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Shaw Laureates to Discuss Life on Other Planets

The Shaw Prize Laureates 2005, Professors Geoffrey Marcy and Michel Mayor, will deliver the Shaw Prize Lecture in Astronomy on Saturday, 3 September at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

Profs Marcy and Mayor were the first to identify a planetary system beyond our Solar System. They then discovered puzzling aspects about these new planets that revolutionized our understanding of planetary system formation.

Their lectures will focus on a frequently asked question: Is there life on other planets?

Prof Mayor will explain how improvements in astronomical instruments enable the discovery of new planets in other solar systems and the presence of life on these planets.

Prof Marcy will compare Earth's environment with that of the new planets. If life on Earth can survive diverse and harsh environments, it is reasonable to expect that life is abundant elsewhere in the universe. Prof Marcy will also explore why there is an absence of evidence of advanced life on other planets.

Members of the media are welcome to cover the Lecture. Details are as follows:

Shaw Prize Lecture in Astronomy

Date: Saturday, 3 September 2005

Time: 3 pm

Venue: Citigroup Lecture Theater, HKUST

Prof Geoffrey Marcy

Prof Marcy is Professor of Astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley, and Adjunct Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the San Francisco State University. In addition to academic endeavors, he is also actively involved in promoting astronomy to the general public and frequently discusses the latest developments in the media. He has received a number of honors and awards, including membership of the National Academy of Sciences and the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement.

Prof Michel Mayor



Prof Geoffrey Marcy



Prof Michel Mayor

Prof Mayor is currently Professor of the Astronomy Department at the University of Geneva and the Director of the Geneva Observatory. He has been president of a number of international scientific bodies, including the Commission on the Galactic Structure of the International Astronomical Unit, the Scientific and Technical Committee of the European Southern Observatory, and the Swiss Society of Astrophysics and Astronomy.