

## **Vatican Observatory Director Presents at Dominican**

The events were co-hosted by [Dominican's "Big History," Campus Ministry](#), and the [Department of Religion and Philosophy](#).

The Vatican Observatory, located in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, is an astronomical research and educational institution supported by the Holy See. Originally based in the Roman College of Rome, the Vatican Observatory is committed to the promotion of scientific enterprise by being one of the founding members of the International Network of Catholic Astronomy Institutions.

Father Gabor, who studied Particle Physics at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, joined the Vatican Observatory in September 2010. He was assigned to the Vatican Observatory Research Group in Tucson, Ariz. where he became Vice Director in 2012.

At Dominican, Father Gabor presented "Are We Alone? Astrobiology and the Search for Extraterrestrial Life" in Guzman Lecture Hall on October 21.

On October 22 -- in front of "Big History" students -- Father Gabor presented "At Home in the Universe: Humans in Search of Meaning" at the Dominican Sisters Gathering Space off Grand Avenue in San Rafael.

Father Gabor, a scholar of the humanities with a Ph.D. in astrophysics, embodies the transdisciplinarity on which Big History is based. His interests lie in the tests of achromatic phase shifters, stabilization (through optical path dithering), wave front filtering (with single mode fibers), polarization and other issues regarding the implementation of nulling interferometry, techniques and instrumentation that can be used to discover planets orbiting other stars.

For more information about Father Gabor's visit to Dominican, contact Jaime Castner at 415-257-1300 or email her at [jaime.castner@dominican.edu](mailto:jaime.castner@dominican.edu) or email [bighistory@dominican.edu](mailto:bighistory@dominican.edu) or log onto <http://www.dominican.edu/academics/big-history/events>.

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