This is a FREE science lecture, suitable for the general public, teachers and students of all ages: no registration necessary.

Please Note: Teachers receive certificates of attendance for one hour toward Professional Development credit for attending this talk.

Thursday, April 8, 2010

7:30-9 p.m.
Monroe Lecture Center, California Avenue, South Campus

The Exploration of Mars: Recent Findings and Future Prospect

The ongoing exploration of Mars remains a vibrant and internationally supported enterprise with broad public appeal. The Mars Exploration Rovers Spirit and Opportunity have completed nearly six years of traversing the Martian surface, the Phoenix lander has successfully ended its work in the northern polar region, and three spacecrafts are currently orbiting the planet, collecting scientific data and providing telecommunication. The next generation rover, the Mars Science Laboratory (NASA), is in the process of being built for a launch scheduled in 2011, and the European Space Agency has an ambitious rover/orbiter mission (ExoMars) scheduled to launch in 2016. In this lecture, Professor McLennan highlights the most recent scientific discoveries from Mars and outlines the current strategy for its continued exploration in the coming decade.

About the Presenter:
Scott McLennan is professor of geochemistry in the Department of Geosciences at Stony Brook University. His research is directed primarily toward the chemical composition and evolution of planetary crusts, and the evaluation of surficial processes on Earth and Mars. He is on the science teams of the Mars Exploration Rover mission (since 2002) and Mars Odyssey orbital mission (since 2005). He has published 150 research papers in the fields of geochemistry and planetary science and is co-author (with S.R. Taylor) of the recent book, *Planetary Crusts: Their Composition, Origin and Evolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Questions? Call IDEAS at 516-463-5792.