



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STEVENS POINT

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017

TIME 7:00 pm

Room TNR 170

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE



Dr. Rosaly Lopes

Manager, Planetary Science Section

Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Harlow Shapley Lecturer



The Cassini Mission to Saturn and its Moons

ABSTRACT: The Cassini-Huygens mission has been orbiting Saturn since 2004, making new discoveries about Saturn's atmosphere, rings, and its many moons. Cassini carried a probe, Huygens, which landed on Saturn's largest moon Titan, revealing its surface for the first time. As we come to the end of the mission in September 2017, Cassini is orbiting closer to Saturn, and it will finally dive into the planet. This talk will review the many discoveries made by the mission and its international team of scientists, from ice volcanism on the moon Enceladus to the earth-like landscape of the haze-covered moon Titan.

Dr. Rosaly M. C. Lopes is a Senior Research Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she is also Manager of Planetary Science Section. She obtained a B.Sc. in Astronomy (1978) and Ph.D. in Physics (planetary science, 1986) at University College London (University of London), UK. Her research expertise is on planetary geology and volcanology and she has studied Mars, Io, and Titan. She was a member of Galileo's Near-Infrared Mapping Spectrometer team from 1991-2003 and has been the Investigation Scientist for the Cassini Titan Radar Mapper since 2003. Her service experience includes being Chair of the Division for Planetary Sciences of the AAS (2012-2013), Chair of the IAU's Outer Solar System Task Group (since 2006). She is a Fellow of the AAAS and GSA and has, among other awards, the Carl Sagan Medal from the DPS (2005) and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal (2007).

Dr. Lopes' visit to our campus is financially supported by the American Astronomical Society through the Harlow Shapley Lectureship Program, by the College of Letters and Science of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point through an Enhancement Grant, and by the UWSP Department of Physics and Astronomy.