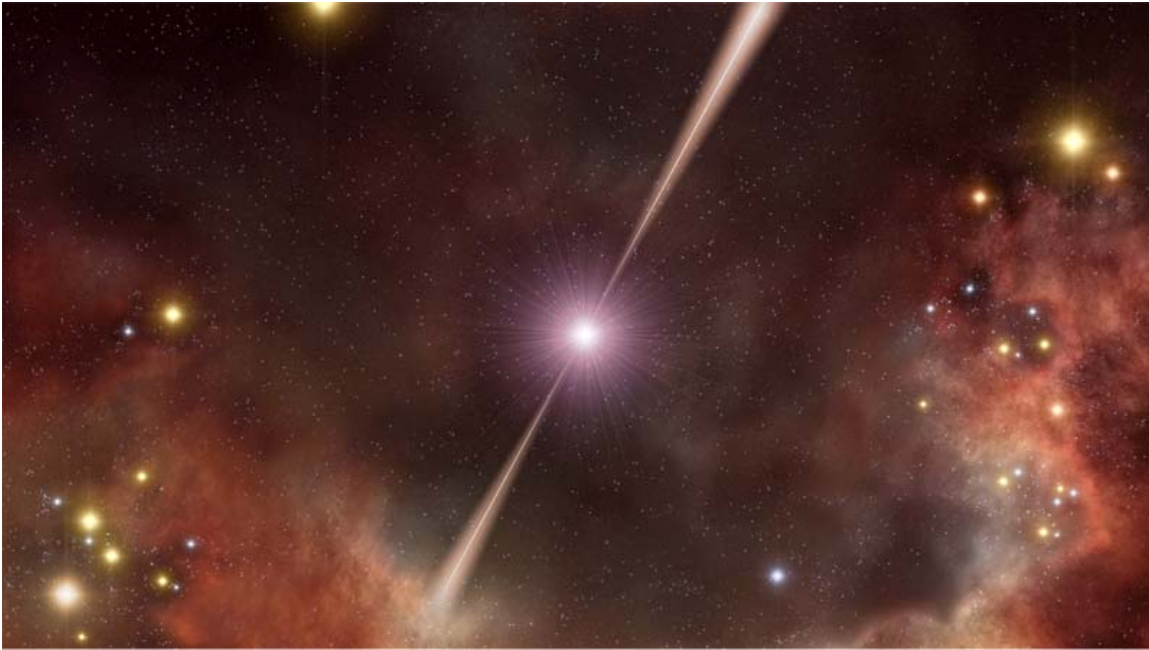


THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Department of Physics
Colloquium

**Gamma-Ray Bursts:
Black Hole Births and Cosmic Beacons**

Professor David Burrows, Pennsylvania State University



ESO artist's impression of GRB 080329B

The Swift satellite has revolutionized our understanding of many aspects of gamma-ray bursts (GRBs). Swift is designed to detect GRBs and other X-ray transients and to automatically and rapidly point X-ray and optical telescopes at them to study the explosion and its afterglow in far more detail than any previous mission. Because GRBs are so bright, they are visible at very great distances and hold great promise for allowing us to study the most distant regions of the Universe. I will discuss progress made in this area in the Swift era, and plans for future missions designed specifically to study the high redshift Universe through observations of GRBs.

TIME: 4:00-4:50 pm, Thursday the 30th of April 2009

PLACE: 101 Corcoran Hall, GWU

725 21st Street, N.W. (Between G and H Streets)

METRO STATION: GWU/FOGGY BOTTOM (BLUE & ORANGE LINES)