

ROBOTIC MISSIONS TO THE SURFACE OF MARS

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NASA's ongoing Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission, which landed on Mars in February 2021, seeks to identify past habitable environments, search for signs of ancient microbial life, collect and cache samples for potential future return missions, and test technologies vital for future human exploration. Joel Hurowitz, associate professor in the Department of Geosciences at Stony Brook University, has been involved with NASA's robotic Mars exploration program since 2004 and is the deputy principal investigator for the Planetary Instrument for X-ray Lithochemistry (PIXL) on the Perseverance rover. In this Open Night presentation, Hurowitz will discuss the multiple generations of rovers that have gone to Mars, where we are now, and what the future of the Mars Exploration Program holds.



Joel Hurowitz is a geochemist and planetary scientist working on the exploration of Mars, the study of modern and ancient Mars analog environments on Earth, and the sedimentary rock record of the Earth's ancient oceans. Dr. Hurowitz is the deputy principal investigator of the PIXL instrument onboard the NASA Mars 2020 *Perseverance* rover mission. Dr. Hurowitz received his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University in 2006 and was a research scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory from 2007-2013. In 2013, he joined the faculty of the Department of Geosciences at Stony Brook University where he is an associate professor.