



NEWS RELEASE

The weird and the wonderful!

The people of Preston should prepare to be amazed – once again – at the stunning illustrations and mind-boggling images, to be presented to them at the next lecture by Professor Donald Kurtz at the University of Central Lancashire.

Between Fire and Ice, the second lecture in the University's public lecture series, will be held on Wednesday 20 February at 7.30pm. Professor Kurtz invites you to take an illustrated tour to see how our fragile Earth is delicately balanced between the fiery nuclear inferno at the heart of the Sun and the icy frigidty of the outer solar system. See continent-sized canyons, gigantic volcanoes, a pure ice cliff higher than Mt Everest and a place so cold that the air freezes and falls to the ground as snow. Hear about asteroid impacts, Earth-crossing asteroids and the death of the dinosaurs. Learn about the runaway greenhouse effect on Venus and the ultimate heat death of our own beautiful blue planet, Earth. "But", he says, "don't panic – we still have a few billion years left."

Professor Kurtz, from the University's Centre for Astrophysics, is an internationally recognised expert in the field of astrophysics and has impressed audiences all over the world with his dynamic lectures and presentations of stunning images. His previous lecture, *Big and Beautiful: the Latest and Greatest hits of the Hubble Space Telescope*, captivated a capacity audience at the University back in September.

The lecture is open to the public and tickets are free. For more information, please contact the Media and Promotion Office at the University of Central Lancashire, tel: 01772 892486.

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Note: Professor Kurtz will be available for interview on Tuesday 29 January or Thursday 31 January. Please contact Pam Culley in the Media and Promotion Office on tel: 01772 892486.