

Dear UWM Planetarium Friends,



Presenting at the International Planetarium Committee 2026 conference in Fukuoka, Japan.

Any International Planetarium Society conference is a stimulating experience that makes me consider new ideas and examine how we do what we do. To make it even more exhilarating, this year the conference was held in Fukuoka, Japan. This was my first visit to Japan! I loved the Japanese gardens that seemed to have every sight line curated to be as beautiful as possible. Many dishes that food was served in were works of art. Here are some key points from my Fukuoka conference:

(1) One of the keynote speakers wondered about the role of planetariums over the next 100 years now that we live in the age of answers all around us. His conclusion? A planetarium is "a place where people encounter questions worth pursuing."

(2) Another idea that resonated with me is to give people time to be present in the planetarium and observe the projected night sky. There are so few opportunities for people to focus on the here and now with others.

(3) I gave a talk about the planetarium program we developed for 3rd grade students in MPS. The co-chair of the Education committee approached me and said I was one of the people who talked about what really matters: the value of learning and challenging students and the pride they have when they understand a concept. I was very pleased.

(4) Icing on the cake? We saw a Noh Theater performance that

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

I hope to see you soon under the stars,

Jean



Upcoming Events

One Show Left!

A poster for the 'Shooting Stars' event. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous white streaks representing meteors. At the bottom, the dark silhouettes of evergreen trees are visible against the sky. In the top left corner is the UWM logo (three horizontal bars in yellow, orange, and red) followed by the text 'Manfred Olson Planetarium'. The title 'Shooting Stars' is in large, bold, white font. Below the title, the dates 'Fridays, July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026' and the time '7:00pm - 8:00pm' are listed. The ticket information '\$7 General / \$5 UWM Students' is also present. A paragraph of text describes the event: 'Many know shooting stars as striking trails of light, but their name is misleading since they are neither shooting nor stars. Find out how to witness these mesmerizing meteors for yourself!'. In the bottom left corner, a location pin icon is next to the text 'UWM Physics Bldg. Room # 139'. In the bottom right corner is a square QR code.

UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium

Shooting Stars

Fridays, July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026
7:00pm - 8:00pm
\$7 General / \$5 UWM Students

Many know shooting stars as striking trails of light, but their name is misleading since they are neither shooting nor stars. Find out how to witness these mesmerizing meteors for yourself!

UWM Physics Bldg.
Room # 139

Shooting Stars

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Fridays, July 10 - 31

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Many know shooting stars as striking trails of light, but their name is misleading since they are neither shooting nor stars. These streaks of light, also known as meteors, are caused by fragments of either comets or asteroids. Find out how to witness these mesmerizing light trails for yourself!

[Get Tickets](#)



