

# Physics Department Colloquium

## **“Astronomy, Physics, and Public Policy: Scientists Must Work With Washington”**

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The economy is in a meltdown and yet apparently times could not be better for scientists supported by government funding. Although the future is uncertain, the recent passage of the stimulus bill and (final) passage of the FY 2009 budget bode well for research in astronomy and physics. But physical scientists cannot sit back and let Washington drive science policy. Nor can we expect that the value of basic research is understood by policy makers, we must continually bring this message forward to them and the public. I will detail how science policy is developed, how funding levels are set and, most importantly, how scientists, in just minutes a month, can have a positive impact on this complex and befuddling system that we call representative democracy.

**Thursday, April 9, 2009  
4:00 PM in 102 JFB  
Refreshments at 3:30 PM in 219 JFB**