

Highlights:

I: ASX hosts the Canadian Premiere of *Orphans of Apollo*

II: Earth Hour Observing Event – Mar. 28, 2009

III. ASX Elections – Apr. 2, 2009

IV: International Space News

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Dear Astronomy and Space Enthusiasts,

All good things must come to an end. April represents the final month of the 2008-2009 academic year. And quite a year it has been. Two of our executive members received scholarships to study at the International Space University. We introduced ASX Movie Nights, a fun filled evening of space films. We also held our most ambitious Symposium ever, hosting spaceflight participant Anousheh Ansari. But most importantly, we met a lot of really cool people, who have a passion for space and astronomy.

We look now to the future, and readying the society for the 2009-2010 year. Although during the summer we will be gearing up for next year's events, we will still organize/participate in several events, including Astronomy Day and Science Rendezvous in May, and Starfest 2009 in August. Stay tuned for more news in the upcoming months.

If you have enjoyed the events and activities of ASX, now is the perfect time to become more involved. See section III – Elections, for more info. We hope to see you soon.

Clear Skies,
ASX

I. ASX hosts the Canadian Premiere of *Orphans of Apollo*

On Friday, February 20th, ASX had the honour of hosting the Canadian Premiere of the award-winning documentary "Orphans of Apollo". We watched how a small band of space entrepreneurs went behind the backs of NASA and the US government, in an attempt to lease the Russian space station Mir, and open up the final frontier for commercialization. We had the pleasure of having Director Michael Potter at this event, who answered questions from the audience. The event concluded with a reception. For those of you who attended, we hope you enjoyed this event. If you missed this movie premiere, or would like more information, here are some links of interest:

Official Movie Website: <http://www.orphansofapollo.com/>

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br0vqXJ39pg>



If you did not receive this e-newsletter directly, and would like to hear about future ASX news and events, please email space.society@utoronto.ca with subject line "Newsletter Signup". We also invite you to join our Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2226718345>

II. Earth Hour Observing Event

ASX is collaborating with the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Toronto, which is hosting a special Earth Hour Observing Session on March 28.

DATE & TIME: Saturday, March 28, 2009, 8 PM – 10 PM

LOCATION: McLennan Physics Laboratories (60 St. George St), University of Toronto

Telescopes will be set up on the rooftop of McLennan Labs and ASX will also be present with its telescope. Weather permitting, Saturn, the Orion Nebula, Comet Lulin and other celestial wonders will be visible during a less light-polluted hour!

MORE INFO: http://www1.astro.utoronto.ca/~gasa/public_talk/iWeb/Scheduled_Tours.html



III. ASX Elections



Do you: Like space? Love astronomy?
 Enjoy the activities put on this year by ASX?
 Want to get involved?

Now is your chance to join ASX – the premier space and astronomy group in Toronto – as an executive member, coordinator, or volunteer. Help organize and run some of the highest profile events in Toronto. Get a chance to meet and talk with astronauts and industry leaders. Previous executives have received scholarships and gone on to do amazing things.

Join us at our Elections meeting:

DATE & TIME: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Bahen Centre, Room 2155 (BA2155), 40 St. George Street

AGENDA:

- End of Year Report: current ASX executives provide various reports including Executive Summary, Marketing Highlights, Financial Summary, and Event Highlights
- Elections to fill positions for 2009-2010 academic year
- Discussion and voting on proposed changes to the ASX Constitution
- Ideas for the new term/year

For the list of positions and their descriptions, please see:

<http://asx.sa.utoronto.ca/events/elections/>

If you are interested in any of these positions, please email space.society@utoronto.ca with subject line “ASX Elections”, and indicate position(s) for which you are interested in running. Please refer to the [ASX constitution \(http://asx.sa.utoronto.ca/about\)](http://asx.sa.utoronto.ca/about) for eligibility requirements.

IV. International Space News

Canadian Astronaut Selection – Top 16 Chosen

Out of 5,351 applicants, only 16 remain. The Canadian Space Agency recently released the list of the top 16 finalists to become the next Canadian astronaut. Of the 16 remaining applicants, only two will go on to become astronauts. The campaign began in May of 2008, and will continue with additional personal interviews and rigorous medical examinations. Biographies of the astronaut candidates are available on the CSA website. ASX wishes the applicants good luck, and may the best candidates win!



More info: <http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronauts/recruitment/biographies.asp>



STS-119 Launch Successful! New Solar Arrays to be Installed on ISS

The mission will bring the fourth and final solar array to the station, completing the truss, or backbone of the station. The new power supply will bring the station generating capabilities up to 80-100 kilowatts of power, enough to power 42 homes. This is double the stations current energy production capabilities. This new addition comes just in time. This May, the ISS crew compliment will be

expanded from four to six, and the new crew members will need the additional power. As well, the arrays will double the amount of electricity for science experiments. Furthermore, STS-119 will be installing a replacement unit that converts urine to drinkable water.

