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## Monthly Lecture Series and Sky Watch for OU's "Galileo's World" Exhibition Begins Nov. 12

NORMAN – The first in a monthly lecture series planned at the Sam Noble Museum in conjunction with the university-wide "Galileo's World" exhibition is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12. University of Wisconsin-Madison professor Pablo F. Gómez will discuss *Creating a New World: Nature, Knowledge and Power in the Early Modern Caribbean*.



Each lecture at the Sam Noble Museum will feature experts on topics related to the *Galileo's World* exhibition and will be followed by sky watches on the museum lawn with telescopes provided by the OU Observatory, weather permitting. Both the lecture series and sky watches are open to the public with complimentary admission.

"Gómez, a former orthopedic surgeon and currently a prize-winning medical historian at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, will talk about the importance of the Caribbean in the development of modern science and medicine," said OU Presidential Dream Course instructor and associate professor Kathleen Crowther. "His work examines science and medicine in the 16th- and 17th-century Caribbean, exploring the circulation of knowledge between indigenous peoples, enslaved Africans and Spaniards."

The lecture is presented in conjunction with the OU Presidential Dream Course on the "Scientific Revolution." The Dream Course program, launched in the 2004-'05 academic year, provides funding for selected OU courses to enable instructors to bring in academic experts to enhance the educational impact and provide unique perspectives.

"The most important goal I have with my 'Scientific Revolution' course and the associated lecture series is to demonstrate that the history of science is not solely about the brilliant accomplishments of a few lone white, male geniuses," Crowther said. "I believe it is important for our students today, especially for women and people of color who remain dramatically underrepresented in the sciences, to see that from its very origins modern science has been a multicultural endeavor and one to which both women and men have made critical contributions."

In addition, the OU Observatory, through the Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, will position 8-inch telescopes to guide visitors through an exploration of the solar system.

“We will look at the Galilean moons around Jupiter, the craters on the moon, the phases of Venus. Anybody who is at these events will be able to look through our telescopes and see these objects with their own eyes,” said assistant professor Mukremir Kilic, who is directing the sky watches along with the department’s outreach group Lunar Sooners. “I hope they will think about how it must have felt for Galileo to look at these objects for the first time and realize how different the universe was compared to what everyone else thought at the time.”

Future speakers for the monthly series include faculty from the Gallogly College of Engineering on the construction of the replica Leaning Tower of Pisa and experiment on display in Bizzell Memorial Library; the curator of the exhibit “The Quest for Other Worlds”; two Presidential Dream Course instructors whose courses correspond with the *Galileo’s World* exhibition who will lead a panel discussion; and Rienk Vermij, a professor in the Department of the History of Science, College of Arts and Sciences.

*Galileo’s World* is a collaborative exhibition with 20 exhibits at seven locations in Norman, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Organized through the University of Oklahoma Libraries, the exhibition is open to the public through August 2016. Visitors are encouraged to visit [galileo.ou.edu](http://galileo.ou.edu) for more information about the exhibition and to confirm programming and event dates.

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History is located on the OU Norman campus at J. Willis Stovall Road and Chautauqua Avenue. For accommodations on the basis of disability, call (405) 325-4712 or visit [SamNobleMuseum.ou.edu](http://SamNobleMuseum.ou.edu).

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Image Credit: Visiting professor Pablo F. Gómez opens a monthly lecture series for *Galileo’s World* at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Sam Noble Museum. A sky watch hosted by the OU Observatory will follow.