



July 7, 2011

Contact: Jon Keller

805-756-2095 jmkeller@calpoly.edu

NASA Researcher to Speak on the Solar System's Volcanoes July 19 at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Learn about volcanoes on Earth and across our solar system in a free, public lecture Tuesday, July 19, by Rosaly Lopes, a senior research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The lecture is free and open to the public. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Room 123 of the Agricultural Engineering Building (Building 8).

Lopes leads the lab's Geophysics and Planetary Geosciences Group. She is an expert on planetary volcanism, has worked on the Galileo mission to Jupiter and is on the science team working on the current Cassini unmanned spacecraft mission to Saturn.

The NASA scientist will explore other worlds in her talk, titled "Where the Hot Stuff Is: Volcanoes on the Earth and in the Solar System." She will explain a variety of volcanic forms, including ice volcanoes. Much of the talk will focus on Jupiter's moon, Io, which has more than 150 active volcanic centers and the hottest lavas ever known.

Volcanoes are common throughout the Solar System, Lopes said, and volcanic eruptions are among nature's most awesome spectacles. They can range from gentle extrusions of lava to catastrophic explosive events such as the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington.

Lopes' talk is sponsored by the Cal Poly Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education (CESaME), the Central Coast Science Project (CCSP), and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Contact cesame@calpoly.edu for further details.

###