



**ASTROPHYSICS
SEMINAR SERIES**

**"Small Stars with Small Planets
and Big Consequences"**

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**Monday, March 25, 2013
Refreshments at 3:30pm in CAS 500
Talk begins at 4:00pm in CAS 502**

Abstract:

The field of extrasolar planets is rapidly evolving. The quest to discover ever more and ever smaller exoplanets has pushed the field in two primary directions: 1) toward a comprehensive assessment of the frequency and statistics of various types of exoplanets--used to constrain planet formation and evolution theories--and 2) toward characterizing the composition, atmosphere and evolution of individual exoplanets as though they were planets in our own Solar System. I will discuss the importance of low-mass stars in this context, emphasizing the phenomenal results from the NASA's Kepler Mission, and our efforts to characterize individual terrestrial exoplanets orbiting low-mass stars with existing and novel ground-based instrumentation.