

Media Contact: Genevieve Antaky
510/482-3553, gantaky@comcast.net
Humanities West: 415/391-9700
www.humanitieswest.org

**Humanities West & The Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
Present**

***In Galileo's Footsteps:
Edwin Hubble and the Reshaping of Our Universe***
with
Astronomer Bethany Cobb (UC Berkeley)

**5:30pm Reception, 6pm Lecture, Thursday, October 1, 2009
The Gold Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, San Francisco, CA**

Join astronomer Bethany Cobb (UC Berkeley) for a lecture and discussion organized by the Humanities Member-Led Forum at the Commonwealth Club on the astronomical work of Edwin Hubble. 300 years after Galileo's great discoveries, the true size and nature of the universe remained elusive. Using a 100-inch telescope at the Mount Wilson Observatory in California, Hubble not only resolved the "Great Debate" over the scale of the universe but also provided radical evidence that the universe is expanding.

This presentation is part of the International Year of Astronomy celebrating the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of the telescope and complements the upcoming Humanities West program ****Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler: Redefining Our Place in the Universe*** on Friday, October 2, from 8 pm to 10:15 pm and Saturday, October 3, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. (*see additional news release)

Dr. Bethany Cobb is a National Science Foundation Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley. She received her PhD at Yale University for research on massive stellar explosions called gamma-ray bursts. She is dedicated to public outreach in order to share her love of astronomy with others. She is also the astronomer for *The Old Farmer's Almanac*.

What: ***In Galileo's Footsteps:
Edwin Hubble and the Reshaping of Our Universe***
Lecture-Discussion with Astronomer Bethany Cobb (UC Berkeley)

When: **Thursday, October 1, 2009**
5:30pm Reception
6 pm Lecture

Where: **Commonwealth Club of San Francisco**
595 Market Street, San Francisco, CA

Cost: **\$15 general public;**
\$8 Commonwealth Club members

Info: **www.humanitieswest.org OR www.commonwealthclub.org**

