



Change in Direction

Director of the Planetarium at UT Arlington, Marc Rouleau, would like to announce that he and his family will be relocating to the United Arab Emirates to start work at a new planetarium at the Sharjah Women's College.

"I would like to thank the University of Texas at Arlington for the chance to come work at this great facility," he said, "but this was an opportunity I could not say 'no' to."

Rouleau came on board at the Planetarium at UT Arlington in July 2007, taking over for Robert Bonadurer.

A search is underway for a new director. In the meantime, planetarium operations will be directed by Associate Planetarium Director, Levent Gurdemir.

Gurdemir, formally the astronomy lab supervisor for the physics department at UT Arlington, has been formally involved with the planetarium since April. Gurdemir has accomplished many things with the planetarium so far, including hardware upgrades, a new programming function for planetarium cover lights, a design for a new planetarium console, plus he initiated an application for a Space Shuttle tire for display starting this Fall, and he leads a plan to bring a new observatory to campus.



Good luck to Marc and his family in UAE, and good luck to Levent in his new capacity.

Two New Shows; Fall Schedule Announced

Two new full-dome planetarium shows will debut this Fall, starting on September 5. The shows are "TimeSpace" from the Adler Planetarium, and "Seven Wonders," from Evans and Sutherland.

In "TimeSpace" travelers meet at the Event Horizon cafe and make stops across time to see the Big Bang, the extinction of the dinosaurs, Mayan astronomers, the first walk on the Moon, and a possible future for mankind. The show is recommended for all ages.

"Seven Wonders" takes visitors to the ancient wonders of the world and describes them in detail, comparing them to our modern wonders; then transports the audience to see seven wonders of the Universe. The show is good for all ages.

A new time slot and program option begins this Fall, as well. Starting September 23 small groups, homeschoolers, or walk-ins can come to the Tuesday Morning Special. The program will run at 10:00 A.M. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, a different show each time. The price for the program will be \$3 per person. Seating is limited, so groups should call 817-272-1185 in advance to reserve space. A full schedule is available on page 3.

Finally, the Spanish language time slot on Sunday afternoons is being reduced to once a month. The attendance for this time slot has been poor, so starting in September the Spanish show goes to the first Sunday of the month at 4:00. As of press-time the scheduled show for the Spanish time slot will be Seven Wonders.

New Website Rolls Out

This Summer a new website for the Planetarium at UT Arlington was developed under the direction of University publications. Please check it out at: www.uta.edu/planetarium, and make comments to: planetarium@uta.edu

Public Shows and Events Public Shows Public Events

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

Public Shows and Events

Today at the Planetarium

No shows or events are scheduled for today.

Today's Moon Phase



Public Shows

When was the last time you saw...

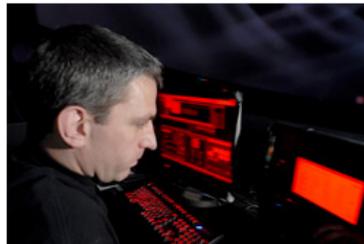
- A black hole
- The ancient pyramids
- An asteroid belt from the inside
- A psychedelic rock 'n' roll show
- The Texas nighttime sky without any city lights?

It's all here at The Planetarium at UT Arlington.

See what's playing now at The Planetarium



What's in a Show?



A typical show at The Planetarium will consist first of an introduction to the dome theater itself and the show to be presented.

Then, the recorded show will be played on the dome.

Finally, the presenter will give *Texas Stargazing* (a tour of the night sky) in which the wonders of tonight's amazing night sky will be graphically illustrated on the dome and discussed.

Be prepared to be amazed by the beauty of the night sky as seen far away from city lights. Your questions are welcome.



