Fall Schedule

This fall we have several great shows for you and your family to enjoy! Our fall public show schedule will run from September 5th – December 1st. Don’t miss out on the fun!

Thursdays:
6:00 – Stars of the Pharaohs

Fridays:
6:00 – Bad Astronomy

Saturdays:
1:00 – Secret of the Cardboard Rocket
2:30 – Bad Astronomy
5:30 – Stars of the Pharaohs
7:00 – Pink Floyd

Sundays:
1:30 – Stars of the Pharaohs
3:00 – Spacepark 360

Hamilton Planetarium Scholarship

We at the Planetarium at UT Arlington would like you to join us in congratulating our lead educator and technician Trevor Henry, who was awarded with the Hamilton Planetarium Scholarship!

This scholarship is available to students interested in gaining employment in the planetarium field as professionals.

Scholarships range from $500 to $5000 and include free membership to the International Planetarium Society and the recipient's local or regional planetarium society for one year.

Trevor has been with the Planetarium since it opened in 2006. He started as a volunteer while still a high school student. In 2009, he was promoted to planetarium educator. In 2012, he was promoted again to planetarium technician, after attending a training course at Evans and Sutherland. He will be graduating in spring 2014 with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on Education.

Congratulations Trevor!
Earth Waves at Saturn

This friendly photo collage is constructed from more than 1,400 images shared by denizens of planet Earth as part of the Cassini Mission's July 19 Wave at Saturn event.

The base picture of Earth corresponds to the view from the Saturn-orbiting Cassini spacecraft on that date as its own cameras recorded images including planet Earth as a pale blue dot in the background.

Of course, Saturn was 9.65 Astronomical Units away at the time, so it took light from all the waving Earth dwellers just over 80 minutes to travel there. Want to smile? Download and zoom in to the full-resolution (28MB jpg file) collage image available here.

This image was featured on the Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD) on August 24. Check their website daily to see more great space photos!

Try to see the Zodiacal Lights before Dawn this Fall

It’s late summer and early autumn for us in the Northern Hemisphere, which is the best time of year to see the zodiacal light, also known as the false dawn. With the moon out of the morning sky for the next two weeks, this is your chance to catch the zodiacal light before dawn.

You need a dark sky location to see the zodiacal light, someplace where city lights aren’t obscuring the natural lights in the sky. The zodiacal light is a pyramid-shaped glow in the east before dawn (or after twilight ends in the evening, if you’re in the Southern Hemisphere now). It’s even “milkier” in appearance than the starlit trail of the summer Milky Way. It’s most visible before dawn at this time of year because, as seen from the Northern Hemisphere, the ecliptic — or path of the sun, moon and planets — stands nearly straight up with respect to the eastern horizon before dawn now. As seen from the Southern Hemisphere, the same is true of the western horizon after true darkness falls.

This story comes from EarthSky.org, read the complete story and see more great images of zodiacal lights here.
On Giant Blue Alien Planet, It Rains Molten Glass

There's a "blue marble" alien planet just 63 light-years from Earth, but the world is anything but friendly to life. Researchers say the blue color in the atmosphere likely comes from a rain of molten glass.

This super-hot glass rain is just one consequence of the close proximity between the gas giant alien planet HD189733b and its sun, which causes daytime temperatures to soar as high as 1,700 degrees Fahrenheit, scientists said.

A fresh set of observations of the planet in X-rays also suggest HD189733b has an outer atmosphere that is far larger than expected.

New attention came to HD189733b, which was discovered in 2005, after two X-ray observatories watched the blue planet pass across the face of its star. Both NASA's Chandra X-Ray Observatory and ESA's XMM Newton saw a drop in X-rays from the star that was three times more than that observed in optical light.

This means the planetary atmosphere is much larger than previously thought. It's also bleeding quickly. HD189733b's atmosphere is fleeing the planet at a rate of 220 million pounds (100 million kilograms) to 1.3 billion pounds (600 million kg) a second, a new study estimated.

HD189733b could also have bright planet-wide

These people want to go to Mars, and never come back

Tens of thousands of people are prepared to leave their families, jobs and lives behind for a one-way trip to Mars.

The Mars One mission aims to send humans on a one-way trip to the Red Planet. The mission aims to land the first Mars colonists on the planet by 2023. Applicants over the age of 18 from any country are eligible to apply, and Mars One has received more than 165,000 applications already. But what sort of person would go?

A few dozen of the aspiring Martians convened in Washington, D.C., in August for the "Million Martian Meeting." A panel of four applicants answered questions from the audience about their reasons for wanting to go to Mars without a return ticket.

Despite different backgrounds and experiences, the panelists shared a lifelong interest in space exploration.

Aaron Hamm, 29, is a hotel manager, but going to Mars is "literally something I've wanted forever," he said at the meeting. After hearing about the call for applications, "I couldn't not jump at the chance," he said.

Leila Zucker, 45, is a married emergency room doctor. "Since I was a little kid, all I wanted was to be a doctor and travel in space," Zucker said in her application video.

Austin Bradley, 32, is a physics student and former
auroras due to the extensive stellar radiation hitting it, but that's speculation at this point, the study authors said.

This article is from Space.com, a news source dedicated to space science news.

imagery analyst and paratrooper for the U.S. army. Bradley was hard to miss at the meeting, sporting green hair and wearing alien antennae, but his ambition was serious. "I always wanted to apply for NASA," he said, but now he sees Mars One as his ticket to space.

Joseph Sweeney, 24, is a graduate student in applied intelligence. "I feel like you're born knowing you want to travel," said Sweeney, who started the Facebook Aspiring Martians Group, which now has 1,844 members.

Find out more about these aspiring explorers in the original article from Space.com.