



# Cleveland Astronomical Society

[www.clevelandastronomicalsociety.org](http://www.clevelandastronomicalsociety.org)

## Thursday, Dec 1, 2011 Meeting Announcement

6:15—7:00 p.m. – Get acquainted and snacks

7:45—8:00 p.m. – Short Business Meeting

7:00—7:45 p.m. – Buffet Dinner (Reservations Required)

8:00—9:00 p.m. – Featured Speaker (Free to public)

### Leonard Krieger CanalWay Center

4524 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street (turn onto Whittlesey Way to reach Center), Cuyahoga Heights (216-206-1000)

### Speaker: Dr. Karen Bjorkman

Professor of Astronomy and Director of Ritter Observatory  
University of Toledo

### "Planets, Planets, Everywhere - News from Other Worlds"

Less than 20 years ago, the existence of planets around other stars ("exoplanets") was mere speculation. Today the number of confirmed exoplanets is growing rapidly, with over 500 known and many thousands of additional candidates identified. Ground-based observations opened the door to these discoveries, and the recent Kepler and CoRoT missions are identifying large numbers of likely additional exoplanet systems. With a substantial number of examples, we can now begin to ask questions about how planetary systems around other stars may be similar to (or differ from) our own solar system, and even begin to wonder about the likelihood that conditions for life might exist elsewhere in the galaxy. In this talk, Dr. Bjorkman will review the techniques used to search for exoplanets, the Kepler and CoRoT missions, the characteristics of exoplanets found to date, and even ways that you can help with the search for more exoplanets.

High School Teachers interested in bringing two students, as our guests, please contact Bob Sledz, President, at 440-333-7827 or [isledz@yahoo.com](mailto:isledz@yahoo.com) by the Friday prior to the scheduled meeting date.