



The Herbert F. Trackman Planetarium

Show Information

Tuesday evening shows are suitable for all ages and begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evening shows are directed toward children and begin at 6:30 p.m.; Sunday shows begin at 2:30 p.m. All shows last approximately 35 to 45 minutes, followed by a question and answer session which lasts approximately 15 minutes.

Grade school and high school groups are encouraged to schedule special programs that may be presented during the school day. These free programs are open to the public and tailored to the grade level of students attending the program.

Social and civic organizations also are invited to schedule programs for their members. These programs are available during the day and Tuesday or Thursday evenings. Reservations are required.

Arrangements for these special programs may be made by contacting Christine McKittrick at (815) 280-6682 (NOVA), between 7 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Astronomy Courses

For those interested in learning more about the universe, JJC offers two astronomy courses. Both courses are aimed at non-science majors and no prior science courses are required in order to enroll.

“Descriptive Astronomy” (ASTR 101) covers the solar system, stars, galaxies and the universe. It includes a historical perspective of how understanding of the universe has progressed over the years. This course is offered during the fall, spring and summer terms.

“Life in the Universe” (PHSCI 125) covers the possibility of finding life in the solar system beyond the Earth and our galaxy, how we search for extraterrestrials and the feasibility of human interstellar travel. Associate Professor Noella D’Cruz teaches this course in the fall and spring semesters on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 to 2:15 p.m.

For more information about these classes, please contact the Department of Natural Sciences and Physical Education at (815) 280-6682 (NOVA).

About the Planetarium

At JJC’s Herbert F. Trackman Planetarium, visitors can discover the wonders of space up close and personal thanks to the generosity of alumnus Herbert Trackman and the college’s commitment to enriching people’s lives through quality programs and services. The planetarium was built in 1972, and is one of seven community college planetariums in the state of Illinois. Nearly 10,000 people visit each year to enjoy the educational shows that are offered free of charge. The Planetarium is located at:

**Joliet Junior College
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938**

Contact Information

For more information about the Planetarium and featured shows, contact:

**Christine McKittrick
Planetarium Services
cmckittr@jjc.edu
(815) 280-6682 (NOVA)**

**Hours: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium**



2009-2010 PROGRAM



2009-2010 Schedule

Tuesday Shows

9/8/09	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of September
9/22/09	7:30 p.m.	Our Solar System
10/6/09	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of October
10/20/09	7:30 p.m.	Wonders in the Sky
11/3/09	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of November
11/17/09	7:30 p.m.	How to Buy a Telescope
12/1/09	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of December
12/15/09	7:30 p.m.	The Christmas Show
12/29/09	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of January
1/12/10	7:30 p.m.	Comets and Asteroids
1/26/10	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of February
2/9/10	7:30 p.m.	The Fermi Paradox
2/23/10	7:30 p.m.	Sun – Earth – Moon
3/9/10	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of March
3/23/10	7:30 p.m.	The World Will Not End on December 21, 2012
4/6/10	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of April
4/20/10	7:30 p.m.	Wonders in the Sky
5/4/10	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Skies of May
5/18/10	7:30 p.m.	Search for Intelligent Life
6/1/10	7:30 p.m.	The Seasonal Sky: Summer Skies

Thursday Shows

10/1/09	6:30 p.m.	We Go To The Moon
10/29/09	6:30 p.m.	Our Solar System
11/12/09	6:30 p.m.	What's in the Sky
1/21/10	6:30 p.m.	Winter Skies for Kids
3/4/10	6:30 p.m.	We Go To The Moon
3/18/10	6:30 p.m.	Our Solar System
4/1/10	6:30 p.m.	What's in the Sky
4/15/10	6:30 p.m.	Spring Skies for Kids
4/29/10	6:30 p.m.	Are There Aliens?
5/13/10	6:30 p.m.	Comets and Asteroids
5/27/10	6:30 p.m.	We Go To The Moon
6/10/10	6:30 p.m.	What's in the Sky

Sunday Shows

10/18/09	2:30 p.m.	Are There Aliens?
11/29/09	2:30 p.m.	Winter Skies for Kids
12/13/09	2:30 p.m.	The Christmas Show
12/20/09	2:30 p.m.	The Christmas Show
1/10/10	2:30 p.m.	Our Solar System
2/7/10	2:30 p.m.	What's in the Sky

Attending a Show

Visitors should arrive early since seating is limited and also difficult to find once the chamber is darkened. In order to avoid overcrowding, the doors will be closed once the chamber is filled.

All shows begin with a trip through the night sky using the Spitz 512 Planetarium Projector. During and after the live shows, questions are accepted from the audience. The number of questions might be limited due to time constraints. All shows are updated weekly to reflect the latest information from NASA and reflect the same themes as the canned shows they are temporarily replacing.

Show Descriptions

Are There Aliens?

Are humans the only intelligent life in the universe? Probably not. This show, targeted for a young audience, explains how NASA is looking for habitable planets and the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence.

Comets and Asteroids

Learn more about the giant rocks that share our solar system with the planets. This includes a history of terrestrial hits that have occurred since the beginning of our solar system, plus discussion about the chances of a collision in the future.

How to Buy a Telescope

This show describes how telescopes work, the different types available to amateurs, and how to choose the best one to fit your budget.

Our Solar System

This show is about the sun, planets, plutoids, dwarf planets and other rocky and frozen objects that orbit our sun. It is updated continually to include the latest information from NASA. The show also addresses the possibility of aliens.

Wonders in the Sky

Wonders of the Sky reveals everything in the night sky including constellations, planets, the moon, galaxies and nebula, and addresses the search for habitable planets beyond our solar system.

Search for Intelligent Life

Are humans the only intelligent life in the universe? Probably not. This show explains how NASA is looking for habitable planets and the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence.

Sun – Earth – Moon

The sun is crucial to life on earth, but it is also deadly. This show discusses how the earth needs the sun but is also protected from it, and how the moon is necessary for life to form and continue on earth.

The Christmas Show

This show covers the history of the winter solstice celebration and why Christmas is celebrated at this time. It also addresses what the Christmas star might have been, when the birth described in the Bible would have happened, and the story of the Three Kings using biblical, historical and astronomical data. Due to the subject matter, the show has a strongly Christian theme.

The Fermi Paradox

In 1950, physicist Enrico Fermi proposed the question: “If the universe is over 13 billion years old, and there are billions of planets in the universe that are millions of years older than the earth, why aren’t there aliens visiting earth?” This became known as the “Fermi Paradox,” and this show reveals some professional answers to this question. The program also includes open discussion time.

The Seasonal Sky

This show is continually updated to reveal what is in the sky during the current month, including the visible planets, stars, constellations and any comets that may appear.

The World Will Not End on December 21, 2012

This show explores theories about the world’s demise that include the planets aligning, the Mayan calendar ending, the sun crossing between the black hole in the galaxy’s center and earth, the magnetic poles changing and Nostradamus’ writings.

We Go to The Moon

This show for children four to six years old shows what it would be like to go to the moon, and gives them a chance to discuss what they would need for the trip.

What’s in the Sky

This show for children four to six years old is about things in the night sky during the current season.