ASTRONOMY

In the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Assistant Professor Elizabeth J. McGrath

Students interested in graduate study in astronomy should complete the physics honors major, Astronomy 231, and one or more research projects in astronomy. The physics major is the most important part of graduate preparation for astronomy. Colby students with these credentials have always been admitted into graduate programs in astronomy or astrophysics (though not by every program to which they have applied).

Course Offerings

AS151s Stars, Stellar Systems, and Cosmology An introductory survey of modern astronomy, covering the solar system, stars and stellar evolution, galaxies, and cosmology, for students of both science and non-science backgrounds. The physical processes at work in the universe and the methods we use to learn about the universe will be emphasized. The use of mathematics at the level of first-year algebra is required. Fulfills the non-lab science requirement. *Three credit hours.* **N** MCGRATH

AS231f Introduction to Astrophysics A general introduction based on topics needed for astrophysical research, accessible to all who are comfortable with calculus and computer analysis of data. Theoretical topics include celestial mechanics, continuous and line spectra, stellar structure, and nucleosynthesis. Lecture and laboratory. *Prerequisite:* It is helpful to have taken high school and/or college physics. *Four credit hours.* **N,Lb** MCGRATH

AS491f, 492s Independent Study *One to four credit hours.* FACULTY