like an astronaut, he presented Stone with the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal (pictured above). "I was on the Colbert Report to talk about what I think of as humankind's greatest—and certainly most extensive—journey of exploration, and I certainly didn't expect the host to hand me an award," says Stone, who is also a former director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "That surprise on my face was real." The medal is the highest honor for a nongovernment individual. Video segments of the show can be viewed by searching the words Ed Stone at [colbertnation.com](http://colbertnation.com).

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