Space Physics & Astrophysics Seminar

Thursday, March 16, 2016

Exploring the Solar System with the James Webb Space Telescope

John Stansberry

STScI

JWST is scheduled for launch in October, 2018, with science operations beginning in May, 2019. Observatory hardware is nearly complete. Testing and integration of the major subsystems (Telescope, Instrument Module, Spacecraft, Sunshield) is well underway. An end-to-end optical test of the telescope plus instruments will occur at Johnson Space Flight Center later this year. With a 6.5m diameter primary mirror cooled to 50K, the observatory will offer unparalleled sensitivity in the near- and mid-IR, in a variety of imaging and spectrographic modes. While some solar system targets are so bright they will be a challenge to observe, JWST will be capable of exploring the composition and thermophysical properties of asteroids, comets and trans-Neptunian objects at a completely new level of detail. I will provide a brief summary of the project status, outline some potential applications to solar system science, and briefly discuss some aspects of JWST general observer proposing.

C·S·P

I·A·R

4:00pm in CAS 502. *Refreshments served at 3:45pm in CAS 500.*

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Center for Space Physics
725 Commonwealth Avenue
617-353-5990
http://www.bu.edu/csp/edoutreach/seminar/

Next Week

Carlos Martinis
Boston University