The Department of Physics is proud to announce the inaugural lecture of

The Frances E. Walker Lecture Series

Three Decades of Explosive High Energy Transients

Dr Chryssa Kouveliotou, NASA Marshal Space Flight Center

Gamma-Ray Bursts are the most brilliant explosions in space. The first GRB was discovered in 1967, over 40 years ago. It took several years and multiple generations of space and ground instruments to unravel some of the mysteries of this phenomenon. However, many questions remain open today. I will discuss the history, evolution and current status of the GRB field and its contributions in our understanding of the transient high energy sky. Finally, I will describe how GRBs can be utilized in future missions as tools, to probe the cosmic chemical evolution of the Universe and the star formation rates.

When:

Thursday, January 17th, 2013
4:00 pm

Where:

Corcoran Hall 101
725 21st Street, NW

About the Speaker:

Chryssa Kouveliotou currently leads a research group at the Marshal Space Flight Center studying gamma-ray bursts and magnetars. She is a co-investigator of the Gamma-ray Burst Monitor on the Fermi Observatory, and a member of many national and international scientific collaborations and missions. She has been the Director of the Huntsville Universities Space Research Association and co-founded the co-operative agreement between the Universities of Alabama Consortium and Marshal Space Flight Center.

Dr Kouveliotou received her Diploma in Physics in 1975 from the University of Athens, Greece, her Master of Science in Astrophysics in 1977 from the University of Sussex, England, and earned her PhD in Astrophysics from the Technical University of Munich and the Max Plank Institute of Extraterrestrial Physics in 1981. She has been a NASA civil servant since 2004.