



The Herbert F. Trackman Planetarium 2018-2019 Program

Show & Group Information

All public planetarium shows last about an hour. They start with a trip through the current skies using the OmniStar digital projector and conclude with a Q&A session.

All shows are free and suitable for all ages. Seating is first come, first serve. Grade school and high school groups are encouraged to attend special programs presented during the school day. These programs are often combined with a visit to the 150-year-old Cronin Schoolhouse, which is also located on JJC's Main Campus.

Social and civic organizations are also invited to schedule programs. These programs are available during the day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and on select Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Reservations are required.

Making Reservations for Special Shows

To make reservations for your school group or organization, contact Field Trip Coordinator Gina Foote at (815) 280-2525 or gfoote@jjc.edu.

Astronomy Courses

Joliet Junior College offers the following college-level astronomy courses. These are designed for non-science majors. No prior science courses are required to enroll.

Descriptive Astronomy (ASTR 101) –

Learn about the concepts, principles and methods that lead to our present understanding of the solar system, stars, galaxies and the universe. This class also includes a historical perspective and is offered during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

Life in the Universe (PHSCI 125) –

This course addresses the possibility of finding life beyond Earth, how we search for life outside of Earth and the feasibility of humans traveling in and colonizing space. Professor Noella Dcruz teaches this course in the fall and spring semesters.

*For more information about our classes,
contact the **Department of Natural Sciences
and Physical Education** at (815) 280-6682
or visit jjc.edu/academics/natural-sciences.*

Contact Information

Joliet Junior College
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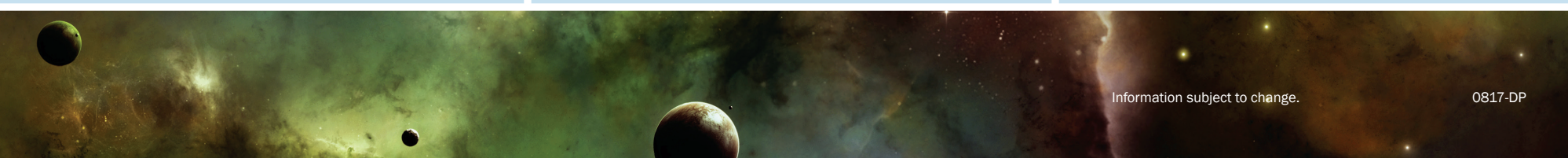
For more information
about the planetarium, contact:

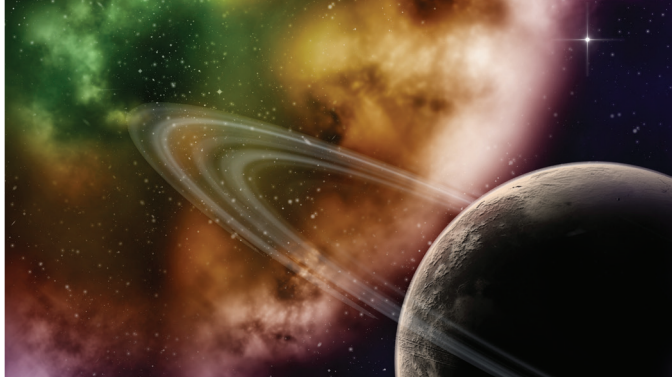
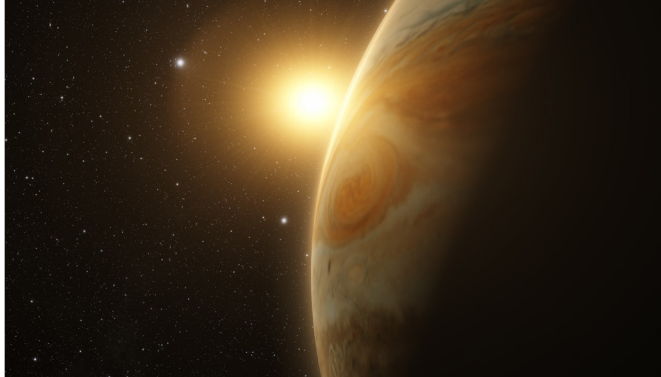
Art Maurer, Director
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The JJC Foundation

Much of the funding to operate the Herbert Trackman Planetarium comes from generous contributions from the JJC Foundation. The JJC Foundation is the not-for-profit arm of JJC that collects funds to be used for scholarships and major projects not included in the college's budget. These contributions come from our alumni, individuals, organizations and corporations. We are grateful for the opportunity to offer shows to the community and to the thousands of children who visit us on school trips each year.

If you are interested in contributing to these extra projects at JJC, please contact Institutional Advancement at (815) 280-2353.





