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Prominent scientist visits UCSC

BY JONDI GUMZ

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ — Harvard physics professor Lisa Randall — one of the most influential living scientists according to The Guardian of London — will speak Nov. 2 at UC Santa Cruz's Music Center Recital Hall.

Randall, 43, is the first woman to win tenure in the physics department at Harvard, MIT and Princeton.

Her topic, "The Universe in a New Light," reflects the way her work has shaken up the way physicists think.

This year, she's traveled to Germany, Russia, Japan and Australia to speak.

Reviewers of her just-released book, "Warped Passages," say Randall works hard to make her astoundingly complex material understandable.

One of the reasons she wrote a book aimed at a general audience was to show that women can indeed do science.

She is serving on a task force at Harvard to address the underrepresentation of women in science and engineering. The issue made headlines when Harvard's president, Lawrence Summers, suggested there are fewer women scientists because of innate differences between the sexes.

"The way to make changes is just to be doing things, and the world eventually changes," Randall said.

She wrote an op-ed piece that appeared last month in The New York Times cautioning against scientific and media exaggeration of advancements in the field.

Her local appearance, sponsored by UCSC Arts and Lectures, is billed as a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Einstein's publication of the theory of relativity.

It also is part of a series of events celebrating the appointment of Denice Denton, an engineer, as chancellor.

Randall's Web site is at physics.harvard.edu/people/facpages/randall.html.

General admission tickets for the 8 p.m. talk are \$23, students and seniors with ID, \$20, UCSC students with IB, \$12. Call 459-2159. Rush tickets for UCSC students and students 18 and under will be sold at the venue 15 minutes before the event begins.

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