

UC RIVERSIDE | Science Lecture Series

# ARE WE ALONE?

## Mars 2020 and Beyond Will We Find Life on the Red Planet?

Kenneth Williford will describe our strategies and prospects for finding life on Mars. After the talk, he will join a panel of special guests to discuss humanity's potential for colonizing the solar system.



### Kenneth Williford

Deputy Project Scientist, Mars 2020 Mission  
Director, Astrobiogeochemistry Lab  
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Dr. Williford is a biogeochemist who develops analytical techniques to search for signs of life and environments in some of the oldest rocks on Earth. Fossils are rare in these rocks, and those that do exist are almost always microscopic. Dr. Williford analyzes ancient Earth rocks for chemical signs of life in part to understand how we can apply similar techniques to the search for evidence of life on other planets—for example, in rocks returned to Earth from the surface of Mars.

JOIN A PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT COLONIZING THE SOLAR SYSTEM WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:



### Christopher J. Corbally, S.J. Astronomer, Vatican Observatory

Professor Corbally is Associate Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Arizona, a Jesuit priest, an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory, and President of the National Committee for Astronomy, Vatican City State, International Astronomical Union. He holds degrees in astronomy and physics and specializes in stellar spectroscopy and human sentience.



### Penelope Boston Director, NASA Astrobiology Institute

Professor Boston leads the 12 science teams of the NASA Astrobiology Institute, including the UCR-led Alternative Earths team. She specializes in exploring extreme environments on Earth to better understand what we might face on other planets. She is also Associate Director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in Carlsbad, New Mexico.



### Eric Schwitzgebel Professor of Philosophy, UC Riverside

Professor Schwitzgebel is a philosopher who explores connections between empirical psychology and philosophy of mind, especially the nature of belief, the inaccuracy of our judgments about our stream of conscious experience, and the tenuous relationship between philosophical ethics and actual moral behavior.

Live streaming of all events available online [ScienceLectures.ucr.edu](http://ScienceLectures.ucr.edu)