

## Astronomy Lectures, Events and Activities

### Fall Semester 2006

There are a number of lectures and other activities related to Astronomy coming up during the fall 2005 semester. Here is a list of upcoming events. (**Note: All events listed on this page are free of charge!**)

1. Von Karman Lecture Series Put on by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) this monthly lecture series is a fascinating way to learn about the latest interplanetary and astronomical research being done at JPL. The lectures are given by the astronomers and scientists involved in the research projects. The remaining lectures for 2005 will be held on Friday evenings in the Vosloh Forum Auditorium at Pasadena City College (PCC). Pasadena City College is located at 1570 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena. The information number for the lectures is (818) 354-0112, and the web address is <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/events/>. The lectures start at 7:00 pm and are usually over by 8:15 or 8:30 pm. **The lectures are free.**

September 14 & 15, 2006	Beyond Pluto: The Discovery of 2003 UB313 Dr. Mike Brown, Professor of Planetary Astronomy, California Institute of Technology
October 12 & 13, 2006	Advanced Technology for Life Detection and Biology 'Looking for Life in all the Strange Places, with all the right Tools' Tim Krabach, Manager, JPL Life Detection Science and Technology Program
November 16 & 17, 2006	Black Holes in the Universe Curt Cutler, European Space Agency, Max-Planck-Institute for Gravitational Physics
December 7 & 8, 2006	The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Spacecraft Jim Graf, JPL, Project Manager, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter & Dr. Richard Zurek, JPL, Project Scientist, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

1. Starry Nights Festival The Starry Nights Festival is an annual astronomy festival held in Yucca Valley (about 120 miles east of Los Angeles). The festival consists of star parties, lectures, a raffle, and a twilight reception on Saturday. This year the Starry Nights Festival will take place on **Friday evening October 13**, and all day and evening on **Saturday October 14**. More information regarding the Starry Nights Festival will be provided in class. **There is no charge to attend the Starry Nights Festival!**
3. Mt. Wilson Observatory Free Walking Tours Mt. Wilson Observatory was one of the leading observatories in the world for over 30 years starting in the 1920's. Today it is still very active in astronomical research, solar studies and educational programs. The docent guided weekend walking tours of the Observatory will continue through November 26, 2006 (except if the U.S. Forest Service closes things for a while during the late-summer fire season). **The tour is free.** The tours start at 1:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays at the Skyline Park Pavilion overlooking the big parking lot and last about two hours (although you need not stay the whole time). These guided tours are open to all and require no reservations; just show up. The observatory is located along the Angeles Crest Highway (highway 2) about 45 minutes drive from Los Angeles. Please see <http://mwoa.org/tour.html> for more information and directions to the observatory.
4. Panel Discussion: Humans and Robots: A Space Exploration Team **Monday, October 9, 2006, 7:30 pm.** Pasadena Convention Center Room 101-105. 300 E. Green Street, Pasadena. Join **Buzz Aldrin**, Louis Friedman and others in a panel discussion discussing the future of exploration. After 30 years in Earth orbit, NASA has finally been given a mandate to return humans to the Moon and go beyond to Mars. The Vision for Space Exploration calls for both robotic and human missions and human missions to the Moon or Mars must be planned with robotic precursors. There will be a special presentation by Buzz Aldrin to author Ray Bradbury as well. The panel discussion is organized by the Planetary Society and is part of the annual conference of the Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS) of the American Astronomical Society. **This event is free.** For more information see: [http://planetary.org/programs/projects/space\\_information/dpsevent.html](http://planetary.org/programs/projects/space_information/dpsevent.html)