Physics Colloquium

John E. La Tourette Hall (FW) 200

Friday, October 19, 2012

Refreshments - 3:00 p.m.

Colloquium 3:30 pm

Dr. Jason Steffen

Fermilab

Exoplanet Science from NASA’s Kepler Mission

NASA’s exoplanet mission is the world's premier instrument for the discovery and study of planets orbiting distant stars. As the nominal mission comes to a close, Kepler has discovered nearly 2500 planet candidates, confirmed dozens of multi-planet systems, provided important insights into the orbital architectures of planetary systems, identified specific systems that challenge theories of planet formation and dynamical evolution, has revolutionized our understanding of stellar interiors, and is gearing to measure the frequency of Earth-like planets in the habitable zones of Sun-like stars in its extended mission phase. I present the most recent results from the Kepler mission.