



SACRAMENTO STATE

Department of Physics & Astronomy Spring 2007

Physics Colloquium Series

"Extrasolar Planets and Brown Dwarfs"

Twelve years ago the first extrasolar planets were found around nearby main sequence stars. That same year, 1995, the first examples of another elusive celestial target -- brown dwarfs -- were found. In the last decade our knowledge of such "substellar" objects has increased dramatically, with over 200 extrasolar planets and several hundred brown dwarfs now known. Yet some mysteries remain. For example: Why are brown dwarfs found so rarely as companions to stars? Do the nearest stars to the Sun host low mass planets? Do other earthlike planets exist? Dr. McCarthy will discuss the tools which can be used to answer these questions.

Dr. Chris McCarthy

San Francisco State University

Thursday, March 8, 2007

4:10-5:20 PM MND 1015

Open & Free to all Students, Faculty & Public