

SuperWASP Presentation on Search For Alien Planets

The Northampton Branch of the BCS will be hosting an event that is truly out of this world with a presentation on the SuperWASP program, searching for planets around distant stars. The truth is out there and these guys are taking pictures of it!

The event will take place on Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm prompt (please arrive at 7pm for light refreshments). The venue is:-

**Grendon Lecture Theatre (GLT)
University College Northampton
Park Campus
Boughton Green Rd
Northampton Northamptonshire
NN2 7AL**

Our speaker will be Dr. Andrew J Norton, Senior Lecturer in Physics and Astronomy at the Department of Physics & Astronomy of The Open University, Milton Keynes.

On 26th Sept 2006 the SuperWASP telescopes discovered two new planets outside our solar system in the constellations Andromeda and Delphinus.

SuperWASP is the UK's leading extra-solar planet detection program comprising of a consortium of eight academic institutions which include Cambridge University, the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias, the Isaac Newton Group of telescopes, Keele University, Leicester University, the Open University, Queen's University Belfast and St. Andrew's University. It is expected that SuperWASP will revolutionize our understanding of planet formation paving the way for future space missions searching for 'Earth' like worlds.



The team at the OU became involved in the SuperWASP project in 2001, in an initiative led by Dr. Carole Haswell. Over the years since then, the OU have contributed to the purchase of hardware, and the design and implementation of pipeline data reduction software, which has led, in the last month or so, to the project's first confirmed detection of extra solar planets!



Dr Norton has a degree from Leicester University in 'Physics with Astrophysics' and a PhD in X-ray Astronomy. He then moved to Southampton University as a Research Fellow working in multi-wavelength observations of interacting binary stars. He moved to the OU as a Lecturer in 1992, being promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1999, and has been there ever since. During his time at the OU he has been involved in the production and development of many physics and astronomy courses. He has been both Director of Research and Curriculum Director for Astronomy & Planetary Science at the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

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