September 5, 2008 - February 15, 2009

Fridays:

7:00 - Seven Wonders

8:00 - Rock Hall of Fame

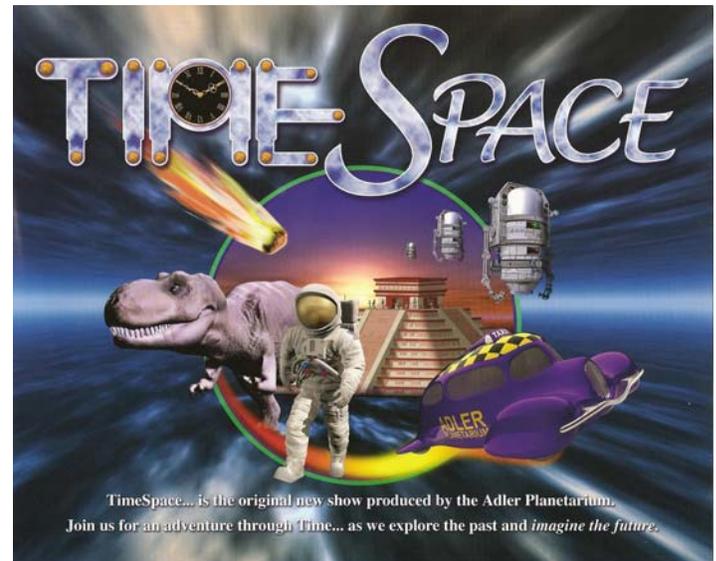
* No 8:00 P.M. show on Oct. 24

Saturdays and Sundays:

1:00 TimeSpace

2:30 - Seven Wonders

4:00 - Un programa en español
el primer domingo del mes



NEW - Tuesday Morning Special

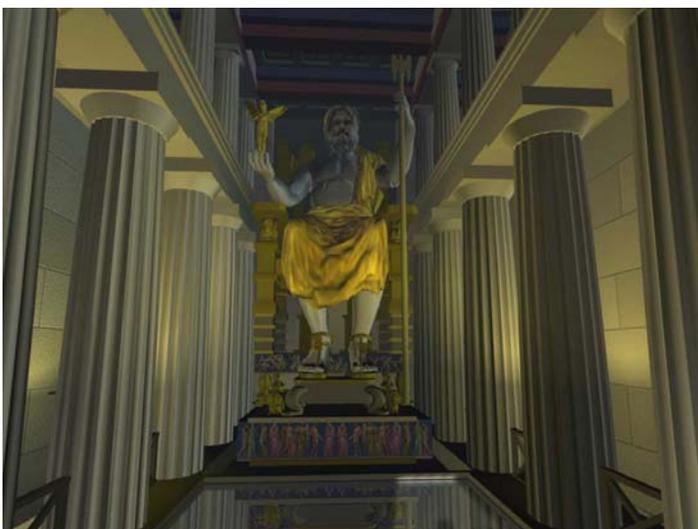
September 23, 2008 – February 10, 2009

Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, a different show each time. Good for small groups, homeschool groups, or walk-ins.

Groups: space is limited, call to secure seating.

Schedule:

Sept. 23	Honey, I Shrank the Solar System
Oct. 14	Seven Wonders
Oct. 28	Spooky Skies
Nov. 11	TimeSpace
Nov. 25	Cosmic CSI
Dec. 9	Stars at Night are Big and Bright
Dec. 23	Season of Light
Jan. 13	Stars of the Pharoahs
Jan. 27	Astronaut
Feb. 10	Black Holes



SPECIAL NOTICE:

Want to have a special event at a special location? Try the planetarium! We host birthdays, weddings, holiday parties, and more. Call Tina at 817-272-1185 for details!

Happy 50th Birthday, NASA

In response to the launching of the Sputnik satellite by the Soviet Union, on July 29, 1958 legislation was passed in the United States to form the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The act went into effect October 1, 1958.

Through 50 years NASA has celebrated some great triumphs and had some devastating losses.

The most tragic moments occurred with the loss of life, first with the Apollo I astronauts, then the two Shuttle orbiter mishaps, but not as well known are a number of pilots and astronauts who died during test flights of new aircraft.

The highlights of the U.S. national space program include the landing of humans on the Moon, plus a number of manned and unmanned missions which have changed the way we see the world, ourselves, and the Universe.

NASA continues to try to remain important, currently with its partnership with the International Space Station and with its plans to return humans to the Moon, possibly by 2020.

Will the next 50 years be as good for the federal agency? More than likely the next great advances will take place in the private sector. Reservations are now being taken for suborbital flights by Virgin Galactic, an offshoot of Richard Branson's empire. There is money to be made in space and someone will go out to make it.

