

## BCHS Science Today goes Extra-Terrestrial!

Bethlehem Central High School's "Science Today" lecture series kicks off the 2010-11 school year on **Thursday, October 21** with **Dr. John Delano's** presentation about "Extra-Solar Planets." Dr. Delano is among the leading scientists in country researching the origins of life, the compositions of planets, and in leading the search for extra-solar life (life outside our solar system).



Dr. Delano is a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University at Albany.

Delano's fascination with the universe was triggered in 1957, when he caught a glimpse of Sputnik, the first artificial satellite launched into outer space. It was one in a series of epiphanies that secured his early interest in space exploration.

But there was another moment that reverberated with Delano, which led him to studying moon rocks and other celestial phenomena.

"It all goes back to President Kennedy's decision to send Americans to the moon," Delano said of his decision to study geochemistry. "I thought, 'Holy mackerel, we're going to bring samples back from the moon?'"

After receiving his Ph.D. in geochemistry from SUNY Stony Brook in 1977, Delano began research in astrobiology with NASA, which he continues today with colleagues from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

"When I go into class I'm enthusiastic; I'm jumping around like a lunatic," Delano said. "I try to make it fun as well as informative. Those are the ingredients for inspiration."

That may be why, after 25 years teaching at UAlbany, Delano admits that he still gets nervous before every class. "I have to get nervous. If I'm not nervous, I'm not on my game," said Delano. Nerves aside, Delano always introduces each topic to his students by explaining how it fits into the big picture, addressing the basic human question, Why are we learning this?

[http://www.albany.edu/news/feature\\_4062.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/news/feature_4062.shtml)

Science Today presentations are held at BCBS in room G100 (Choral Room at the front of the building at the Main Entrance). We present during our Period 9 (2:12 – 2:55 pm).