



# PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM

## Dr. David Gerdes

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### **“The Coolest Place in the Solar System: Opportunistic Science with the Dark Energy Survey”**

#### Abstract

The Dark Energy Survey is in the middle of a five-year mission to map one-eighth of the sky with unprecedented area and depth using the 4-meter Blanco telescope in Chile. The main goal of the survey is to understand the accelerating expansion of the Universe by imaging hundreds of millions of galaxies and thousands of Type Ia supernovae. But to collect these data we must look out through our own galaxy and Solar System. I'll present early results from the survey, and show how an instrument intended to see halfway across the Universe can be turned into a powerful discovery tool for objects much closer to home.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

3:00 p.m.

Elliott Building

Room 167