But today, NASA, is your day. Happy Birthday!

Go and See It!

Want to know when the Space Shuttle, the ISS, or other satellite is visible? Check out www.heavens-above.com. Enter your viewing location or coordinates, then bookmark your home location's page. Great links to other space information, too!

Mars Missions Update

Mars and Earth line up on the same side of the Sun every 26 months or so. For the last few years NASA has taken advantage of the orbital proximity to launch new spacecraft to the Red Planet. Currently a flotilla of craft operate on the ground or in orbit of the fourth planet.



The latest mission, Mars Phoenix lander, touched down near the Martian North Pole in Spring 2008. Among its findings - frozen water just under the surface. Its 90 day mission has been extended. Check out: <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/>.

The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter arrived at Mars in Spring 2006. Its job is to make detailed, high-resolution images and analyze mineral composition of the surface. MRO information also at: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/MRO/main/index.html

The Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, continue to amaze all with their longevity. These roving robotic spacecraft landed on nearly opposite sides of the planet, each with a 90 day initial mission. The spacecraft, which landed in January 2004 are both still working and sending back data. The Rovers are gathering evidence related the Mars's history, particularly a wetter past. For more information check out: <http://marsrovers.nasa.gov/home/index.html>

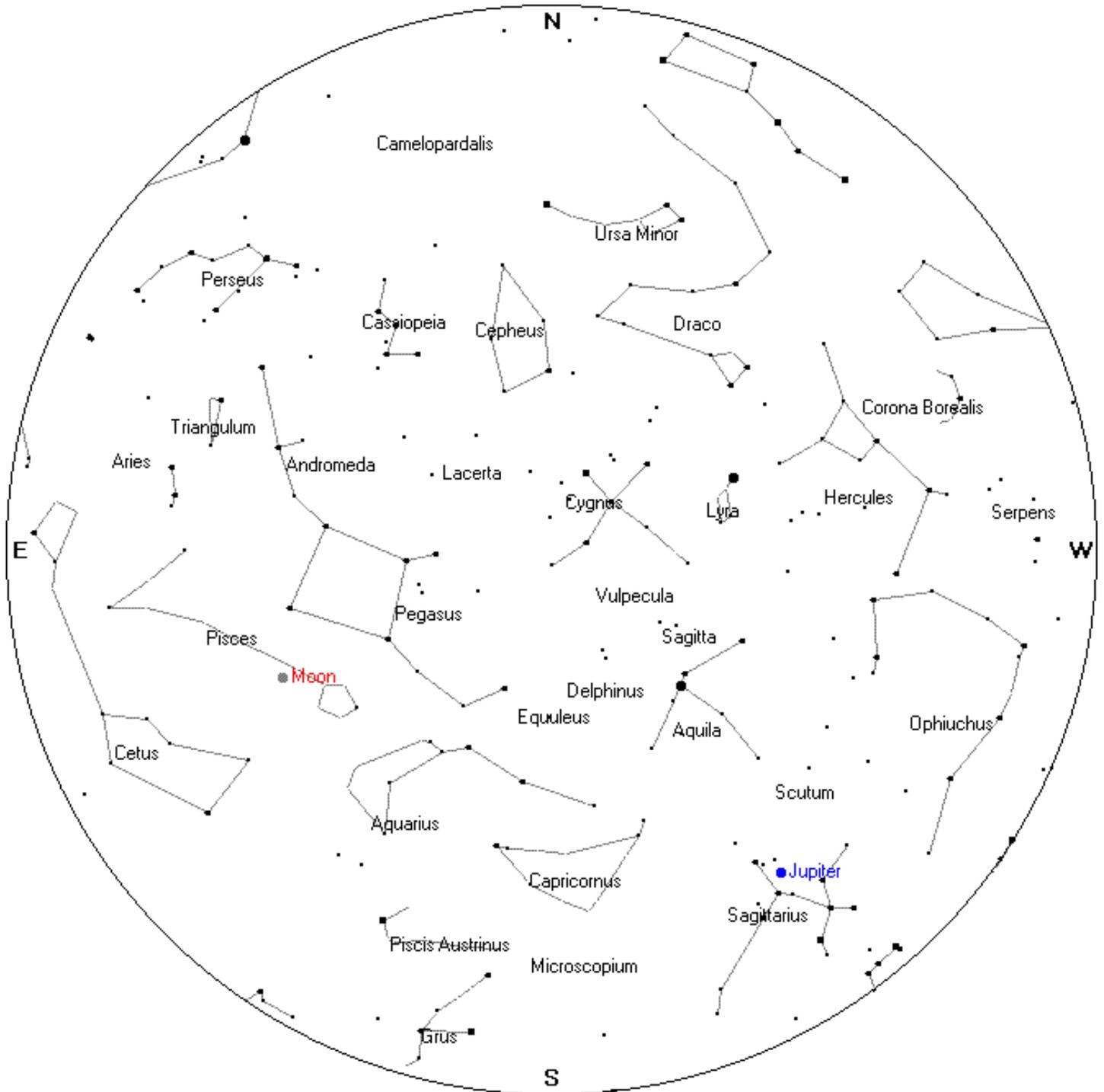
The 2001 Mars Odyssey also continues to operate, but from a less demanding position in orbit above the planet. Much of the data from Odyssey helped prepare the more recent missions. Also see: <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/odyssey/index.html>

