



JOHN J. REILLY CENTER

SCIENCE · TECHNOLOGY · VALUES

453 Geddes Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556
Phone: 574-631-5015
Email: reilly@nd.edu

Lecture

Jennifer Wiseman

Astrophysicist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Cosmic Discoveries: Galaxies, Planets, and Life Beyond Earth

Tuesday, November 4th
4:30-6:00pm • 310 DeBartolo Hall



Recent advances in telescope technology have opened incredible new vistas for observing the universe. We are now discovering phenomena only just imagined a few years ago: planets by the thousands outside our solar system, and even a universe being pushed apart by a force only vaguely understood as "dark energy". Remarkably, the entire history of the universe shows a majestic progression toward the transformation of energy into heavier elements and environments needed for advanced life. Here, science meets philosophy: is life rare, significant, or an expected outcome of cosmic history? I will present the latest discoveries from the Hubble Space Telescope and other observatories, and discuss the responses of philosophers, scientists, and religious communities to the uncovering of a beautiful universe seemingly poised for life.

Dr. Jennifer Wiseman is a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she serves as the Senior Project Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope. She previously headed the Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics. She studies star forming regions of our galaxy using radio, optical, and infrared telescopes, with a particular interest in molecular cloud cores, protostars, and outflows. Dr. Wiseman is also the Director of the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program.

This Lecture is Sponsored by the IBM Fund, the College of Science and the Reilly Center
For more information, please contact the Reilly Center at reilly@nd.edu