Stars and S'mores

Saturday, August 29

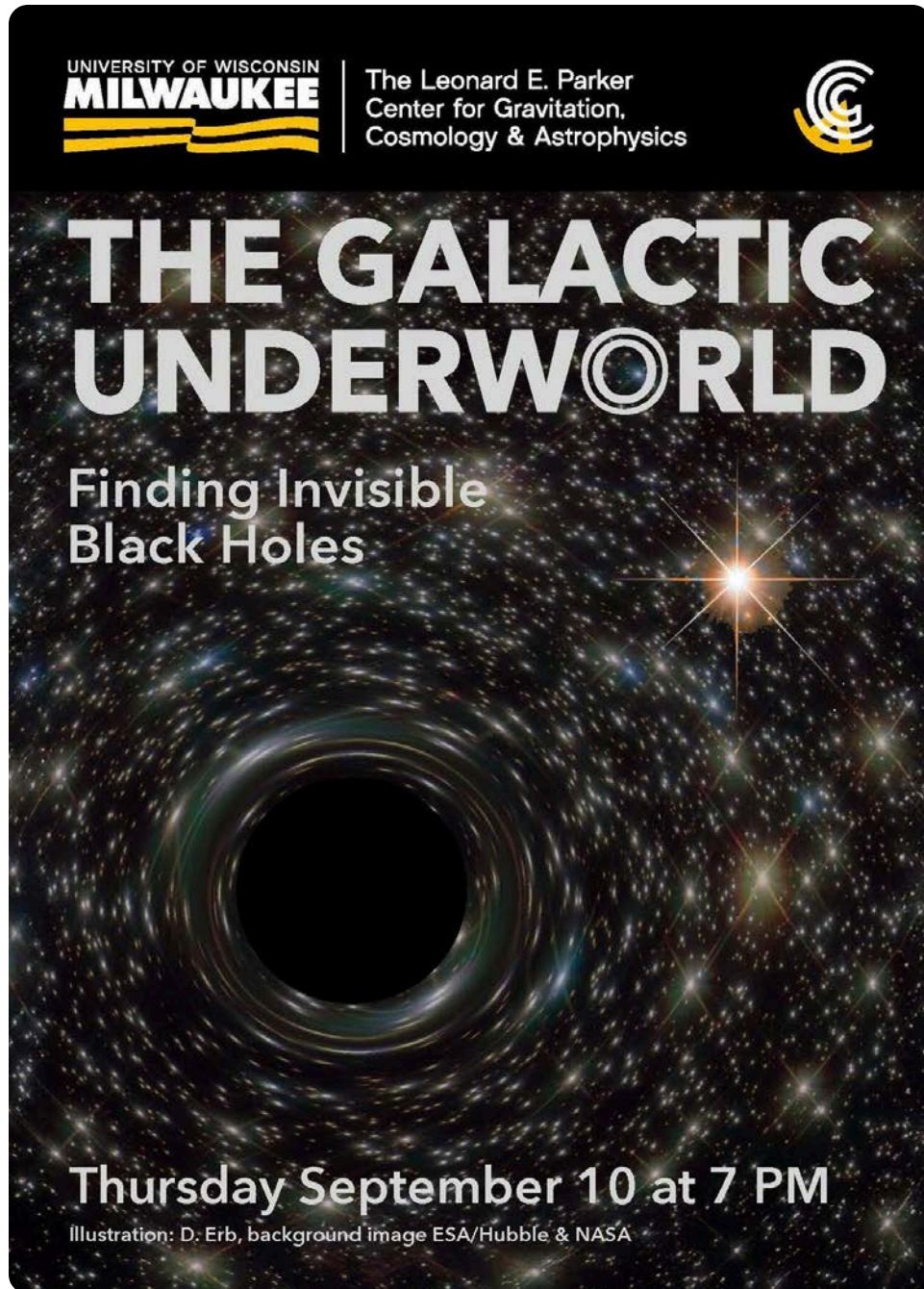
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy a fun night of stargazing and delicious s'mores! Join us outside while roasting marshmallows, playing games, and meeting new people.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

20-minute indoor planetarium stargazing show. Planetarium shows will run every 30 minutes, rain or shine.

[More Info](#)



The Galactic Underworld: Finding Invisible Black Holes

Lubar Entrepreneurship Center

Thursday, September 10

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Black holes are among the most fascinating objects in the Universe, yet most of them are completely invisible. So how do astronomers find them?

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Kareem El-Badry, Assistant Professor Astronomy of California Institute of Technology, will describe how the Gaia mission is revolutionizing our view of the Milky Way by measuring the motions of more than a billion stars with extraordinary precision, allowing us to detect the subtle gravitational pull of unseen companions—including black holes that emit no light at all.

This event is hosted by the Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics and will be held in the Lubar Entrepreneurship Center.

RSVP



Observe the Moon Night

Saturday, September 19

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

It's International Observe the Moon Night! This event, created by NASA, is happening all over the country and around the world. Join the

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

You can catch one of our free 20-minute indoor planetarium shows covering lunar exploration as well as cultural connections to the Moon. Stay after the show for space-themed treats! Weather permitting, step outside and gaze at the Moon through our telescope.

[More Info](#)



News



Our private group fees are increasing soon (from \$75 to \$85 for school groups and \$175 to \$185 for all other groups). Book your private show before August 1, 2026 to lock in the lower fee!

[Book Your Private Show](#)



Director Jean Creighton recently hopped on WUWM radio to talk about what makes meteor showers so special.

[Listen In](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



Get Involved



Are you or do you know a UWM student who wants to share their love of astronomy with others? We are looking to fill two positions:

- Planetarium Presenter
- Communications Coordinator

We are accepting applications until August 15 or until the positions are filled. More information is [available on our website](#).

Job Opportunities

Become a Member

Donate

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



Manfred Olson Planetarium
1900 E Kenwood Blvd
Milwaukee, WI 53211

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium 1900 E Kenwood Blvd | Milwaukee, WI 53211 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.