

DR. ERIC FORD – Gainesville, Florida

The Chiefland Astronomy Village sits in the shadow of one of the most progressive up-and-coming astronomy departments in the world, namely the University of Florida (UF). Astronomers at University of Florida have designed and built a unique mid-infrared camera (the size of a car engine) called a CanariCam to be used on the newly-inaugurated high-tech 10.4 meter Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) in the Canary Islands. UF is the only US institution with privileges on this monstrous scope owning 5% of the scope. The University of Florida has attracted some of the best and brightest astronomers, such as our guest Dr. Eric Ford, to participate in this research using this large new generation telescope in the Canary Islands. Dr. Ford got his undergraduate degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, PhD at Princeton and has conducted his research at University of California, Berkley as a Miller Fellow and at Harvard as a Hubble Fellow. He is now Assistant Professor of Astronomy at University of Florida studying extra-solar planets in an attempt to improve our understanding of planet formation. He will share some of his insights into efficient extra-solar planet searching and how the GTC may bring a renaissance of new valuable clues to solving the planet evolution puzzle.

WEBSITE:

<http://www.astro.ufl.edu/~eford/> -- Dr. Ford

<http://www.astro.ufl.edu/> -- UF Astro website/GTC affiliation