

# **Our Boldest Effort to Answer our Oldest Question**

## **The Breakthrough Listen Search for Intelligent Life Beyond Earth**

Dr. Steve Croft (U of California, Berkeley)  
Smithwick Theater at Foothill College

*We ask that attendees be vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 and wear a mask while indoors at the event. Extra masks will be provided.*

The talk is part of the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series, now in its 23rd year.

For centuries, humans have gazed at the night sky and wondered what is out there. Over time, we have come to know many of the answers; how our own planet Earth and Sun came to be, how they dance in a sea of other stars hosting their own planetary systems, and how the structure of the universe has evolved on the grandest scales. But one of our biggest questions remains unanswered: is anyone or anything out there staring back at us? Today we are answering that question using the tools of astronomy, surveying other worlds for the tell-tale indicators of technology. Dr. Croft will describe the state-of-the-art in hunting for intelligent life in the cosmos and how the largest telescopes in the world are now being used to conduct searches of unprecedented scope and sensitivity.

Steve Croft grew up in England, where he received a PhD in astrophysics from Oxford University in 2002, before moving to California to work as a postdoctoral researcher at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Since 2007, Croft has been a researcher at UC Berkeley.

Croft has been a full-time scientist on the Breakthrough Listen search for extraterrestrial intelligence since 2015. He serves as Listen's Project Scientist for the Green Bank Telescope, and is the Director of the NSF-funded Berkeley SETI Research Center "Research Experience for Undergraduates" Site. He is also involved in many aspects of the planning, execution, analysis, and publication of results from the program, as well as proposal writing, documentation, coordinating and writing press releases, donor cultivation, industry engagement, outreach, education, and social media.

The lecture is co-sponsored by:

- The Foothill College Science, Tech, Engineering & Math Division
- The SETI Institute
- The Astronomical Society of the Pacific
- The University of California Observatories (including Lick Observatory).

Past lectures in the series can also be found on YouTube at:

<http://youtube.com/svastronomylectures>

and as audio podcasts at: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1805595>

# ASTRONOMY AT Foothill COLLEGE

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For more information, contact Dr. Geoff Mathews [mathewsgeoff@foothill.edu](mailto:mathewsgeoff@foothill.edu)

## Observatory Is Open Weekly Fridays 9 pm to 11 pm, and Saturdays 10 am to noon



Observatory is operated in partnership with the Peninsula Astronomical Society

