

2011 HARCOURT C. "ACE" VERNON MEMORIAL LECTURE



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The Search for Another Earth



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Using high-powered telescopes, astronomers have found more than 500 planets outside of our solar system. Could any of these "exoplanets" be like Earth?

Professor Greg Laughlin, chair of the astronomy department at the University of California Santa Cruz, has been involved in the discovery of dozens of these worlds.

Join him on a cosmic trek that will have you wondering, too, is another Earth out there?

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

Sponsored by Delaware Asteroseismic Research Center at the University of Delaware (www.physics.udel.edu/darc) and Mt. Cuba Astronomical Observatory (mountcuba.org)

Computer-generated image of the exoplanet HD 80606b. The blue glow of the crescent is starlight that has been scattered and reflected by the planet. The night side is reddish as the exoplanet glows with its own internal heat. *Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCSC*

An artist's concept of a Jupiter-sized exoplanet with a ring system, set against a starry background with a bright yellow star in the upper right. The planet is reddish-brown with white and grey bands, and its rings are thin and orange-gold. A smaller, greyish moon is visible in the lower right.

Exploring Exoplanets

More than 500 worlds have been discovered outside our solar system.

Could any of them be like Earth? Join the exoplanet search today!

Delaware Asteroseismic Research Center at the University of Delaware

www.physics.udel.edu/darc

Mt. Cuba Astronomical Observatory mountcuba.org

Artist's concept of the Jupiter-size exoplanet orbiting the star Epsilon Eridani. Located 10.5 light-years away, it is the closest known exoplanet to our solar system. As a gas giant, the planet cannot sustain life as we know it. However, its moons might have conditions suitable for life. *Credit: NASA, ESA, and G. Bacon (STScI)*

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