

Our Unexpected Universe

5th Annual F. K. Edmondson Astronomy Public Lecture



Professor Wendy Freedman
The University of Chicago

Wednesday November 8, 2017, 7:30pm
Rawles Hall 100



Cosmology in recent decades has been undergoing a revolution. We live in a universe that is about 14 billion years old and that is expanding with time. Astronomers have identified the major constituents of the universe, revealing major surprises. The universe is filled with dark matter that emits no light and with energy that permeates all of space, causing its expansion to speed up with time. New giant telescopes planned for the next decade are likely to reveal more surprises. In her lecture, Professor Freedman will describe these exciting advances.

Professor Wendy Freedman

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Wendy Freedman is the John & Marion Sullivan University Professor of Astronomy & Astrophysics in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at The University of Chicago and the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics. Her research is in observational cosmology (measures of the expansion rate of the universe using the Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope and the ground-based Magellan telescope). Her current projects involve measurements of the Hubble constant -- the current expansion rate, as well as the past expansion rate, providing constraints on the acceleration of the universe and dark energy. Her other fields of interest are the stellar populations of galaxies, the evolution of galaxies, and the initial mass function.

Professor Freedman received her Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Toronto. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society, and an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Physical Society. In 2009 she was awarded the prestigious Gruber Cosmology Prize and in 2016 she was the recipient of American Astronomical Society/American Institute of Physics Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics.

Previous Edmondson Lecturers:

- 2016 Josh Winn
- 2015 Kathryn Johnston
- 2014 Martha Haynes
- 2013 David Morrison

The annual F. K. Edmondson Astronomy Public Lectures were established to honor the memory of Professor Frank Kelly Edmondson, a faculty member of the Department of Astronomy at Indiana University from 1937 until his retirement in 1983, and as Chair of the Department from 1944 until 1978. Professor Edmondson is remembered not only for his contributions to the study of asteroids through the Indiana Asteroid Program, but also for his dedication and service to Indiana University and to the astronomical community. The Edmondson Lectures are endowed in honor of Professor Edmondson by his family and friends.