

Brevard Community College Newsroom

BCC Space and Astronomy Lecture Series Presents

January 26, 2011

Media Contact: Purvette Bryant, (321) 433-7091, bryantp@brevardcc.edu.

The BCC Space and Astronomy Lecture series on Feb. 11 will feature astronomy expert Dr. Rafael Guzman and the topic "Gran Telescopio de Canarias": First Light of The Largest Optical Telescope On Earth" at the Brevard Community College Planetarium and Observatory.

The event is part of the BCC Space and Astronomy Lecture Series, which is partially provided for by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council. The series is held every second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. during the 2010-11 academic year. The lecture is free and open to the public. The BCC Planetarium and Observatory is located on the college's Cocoa campus at 1519 Clearlake Road.

Guzman, Chairman of the University of Florida Astronomy Department, will talk about the Gran Telescopio de Canarias and the new generation of large ground-based observatories that have opened up a new era of discoveries in astronomy. The University of Florida and a consortium of institutions from Spain and Mexico built the GTC.

During this seminar, Guzman will describe the general characteristics of the state-of-the-art telescope, and the University of Florida's primary contributions to the telescope's world-class instrumentation. He will present the first scientific results of the universe from its beginning to the detection of new planets.

Guzman's main area of research is galaxy evolution over cosmological timescales. He has been awarded several prestigious positions, including a "Hubble Fellowship" at Yale University and a "Distinguished Professorship" at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He graduated with a degree in Physics and Astronomy from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain, and obtained a doctorate degree at the University of Durham in England.

Fiorella Terenzi, BCC Physics and Astronomy Professor, is the host and event director of the lecture series.

"Our BCC Space and Astronomy Lecture Series targets the latest and newest discoveries in space and astronomy, aiming straight to the heart and minds of everyone," Terenzi said. "The facts and mysteries of the Universe make it the most powerful tool for human growth and development."

Other events in the series include the following:

- Mar. 11, 2011 - "President John F. Kennedy and the American Space Program," by Dr. John Logsdon, Professor Emeritus of Political Science and International Affairs, The George Washington University.
- April 8, 2011 - "An Evening at the Edge of the Universe," by Dr. James Webb, Director, SARA Observatory, and Physics Professor at the Florida Atlantic University Department of Physics. John Serrie, special guest composer and producer, will perform a live concert under the stars in the Planetarium dome.

For more information, visit www.brevardcc.edu/AstroLectures or call Terenzi at (321) 433-7653