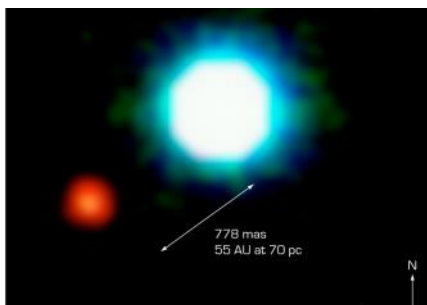


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[Vernon](#)

Spring 2017 Harcourt "Ace" Vernon Memorial Lecture

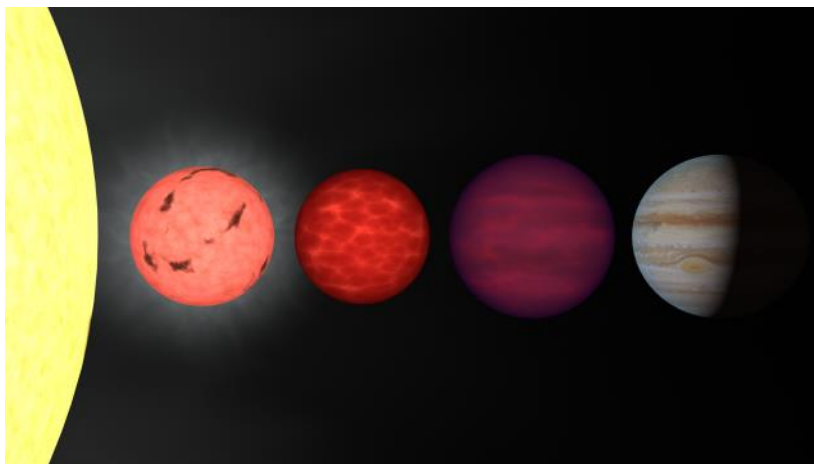
**April 27, 2017
7:30 pm Clayton Hall**

Featuring Guest Speaker

Dr. Emily Rice

Brown Dwarfs: Cooler than the Coolest Stars!

Brown dwarfs are enigmatic astronomical objects that form like stars do, but then cool and fade to resemble gas giant planets. Brown dwarfs teeter on the boundary between stars and planets. They are faint and cool, but are among the most numerous objects in the Milky Way. Dr. Rice will explain how brown dwarfs form, how they work, and how studying the atmospheres of brown dwarfs, particularly "young" brown dwarfs that are less than 100 million years old, will advance our understanding of gas giant planets around stars other than the Sun.



This figure shows an artist's rendition comparing brown dwarfs to stars and planets. The limb of the Sun is to the left. The first object to its right is a very low mass star (a so-called "late-M dwarf"), a couple of brown dwarfs (a hotter "L dwarf" and a cooler "T dwarf"), and the planet Jupiter.