



Press Release

April 8, 2013
University Marketing & Communications
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News editors: Please consider the following item for a possible new story or public service announcement and/or community calendar item:

Prof to give talk about working on NASA's Curiosity Mars mission

A Brock professor who is a participating scientist with NASA's Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity Rover mission will present a free talk this week about her experiences working on the \$2.5-billion project.

Marie Schmidt, a volcanologist and assistant professor of Earth Sciences, recently spent a couple months working at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA.

One of only three Canadian participating scientists working on the mission, she is now back at the University where she continues to analyze data and contribute in developing daily plans for the rover.

Schmidt's talk, "Curiosity in Gale Crater, Mars," will tell the story of environments on Mars through time. She will discuss the first discoveries of rocks and soils from the crater and how they are evidence for past or modern environments on Mars.

Her public lecture is part of the Faculty of Math and Science's Distinguished Speaker Series and takes place April 10 at 7 p.m. in South Block 204.

NASA's Curiosity Rover landed in Gale Crater on Mars in August 2012. The nuclear-powered rover is a key part of the Mars Science Laboratory mission, the most complex mission ever to operate on the surface of Mars. Curiosity contains geologic instruments and is a mobile laboratory that contains complex analytical equipment to help assess habitability, or whether Mars could have supported life in the past.

* **Who:** Marie Schmidt, NASA Mars Science Laboratory participating scientist, and assistant professor of Earth Sciences at Brock

* **What:** Faculty of Math and Science Distinguished Speaker Series talk: "Curiosity in Gale Crater, Mars"

* **When:** Wednesday, April 10 at 7 p.m.

* **Where:** South Block 204, Brock University (free admission)

NASA's Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity Rover mission information:
<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/details.php?id=5918>

The Brock News: "From Brock to Mars and back: A Q&A with Mariek Schmidt"
<http://www.brocku.ca/brock-news/?p=21154>

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