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The Planetarium at UT Arlington



The Planetarium offers live stargazing and prerecorded programs to the public, school groups, and UT Arlington students all year round.

Using state-of-the-art technology and a 60-ft. dome screen, the Planetarium is an immersive space theater facility with endless capabilities.

Public show pricing

Adults	\$6.00
Seniors	\$4.00
Children	\$4.00
Students	\$4.00
UTA Students	\$3.00
Children 0-2	Free

Contact Us

700 Planetarium Place
Arlington, TX 76019

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Romancing the Stars

Bring your sweetheart to the Planetarium this Valentine's Day for our special Couples Only event, Romancing the Stars. This program takes a lighthearted look at the night sky and tells many stories of love and devotion that can be found there. Tickets are \$15 per person (\$12 for UTA Faculty/Staff/Students and Planetarium members) and can be purchased by calling the Planetarium office at 817-272-1183. Tickets will soon be available online at UTAtickets.com.

Romancing the Stars Schedule

Friday, February 12

- 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 13

- 5:30 pm
- 8:30 pm

Sunday, February 14

- 5:00 pm
- 6:30 pm

[Read More >>](#)

Source: <http://www.uta.edu/planetarium/>

Remembering Columbia

Featured Public Show

Romancing the Stars



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The seven-member crew of the STS – 107 mission was just 16 minutes from landing on the morning of February 1, 2003, when Mission Control lost contact with the shuttle Columbia. A piece of foam, falling from the external tank during launch, had opened a hole in one of the shuttle's wings, leading to the breakup of the orbiter upon re-entry over North Texas.

Addressing the nation, President Bush, said, "mankind is led into the darkness beyond our world by the inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand. Our journey into space will go on."

Among the astronauts to be lost on that day was University of Texas at Arlington alumna, Kalpana Chawla. Chawla was honored with a residential building, KC Hall, which opened to residents in 2004. In 2010, with the opening of Nedderman Hall, Chawla's husband donated her flight suit, photographs and other items displayed in a permanent memorial.

January 28, the anniversary of the [Challenger](#) disaster, is NASA's Day of Remembrance. Every year on this day we are asked to remember those whose lives were lost in the pursuit of the unknown.

[Read More >>](#)

Source: <http://www.uta.edu/news/releases/2010/05/kalpana-chawla-display.php>

Source: <http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/DOR2016/index.html>

Is There a 9th Planet After All?

Caltech researchers have found evidence of a giant planet tracing a bizarre, highly elongated orbit in the outer solar system. The object, which the researchers have nicknamed Planet Nine, has a mass about 10 times that of Earth and orbits about 20 times farther from the sun on average than does Neptune (which orbits the sun at an average distance of 2.8 billion miles). In fact, it would take this new planet between 10,000 and 20,000 years to make just one full orbit around the sun.

The researchers, [Konstantin Batygin](#) and [Mike Brown](#), discovered the planet's existence through mathematical modeling and computer simulations but have not yet observed the object directly.

"This would be a real ninth planet," says Brown, the Richard and Barbara Rosenberg Professor of Planetary Astronomy. "There have only been two true planets discovered since ancient times, and this would be a third. It's a pretty substantial chunk of our solar system that's still out there to be found, which is pretty exciting."

Brown notes that the putative ninth planet—at 5,000 times the mass of Pluto—is sufficiently large that there should be no debate about whether it is a true planet. Unlike the class of smaller objects now known as dwarf planets, Planet Nine gravitationally dominates its neighborhood of the solar system. In fact, it dominates a region larger than any of the other known planets—a fact that Brown says makes it "the most planet-y of the planets in the whole solar system."

Read More >>

Source: <https://www.caltech.edu/news/caltech-researchers-find-evidence-real-ninth-planet-49523#sthash.7Iz2wJ31.dpuf>

Asteroid Detection and Hazard Mitigation

Get NASA has formalized its ongoing program for detecting and tracking near-

Earth objects (NEOs) as the [Planetary Defense Coordination Office \(PDCO\)](#). The office remains within NASA's Planetary Science Division, in the agency's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. The office will be responsible for supervision of all NASA-funded projects to find and characterize asteroids and comets that pass near Earth's orbit around the sun. It will also take a leading role in coordinating interagency and intergovernmental efforts in response to any potential impact threats.

More than 13,500 near-Earth objects of all sizes have been discovered to date—more than 95 percent of them since NASA-funded surveys began in 1998. About 1,500 NEOs are now detected each year.

"Asteroid detection, tracking and defense of our planet is something that NASA, its interagency partners, and the global community take very seriously," said John Grunsfeld, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. "While there are no known impact threats at this time, the 2013 Chelyabinsk super-fireball and the recent 'Halloween Asteroid' close approach remind us of why we need to remain vigilant and keep our eyes to the sky."

[Read More >>](#)

Source: <http://www.nasa.gov/feature/nasa-office-to-coordinate-asteroid-detection-hazard-mitigation>