More info: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/main/index.html

V. Other Upcoming Astronomy/Space Events (free unless specified)

Mondays, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Live telescope broadcast and online interactive forum

York University Department of Physics and Astronomy
This is a free event, broadcasted over the internet.

More info: <http://www.physics.yorku.ca/observatory/>, or
<http://www.yorku.ca/mediar/archive/Release.php?Release=1600>



Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 7:30 PM

Canadian Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics – Sackler Lecture

"Black Holes: End of Time, or a New Beginning?"

By Professor Roger Blandford (Kavli Institute, California)
Koffler Institute (569 Spadina Avenue), Room 108

More Info: <http://www.cita.utoronto.ca>

Thursday, March 5, 2009, 4:30 PM

Public Lecture: "TRYING GALILEO"

By Professor Tom Mayer (Augustana College, Illinois)
Jointly Sponsored by Several U of T Departments/Colleges
Madden Auditorium, Carr Hall, St. Michael's College
(100 St. Joseph's St., Toronto)
More Info:

http://www.iicbelgrado.esteri.it/IIC_Toronto/webform/SchedaEventoAltrove.aspx?id=233&citta=Toronto



Thursday, March 5, 2009, 8:10 PM

U of T Dept. of Astronomy Public Lecture

"Scales of Time: 15 Billion Years in Under an Hour", By Mubdi Rahman
University of Toronto St. George Campus, McLennan Physical Lab (60 St. George St), Room 102

More Info: http://www1.astro.utoronto.ca/~gasa/public_talk/iWeb/Scheduled_Tours.html

Friday, March 6, 2009, 8:00 PM

RASC Mississauga Public Lecture

"What Next? The Astronomy of the Invisible", By Ivan Semeniuk
University of Toronto Mississauga Campus, Room SE2082 in South Building
More Info: <http://www.mississauga.rasc.ca/meetings.htm>



Sunday, March 8, 2009, 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

"Hands-On Mars": Fun-Filled Hands-On Science for Kids Ages 6-12

Hosted by Let's Talk Science and RCI
Macleod Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building (1 King's College Cir),
University of Toronto
More info: http://www.letstalkscience.ca/main/upcoming_events/

Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Canadian Space Commerce Association – 2009 AGM and Conference

Theme: "Canadian NewSpace: Domestic and International Opportunities for 2009 and Beyond"

Mars Discovery District, Room CR2-AB, 101 College Street, Toronto

More info: <http://spacecommerce.ca/>

Note: Not a free event



Thursday, March 26, 2009, 6:30 PM

Former Astronaut Discusses Environmental Sustainability

Featuring Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first woman in space

University of Toronto Mississauga Campus, 3359 Mississauga Rd.,
Communication, Culture and Technology Building, Rm. 1080

More info: <http://www.mississauga.com/article/24904>

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/index.php?id=10370>

Admission: \$5 Public, \$3 Students



Saturday, March 28, 2009, 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Earth Hour Star Party

Co-hosted by the Ontario Science Centre and RASC Toronto
Imperial Oil Auditorium at the Ontario Science Centre

More Info: <http://toronto.rasc.ca/content/eh09osc.shtml>

<http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/calendar/default.asp?eventid=840&ddmmyyyy=07032009>

Starts Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Free introductory course to Observational Astronomy

Spring 2009 NOVA Program (8-week course), developed
by RASC Toronto and hosted by Ontario Science Centre

Imperial Oil Auditorium at the Ontario Science Centre

More Info: <http://toronto.rasc.ca/content/nova09.shtml>

<http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/calendar/default.asp?eventid=688&ddmmyyyy=07032009>



Thursday, April 2, 2009, 8:00 PM

Sci-Fi Movie Night

U of T Dept. of Astronomy Public Lecture

Presented by Ph.D. Candidate Jamil Shariff

McLennan Physics Laboratories (60 St. George St), University of Toronto

More Info: http://www1.astro.utoronto.ca/~gasa/public_talk/iWeb/Scheduled_Tours.html

Friday, April 3, 2009, 8:00 PM

RASC Mississauga - Public Lecture

“Let there be light: the birth of stars and stellar families”

By Kaithlin Kratter, 4th year Ph.D Candidate, Department of
Astronomy & Astrophysics, U of T.

University of Toronto Mississauga Campus, Room SE2082 in
South Building

More Info: <http://www.mississauga.rasc.ca/meetings.htm>



Saturday, April 11, 2009, 7 PM

Yuri's Night – Toronto Celebration

Come join us celebrate the annual space holiday!

Fox & Fiddle Pub, 280 Bloor Street West

More info: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=140253775242#>

For national space events, refer to CSS discussion lists at <http://www.css.ca/discussionlists/>.

CSS Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=12706081197>