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Dr. Sarah Johnson



Cracks and channels on
Jupiter's moon Europa (above)
and icy material spewing from
Saturn's moon Enceladus
(below)



SPACE IS LIMITED
Please register at
[Vernon Registration](#)

Fall 2023

Harcourt "Ace" Vernon Memorial Lecture

September 21, 2023
7:30 pm Clayton Hall
University of Delaware

Featuring Guest Speaker

Dr. Sarah Johnson
Georgetown University

Contending with the Truly Alien

Time and again, the indescribable foreignness of other worlds in our Solar system has far surpassed our expectations and left us reconsidering what we thought we know of our universe. And yet, as we search for life, our detection methodologies and biological expectations often presume that the life we are seeking is similar to the life we know from Earth. How might we break free from our ideas of "life as we know it" and search instead for "life as we don't know it"? This talk will examine the search for life from the dawn of the space age, address new approaches to life detection, and consider the relevance of these techniques for the exploration of places like Mars, the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and exoplanets.



NASA's Perseverance rover captured this view of finely layered rocks on top of Hogwallow Flats, along the edge of the ancient river delta, on June 16, 2022. Perseverance's purpose is to search for evidence of ancient life on Mars.