In April, we will celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope. Hubble has in so many ways completely revolutionized our understanding of the universe. As amazing as Hubble has been, due to the vastness of the universe it can’t see everything. To carry us forward we need a better telescope, one which can see deeper into the universe, and this is exactly what NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is designed to do. JWST, which is scheduled for launch in 2018, will probe the universe to discover the first galaxies and stars formed after the Big Bang. JWST will also be used to study the formation of stars and planets, and to study the exoplanets.

As an engineer who worked on one of the subsystems of this observatory, and as a Solar System Ambassador, I believe that it is my responsibility to educate the community about this amazing telescope. In this talk, I will provide an overview of the JWST science goals, instruments, and features of the telescope.

http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/colloquia/