

The Heavens Declare

A free lecture sponsored by The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science and the Messiah College Honors Program

Featured speaker: Dr. Joan Centrella, astrophysicist

Exploring the cosmos with modern telescopes reveals a dynamic universe, filled with many billions of galaxies, stars, and planets. While these marvelous discoveries can deepen our faith and awe at God's creativity, power, and faithfulness, some Christians find that science poses challenges to their faith. We'll talk about the intersection of science and faith through the eyes of astronomy.

Tuesday, 5 March 2019, at 7:00 pm

Location: Parmer Hall, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA. [Directions](#) and [campus map](#). Parmer Hall is inside the High Center, building #5 near the railroad tracks on the edge of campus. Guests may park in the lot just outside the main entrance, or along the tracks.



Dr. Joan Centrella is a scientist, scientific leader, and administrator whose career spans academia and a large government lab. Her scientific research uses new methods and approaches to explore the development of structure in the universe and gravitational waves produced by the merger of two black holes. While still an active researcher, she recently stepped into leadership and management, motivated by the desire to work strategically in shaping priorities and organizations, and serving the scientific community on a broader scale.

Deeply committed to improving the opportunities and climate for women in science, Joan developed and led the Women in Astrophysics Roundtable, providing a safe environment to discuss difficult issues such as harassment in the workplace. She also has a passion for enabling the next generation of leaders, particularly women. In 2013, she received the Robert H. Goddard Exceptional Achievement Award for Mentoring, for “demonstrated commitment to mentoring women scientists at all stages of their careers, which has resulted in a positive and supportive environment for all.”

The author of many scientific publications who has served on numerous professional panels and advisory boards, in 2007 Joan was awarded the NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal “for ground-breaking work in the simulation of gravitational wave signals from merging black holes.” In December 2017, her team’s work on black hole mergers was highlighted as an important milestone by Kip Thorne in his lecture for the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics.

A strong, committed Christian, Joan’s personal faith informs the spirit of her work. As a scientist, she enjoys the privilege of exploring God’s creation. She is a member and fellow of the American Scientific Affiliation, the oldest organization of Christian scientists in North America.

The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis (tdavis@messiah.edu), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.