

Building the Advanced Camera for Surveys: Lessons Learned

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The road from an optimistic proposal for a new instrument like the Hubble Space Telescope's Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) to launch is usually full of potholes and detours. During the talk Dr. Ford will give an overview of the ACS, show some of the spectacular pictures taken with the ACS, and talk about lessons that we learned while building the instrument.

Dr. Ford received a BS in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Oklahoma and a PhD in Astronomy from the University of Wisconsin. He was a Co-Investigator on the Hubble Space Telescope Faint Object Spectrograph. Ford organized and co-chaired the HST strategy panel "A Strategy for Recovery," that recommended building and installing the COSTAR instrument. As project scientist for COSTAR, Ford was involved in the design and implementation of this highly successful instrument that was installed in the HST during its first servicing mission. Ford is the Principal Investigator for the HST Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS). Ford had more than thirty years of teaching experience as a professor at UCLA, the University of Michigan, and Johns Hopkins University.