

HARCOURT C. "ACE" VERNON MEMORIAL LECTURE

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Clayton Hall Conference Center



# Massive Stars: The Powerhouses of Our Galaxy



**Veronique Petit**

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**S**tar power? So-called "massive stars" have got it. These stars—as big as 100 suns—are the powerhouses of our galaxy. With their intense radiation and winds, they trigger new stars to form.

When a massive star explodes and dies, other power-

ful things happen. From the collapsed core, a neutron star may arise and then collide violently with a black hole, producing gravitational waves, which recently were detected for the first time in Nobel Prize-winning work.

University of Delaware Professor Veronique Petit will highlight how massive stars evolve, including an important factor now under intense research at UD.

Some of the largest, hottest, most massive stars in the universe lie in the center of star-forming region 30 Doradus, located 170,000 light-years away in a neighbor galaxy to our Milky Way.

Image courtesy of NASA/ESA/STScI

**Free and open to the public.  
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