

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Ph.D. astrophysics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

B.A. physics, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

Experience

Director, Center for SETI Research, SETI Institute, Mtn. View, Calif	2014 – present
Senior Astronomer, SETI Institute, Mtn. View, Calif.	2001-present
Public Programs Scientist, SETI Institute, Mtn. View, Calif.	1991-2001
Cable TV Channel 27, Mtn. View, Calif.	1990-1991
Senior Software Engineer, Mira Technology, Los Altos, Calif.	1988-1989
Director and Founder, Digital Images Computer Animation, Groningen, The Netherlands	1983-1988
Research Associate, Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, State University of Groningen, The Netherlands	1975-1983
Senior Systems Analyst, Penn Central Transportation Co., Philadelphia, Penn.	1974-1975
Research Associate, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Charlottesville, Virginia	1972-1974

Publications

Astronomical: More than 60 research papers in refereed, professional journals

Film: More than 50 articles for magazines and newspapers on film and video. Author of monthly column on film techniques in European magazines from 1980-1982, and 1985-1990.

Science and Technology: Over four hundred popular articles published in magazines, newspapers and the Web, on a wide range of topics.

Scripts: Several commissioned scripts for public relations videos produced for commercial clients. Two scripts for planetarium shows.

Books: Editor of two scientific books, contributor to six astronomy books. Authored books listed below:

“Sharing the Universe: Perspectives on Extraterrestrial Life” (trade book, March 1998, Berkeley Hills Books)

“Life in the Universe” (textbook, co-author: Jeff Bennett), 2011, Third Edition, Addison-Wesley (fourth edition to appear in 2015)

“Cosmic Company” (trade book, co-author Alexandra Barnett, Cambridge Univ. Press, November, 2003)

“Confessions of an Alien Hunter: A Scientist’s Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence” (trade book, National Geographic, March, 2009)

Public Speaking

Frequent appearances as guest lecturer at corporate functions, toastmaster, moderator, keynote speaker, etc. Have given several hundred lectures for the general public on a wide range of subjects. Distinguished Lecturer, Amer. Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1997-present.

Interviewed approximately 50 times per year for radio and television shows on Discovery Channel, CNN, A&E, History Channel, BBC, Larry King, Colbert Report, and others.

Host of weekly, hour radio show on astrobiology and related science and technology, “Big Picture Science,” 2002 – present.

Principal Awards

1961: University Scholar, Princeton University

1974: Film awards for “Invisible Universe,” as above

1977: Henk Nieuwenhuis prize for film, Groningen, The Netherlands

1984: Jaap S. Nieuwenhuis Award, from Netherlands Association for Scientific Film and Television

1988: Wubbo Ockels Award, for applied science (image processing in the service of computer animation), The Netherlands

1997 and 1999: Best Bay Area Talk Show, BACE cable TV awards

2004: Klumpke-Roberts Award, from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, for “Outstanding contributions to better public understanding and appreciation of astronomy.”

Additional

Considerable body of creative writing, mostly for corporate clients

“Idea man” behind plan to build large space and technology theme park in The Netherlands and in California (California Air and Space Center. Also member of the Board.)

Chair from 2003 – 2012 of International Academy of Astronautics SETI Permanent Committee.