



San Mateo County Astronomical Society



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SMCAS General Meeting and Presentation on Friday October 6, 2017

Dr. Monika Kress

Professor of Physics & Astronomy - San Jose State University

Finding Meteorites in Antarctica

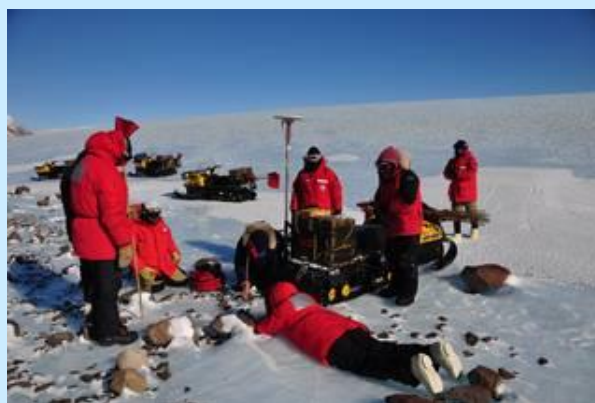
Friday, October 6, 2017 , [College of San Mateo, Building 36](#)

SMCAS General meeting at 7:00 p.m. ISC Room, room 110

Presentation at 8:00 p.m. [Planetarium](#)

Free and open to the public, free parking (recommend lots 5 or 6).

Meteorites fall on the Earth at a rate of 30,000 Kg per year. Antarctic meteorite searches are one of the most important sources of extraterrestrial material and information for planetary research. Antarctica is an ideal hunting-ground for these precious samples of other worlds, so each year, the National Science Foundation funds a handful of scientists to search the icy wastelands to recover as many meteorites as possible. In this talk, Dr. Kress will discuss the science of meteorites and what it was like to camp out for two months in the most inhospitable place on Earth.



Dr. Monika Kress is a Professor and acting Chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department at San Jose State University. She conducts research in computational astrophysics. Her research team is investigating the stability of planetary systems around low-mass main sequence stars. She is a co-investigator of the Virtual Planetary Laboratory, one of the NASA Astrobiology Institute lead teams. She served on the Antarctic Search for Meteorites (ANSMET) as a member of their reconnaissance team for the 2003-04 field season.

She received her BS in 1991 and her PhD in 1997, both degrees in Physics and both from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Her PhD thesis topic was in computational astrochemistry and was conducted jointly at NASA Ames Research Center. Before landing at San Jose State University, she was a Postdoctoral Research Associate conducting research in planetary science with Dr Chris McKay, and at the University of Washington in Seattle, carrying out research in astrobiology with Dr. Don Brownlee.

Dr. Kress has made a habit, if not career, of exploring the furthest corners of the Earth in the name of science (and fun). When not in the classroom, she can usually be found outside. She is into hiking, backpacking, long-distance running, and mountain climbing, including Mt Whitney and Mt Rainier.