

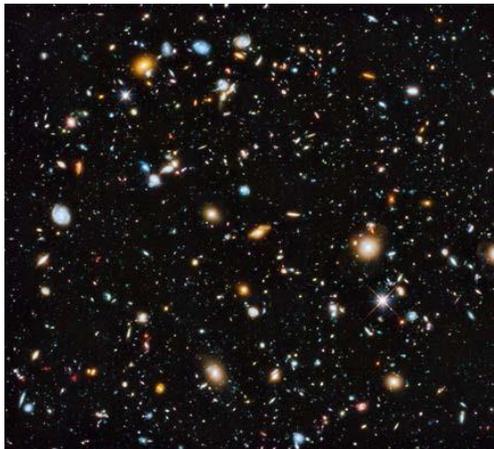


Emera Astronomy Center
and M. F. Jordan Planetarium

A Walk Among Giants: Building the Largest Galaxies in the Universe

Thursday, September 1 at 7:00 PM

Most of the visible matter in the Universe is contained within a relatively small fraction of very massive galaxies. Understanding how these galaxies develop over time is therefore one of the key astrophysical questions today. The answer lies not only in weighing the mysterious quantities known as dark matter and dark energy, but also in understanding how matter and radiation interact, particularly during energetic events such as star formation, galaxy collisions, and the formation of supermassive black holes. This presentation will explore observations from the most powerful telescopes in the world are revealing about the origins of the largest galaxies in the Universe and what we have yet to learn. A variety of immersive full-dome visualizations and real-time datasets will be used to showcase galaxies and large-scale structure of the universe. This program is in partnership with the Maine Science Festival.



Dr. McGrath obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii in 2007. Her thesis, entitled, “Formation and Evolution of Massive Galaxies and AGN in the Early Universe,” investigated the link between black hole activity and the growth of the most massive galaxies in the Universe. Dr. McGrath is a leader in the Cosmic Assembly Near-infrared Deep Extragalactic Legacy Survey (CANDELS), which is the largest sky imaging survey ever carried out by the Hubble Space Telescope, and she is working with colleagues to help define the science goals for the future Thirty Meter Telescope in Hawaii. In 2012, Dr. McGrath joined the faculty of Colby College as the Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy. She is an avid outdoor enthusiast, and spends much of her free time hiking, backpacking, and kayaking around Maine and other parts of the country.

Tickets are available online at <http://astro.umaine.edu>, by phone at 581-1341, or at the door, and seating is limited to 50.

