

2014 HARCOURT C. "ACE" VERNON MEMORIAL LECTURE

October 15, 2014 | 7:30 PM | Clayton Hall Conference Center



A Decade at Saturn



Carolyn Porco

Imaging Science Team Leader,
NASA *Cassini* Mission

*One of Time magazine's
"25 most influential
people in space"*

Planetary scientist Carolyn Porco will help you see Saturn and its spectacular rings with new eyes. She leads the imaging team on NASA's *Cassini* mission orbiting Saturn.

Porco will provide a sweeping tour of Saturn and all that *Cassini* has found there since its arrival in summer 2004, with a finale that brings into sharp focus the significance of humanity's interplanetary explorations.

Free and open to the public.
Please register online at mountcuba.org

Sponsored by Delaware Asteroseismic Research Center at UD (www.physics.udel.edu/darc) and Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory (mountcuba.org)

Majestic Saturn in the Infrared. This false-color composite image was made from 65 individual, 6-minute-long observations by the visual and infrared mapping spectrometer aboard NASA's *Cassini* spacecraft.

Saturn Fun Facts

- ☛ **Saturn, named for the Roman god of farming, is the second largest planet in our solar system.**
- ☛ **Because Saturn is made mostly of gases, it's the only planet that could float in water. You'd need a really big bathtub!**
- ☛ **Saturn's main rings could almost stretch from Earth to the moon. Yet these rings are less than a kilometer thick.**
- ☛ **Other planets have rings, but Saturn's are the only ones we can see from Earth. Only a small telescope is required.**
- ☛ **Saturn's rings are not solid. They are made of bits of ice, dust and rock.**
- ☛ **It's very windy on Saturn—1,118 miles/hour at the equator!**
- ☛ **Saturn spins very fast on its axis. A day is only 10 hours and 14 minutes.**
- ☛ **Saturn goes around the Sun very slowly. A year on Saturn is more than 29 Earth years.**

Adapted from NASA

The Ringed Planet. *Cassini's* ultraviolet view reveals that there is more ice toward the outer part of Saturn's rings than in the inner part. The red indicates sparser ringlets likely made of "dirty," and possibly smaller, particles than in the icier turquoise ringlets. *Image courtesy NASA/JPL/University of Colorado*

Learn more:

**Delaware Asteroseismic
Research Center at UD**

www.physics.udel.edu/darc

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