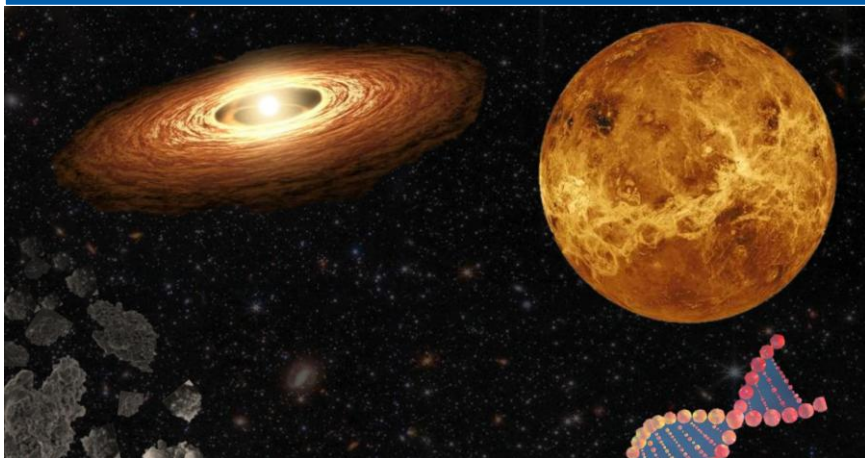


Kentucky SkyTalk



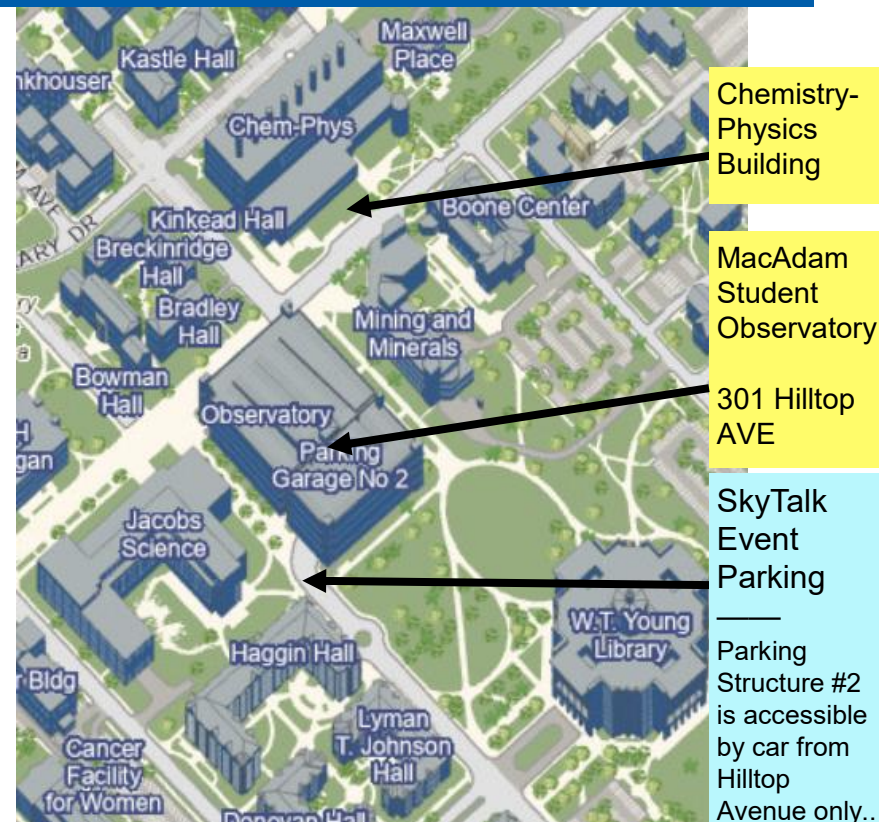
Dr. Chamani M. Gunasekera
[University of Kentucky](#)

Thursday – December 11, 2025 7:00 PM
Location: Chem-Phys Room 153

**Title: How Cosmic Grains Gave Us Stars,
Planets, and Life**

Abstract: Cosmic dust grains are a crucial component in many areas of astronomy, including exoplanet and star-formation studies. They provide sites for the formation of some of the most complex molecules in the interstellar medium (ISM), giving rise to the chemical building blocks of life. Dust grains also influence their surroundings by heating nearby gas, thereby affecting star-formation rates, and they are believed to condense and aggregate to form planetary bodies. This talk will walk you through what we currently know about cosmic dust grains, how they influence the cosmos, and the many mysteries that are yet to be solved.

How to find the MacAdam Student Observatory



Monthly Meetings

The MSO hosts monthly public-observing sessions, each with a kick-off 50 minute presentation in the Chemistry-Physics Building. The presentations will take place even on cloudy nights. If the sky is clear, the observatory will open after the talk! Can't make the SkyTalk? Then come after!

[301 Hilltop Ave, Lexington KY 40506](#)

[December 2025 All Sky Chart](#)

[Zoom Link](#)
[YouTube Link](#)