Space enthusiasts hope that the string of successes at Mars will mean a human mission will be in the works. At this point, the earliest attempt will not be made until the 2030's.

Until then, our robotic eyes and sensors will do the work we dream of doing ourselves.

September Skymap

September 1 - 12:00 A.M.
September 15 - 11:00 P.M.
September 30 - 10:00 P.M.



Skymap from www.heavens-above.com

In the Sky this Month

Planetarium this Month

Starting September 5

The Sun

	Sunrise:	Sunset:
September 1	7:03 A.M.	7:52 P.M.
September 15	7:12 A.M.	7:34 P.M.
September 30	7:22 A.M.	7:14 P.M.

At 10:45 A.M. on September 22 the Sun will cross the celestial equator heading South. This marks the Autumnal Equinox and the start of Fall in the Northern Hemisphere.

The word “equinox” suggests that we have an equal number of daylight and nighttime hours on this day all around the world, but this in reality is not quite true. It would be true if the Sun were a point and not a disk which takes several minutes to rise and set. It would also be true if the Earth had no atmosphere, for refraction by the air makes the Sun appear to be up at the horizon when it is in fact below it, and turns day gradually into night and night gradually into day.

Moon

First Quarter	September 7
Full Moon	September 15
Last Quarter	September 22
New Moon	September 29

Planets

Venus enters the stage in the evening sky after sundown. Look towards the West as soon as it gets dark. If you see a bright blinking object it’s heading for the airport. If it’s a bright steady object, that is Venus. Watch as Venus gets higher each week at sundown through the end of Summer and into Fall.

Jupiter continues its good showing this month, starting the evening out almost due South, about one-third of the way from the horizon to the zenith.

The other planets observable from Earth are too close to the Sun to be viewed this month.

Fridays:

7:00 - Seven Wonders

8:00 - Rock Hall of Fame

Saturdays and Sundays:

1:00 TimeSpace

2:30 - Seven Wonders

4:00 - Un programa en español

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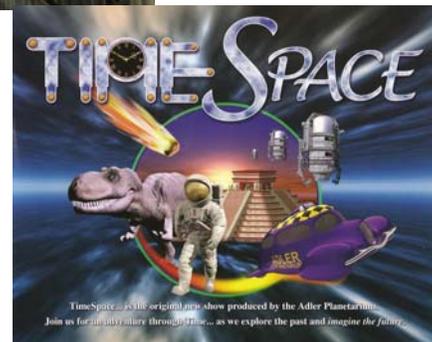
Tuesday Morning Special:

Sept. 23 at 10:00 A.M.

Honey, I Shrunk the Solar System



TWO
NEW
SHOWS



Prices:

\$5 - adults

\$4 - Kids (18 & under), Seniors, Non-UTA students

\$3 - UTA Faculty/Staff/Alumni (with ID)

\$2 - UTA students

\$3 - Groups of 10 or more with reservation