PLANETARIUM
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The Starry Messenger

March 2017

In This Issue

UTA Planetarium

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-foot 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	$4.00
Children 0-2	Free

Daylight Savings Time Starts Sunday, March 12

This year, we will advance our clocks one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12 to observe Daylight Saving Time (aka DST or summertime). With the start of Daylight Saving Time, daylight will extend an hour later in the evenings. The idea behind Daylight Saving Time is to allow more early evening activities to occur while sunlight is still present to minimize energy consumption.

According to Wikipedia, Benjamin Franklin proposed a form of Daylight Saving Time in 1784 in an essay he wrote about lowering energy costs. New Zealander George Houston proposed a “Daylight Savings” idea in 1895. The first nationwide implementation in the United States was not until April 30, 1916.

There are some critics of Daylight Savings Time who claim that while the practice may be beneficial for retailers, sporting events, etc., it may be a problem for some outdoor activities in the evening.

While switching the time twice a year back and forth may be a concern, some countries such as Argentina, Chile, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Belarus, and Turkey have gone to permanent Daylight Saving Time. Many European countries implemented permanent summertime during World War II. Russia used permanent Daylight Saving Time between 2011 and 2014. However, due to late sunrises in the winter, they switched back to permanent wintertime.

Most computers and mobile communication devices will adjust clocks automatically. It may still potentially disrupt traveling, billing, etc.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time

NASA Telescope Finds Seven Earth-Size Planets Around Single Star

Contact Us

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Featured Public Show

Plays for public:

Fridays and Saturdays

6:00 pm

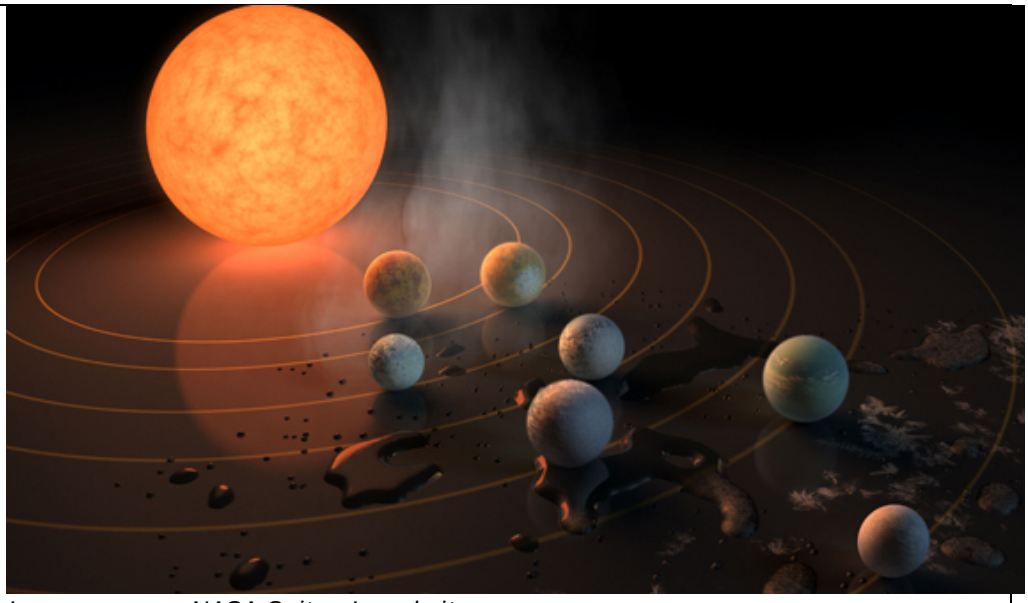

Image source: NASA Spitzer's website

NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope recently detected seven Earth-size planets around a single star. The planet system is called TRAPPIST-1, named after the observatory in Chile (Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope) that announced this planet system in May 2016. The discovery was confirmed by European Space Observatory's Very Large Telescope and NASA's space observatory Spitzer.

Three of the seven planets reside in the habitable zone, a zone around stars where conditions are suitable for liquid water, which is key for life. According to analysis, all seven planets could hold liquid water under the right atmospheric conditions, but the chances are highest for the three planets that are in the habitable zone.

Exoplanet or Extra-solar planet is the scientific term for the planets orbiting other stars. TRAPPIST-1 system is located about 40 light years away from Earth, which is considered very close considering the dimensions of our galaxy.

Source: http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu/news/1924-ssc2017-01

Extra Shows During Spring Break

The Planetarium will extend its public programs during Spring Break. Extra showings will be offered from March 14–17.

Extra Spring Break shows from **March 14–17** include:

Tuesday	2:00 PM – ROSETTA
Tuesday	3:00 PM – SPACEPARK 360
Wednesday	2:00 PM – ONE WORLD ONE SKY, BIG BIRD'S ADVENTURE
Wednesday	3:00 PM – SPACEPARK 360
Thursday	2:00 PM – STARS OF THE PHARAOHS

	Thursday	3:00 PM – SPACEPARK 360
	Friday	2:00 PM – SEEING
	Friday	3:00 PM – SPACEPARK 360