

Astronomy Lectures, Events And Activities Spring Semester 2006

There are a number of lectures, and other activities related to Astronomy coming up during the Spring 2006 semester. Here is a list of upcoming events. (Note: Most 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 lectures are given on Thursday evening at JPL and the lecture repeats on Friday evening at Pasadena City College (PCC). The JPL lectures are held in the Von Karman Auditorium located on the campus of JPL at 4800 Oak Grove Dr. Pasadena. The lectures at Pasadena City College are held in the Vosloh Forum Auditorium at PCC, 1570 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena. For more information call (818) 354-0112, or visit <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.

Feb. 23 (JPL), Feb. 24 (PCC)	Atmospheric Science on Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Titan
March 16 (JPL), March 17 (PCC)	Measuring Rapidly Rotating Stars in the Universe
April 13 (JPL), April 14 (PCC)	MARSIS Instrument on the Mars Express Spacecraft
May 11 (JPL), May 12 (PCC)	Planetary Robotics: Rovers and Other Moveable Explorers
2. Los Angeles Valley College Planetarium Shows. The LAVC Astronomy Group puts on planetarium shows the third Friday of each month. The planetarium is located on the campus of LAVC. The address is 5800 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen (near Van Nuys). The number to call for more information is: (818) 947-2335, or visit the website at: <http://lavcag.ars-chemia.net/planetariumshowsched.htm>. The shows start at 8:00 pm and there is no late seating! There is a \$5 admission for the shows.

February 17	Ringworld (An overview of the Cassini/Huygens mission to Saturn.)
March 17	Heart of the Milky Way
April 21	Visions of Other Worlds (A search for alien worlds!)
May 12	Black Holes (A new show from the Science Museum in Virginia)
3. Star Party. This semester the LACC Physics and Astronomy department will hold its star party on Saturday May 27th (unless otherwise stated). All astronomy students are invited! Details and directions will be given in class. The star party is free.
4. Mt. Wilson Observatory Tour. Walking tours of the Mount Wilson Observatory are offered on weekends starting April 1 (weather permitting). Mt. Wilson Observatory was one of the leading observatories in the world for over 20 years starting in the 1930's. Today it is still very active in astronomical research, solar studies and educational programs. Docent guided walking tours of the observatory start at 1:00 pm each Saturday and Sunday and are free to the public. 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. The tour is free.
5. Jet Propulsion Laboratory Open House. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is one of ten NASA field centers, and is the leading center for interplanetary missions and exploration in the United States. Every year they have an open house where the public is invited to see some of their laboratories and hear talks about some of the current research work. The open house this year will be held on Saturday May 20, and Sunday May 21 between 9 am and 5 pm each day. The address of JPL is 4800 Oak Grove Dr. in Pasadena. The website for more information is <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/psso/oh.cfm> These are very popular weekends and I highly recommend attending if you can make it! The open house is free.
6. Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon 3D Only 12 have walked on the moon. You're next! Tom Hanks narrates this IMAX 3D film, which explores mankind's incredible journey to the moon. Now showing in the IMAX theatre at the California Science Center. To check the show times, call (213) 744-7400, or go online at www.californiasciencecenter.org An admission fee will be charged.