

# Ruckman Public Lecture

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**Friday, October 23, 7:30 p.m. CDT**

Zoom Webinar: <https://unl.zoom.us/j/98232304789>



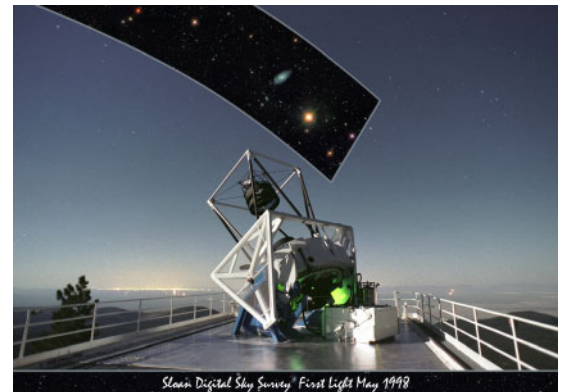
*Stars, Galaxies, and the History of the Universe:  
Two Decades (and Counting!) of Exploration  
with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey*

## **Gail Zasowski**

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**ABSTRACT:** The stars in the night sky have inspired questions about our place in the Universe throughout recorded history. The invention of the telescope showed us that the stars visible to the naked eye merely hint at the vast tapestry of stars within our own Galaxy. As telescope design has advanced, energy signatures invisible to the human senses have been revealed.

We now know that there are billions of stars in our galaxy, billions of galaxies in our Universe, and nearly 14 billion years of cosmic evolution that have led to where and what we are today. Over the last 20 years, the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) has had an unprecedented impact in its efforts to systematically study the stars, galaxies, and history of the Universe, and to make its data available for the world to use. I will describe some of the key insights that the SDSS has provided into the nature of our Universe, along with the big questions that we are excited to tackle next.



ABSTRACTS FOR ALL EVENTS OCT. 22-24: [HTTPS://ASTRO.UNL.EDU](https://astro.unl.edu)