

UWM
Manfred Olson

Planetarium News

August 2015

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Current and Upcoming Events

Stars & S'mores

Wednesday, August 5
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Spend a warm summer night looking at the stars and eating delicious s'mores! Guests can purchase kits to make two s'mores for \$3 in the Physics Building Courtyard. Grills will be provided to roast the marshmallows to perfection. Additionally, there will be free stargazing on the observing deck, where we'll look at astronomical objects through telescopes. In the event of inclement weather, an indoor stargazing show will be held at 8 p.m. in the UWM Planetarium.



Science & Cinema

Fridays, September 4 - October 9
7-7:55 p.m.
Tickets: \$3

Science & Cinema will give us an opportunity to watch together some of the iconic moments of popular science fiction movies such as Star Wars, Back to the Future, and Interstellar. We will look at technological advancements presented in these movies, what we are learning now about the possibility of other planetary systems elsewhere, and what the future might bring.

Jean's Corner

A Note From The Director



Dear UWM Planetarium friends,

How exciting that we got to see new images of Pluto and Charon thanks to New Horizons. What a beautiful neighborhood we live in! What is even better is that we will be getting more and more of the images for the next year-and-a-half.

I am looking forward to Science & Cinema. The program is going to have a different flavor: it will highlight some of our favorite sci-fi movies: the cool technology, innovative futuristic modes of transportation and communication; it is fun to compare these with current and near-future innovations. The production crew, mostly film majors, are really pumped.

We started Stars & S'mores last year. If it is well attended this year, we might just bite the bullet and buy a grill. Is there anybody out there who has a grill they are willing to donate by any chance? :-)

As always, I hope to see you soon under the stars.

Jean
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New Horizons reaches Pluto

After 9 years and over 3 billion miles traveled, New Horizons finally reached Pluto on July 14, and came within 7,750 miles of its surface. Although it will take months for New Horizons to send back all its data we've already learned quite a bit since the flyby two weeks ago. An icy mountain range was discovered on Pluto's surface on July 14. More recently, New Horizons has sent back data about Pluto's atmosphere. It appears there are two layers of haze on Pluto's atmosphere extending 80 miles above the surface. This is about five times farther than originally predicted.

This is only the beginning of what will be an exciting couple months in astronomy.



Pluto backlit by the sun with its luminous halo from its atmosphere

FREE PROGRAMS

Stargazing

9 - 10 p.m.

Join us on the observing deck as we peer through telescopes at the stars, planets, and moons. All dates are weather dependent. Visit our website for directions to the observing deck.

Upcoming Dates:

- August 12
- August 26

AstroBreaks

Select Wednesdays
12:15-12:45 p.m.

Each show features discussion of a different astronomical topic followed by a look at the night sky.

Upcoming Topics:

- August 12: Other Solar Systems

Interview with Bonnie North

On Monday, July 27 the Planetarium hosted a live taping of AstroChats with Lake Effect's Bonnie North interviewing Director Jean Creighton. It was a great night with many of the guests attending having only known about the Planetarium through WUWM 89.7 FM AstroChats. Aside from the many great questions that the audience asked, Jean discussed topics with Bonnie ranging from her part aboard NASA's SOFIA to giving a look into what we have learned from the recent data revolving around New Horizons and Pluto. The audience and even Bonnie herself were then able to experience the night sky of Milwaukee and a country sky all while learning the tips and tricks to help remember and identify many popular constellations.