About The Planetarium

Visitors can discover the wonders of space and travel through the universe at JJC’s Herbert Trackman Planetarium. The planetarium opened in 1973 thanks to the enthusiasm of former JJC President Doug Graham. Since then, the planetarium has received two generous donations: one from alumnus Herbert F. Trackman in 1988, and another in 2014, when the JJC Foundation provided funds to install a new OmniStar digital projection system. This system displays an accurate arrangement of the stars and planets on the planetarium’s dome and has given viewers the opportunity to see professionally produced shows. All shows are continuously updated to reflect the latest information from NASA. Nearly 10,000 people visit each year to enjoy these educational shows offered for free thanks to the generosity of the JJC Foundation.

2018-2019 Schedule

Tuesday Shows (7:30 p.m.)

9/11/18	Seasonal Skies
9/25/18	Mars
10/9/18	Orbits
10/23/18	Sunstruck
11/6/18	Out There (Dark Matter)
11/20/18	Two Small Pieces of Glass
12/4/18	Story of the Christmas Star
12/18/18	No show. See show on 12/16.
1/8/19	Black Holes
1/22/19	The Solar System
2/5/19	From Earth to the Universe
2/19/19	Asteroids and Comets
3/5/19	Sunstruck
3/19/19	Seasonal Skies
4/2/19	Mars
4/16/19	Orbits
4/30/19	Humans and Robots in Space
5/14/19	Galileo
5/28/19	From Earth to the Universe
6/11/19	Seasonal Skies

Sunday Holiday Show (2 p.m.)

12/16/18	Story of the Christmas Star
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Thursday Shows (6:30 p.m.)

9/20/18	Seasonal Skies
10/4/18	Larry Cat in Space*
10/18/18	We Go To The Moon*
11/1/18	Mars
11/15/18	The Little Star that Could*
11/29/18	Two Small Pieces of Glass
12/13/18	Story of the Christmas Star
12/27/18	No Show – School Closed
1/3/19	The Solar System
1/17/19	From Earth to the Universe
1/31/19	Sunstruck
2/14/19	Humans and Robots in Space
2/28/19	Trip Through Space*
3/14/19	Seasonal Skies
3/28/19	Sunstruck
4/11/19	The Little Star that Could*
4/25/19	Galileo
5/9/19	From Earth to the Universe
5/23/19	Larry Cat in Space*
6/6/19	Seasonal Skies
6/20/19	Larry Cat in Space*

NOTE: Visitors should arrive early. Seating is limited and once the chamber is dark, it is difficult to move around. Doors are closed once the chamber is filled.

**Designed for the very young astronomer*

Show Descriptions

Asteroids and Comets: Learn about the giant rocks that share the solar system with the planets. This show includes a history of terrestrial hits that have occurred since the beginning of the solar system and chances of collisions in the future.

Black Holes: What are black holes and where do they come from? What happens when something falls into a black hole? The audience will walk away from this show having learned more about one of the most interesting phenomena in astronomy.

From Earth to the Universe: This show starts with the beginnings of astronomy and continues with exploration of the solar system and universe.

Galileo: Discover the story of scientist Galileo, his Galilei experiments and the telescope.

Humans and Robots in Space: Learn about the use of robots versus humans in space exploration.

Larry Cat in Space: This is a story about a cat who sneaks aboard a rocket for a trip to the moon.

The Little Star that Could: This animated story is about a new star that searches for its identity and finds a planet of its own. Accurate descriptions of the different types of stars are provided.

Mars: Mars is a future destination for manned space trips. Learn about the red planet and what is needed to survive a trip to this terrestrial land.

Orbits: Without orbits, Earth would crash into the sun, the moon would crash into Earth and satellites would fall to the Earth. Without orbits, we could not do space exploration. Learn how orbits work and how they shape the universe.

Out There (Dark Matter): Did you know that only 4 percent of the universe is made up of regular matter (stars, planets and people)? The rest is made up of dark matter (23 percent) and dark energy (thought to be 73 percent). Viewers will learn more about dark matter in this thought-provoking program.

Seasonal Skies: This program will take you on a trip through the current season’s skies.

The Solar System: This show is about the sun, planets, plutoids, dwarf planets and other objects that orbit the sun. The show is continually updated to remain current and concludes with a look at the possibility of aliens.

Story of the Christmas Star: Learn about the history of the winter solstice celebration and why Christmas is celebrated at this time of the year. This show also addresses what the Christmas star might have been, what year the birth described in the Bible might have happened and the story of the three kings. Biblical, historical and astronomical data is used to prepare this show.

Sunstruck: How does the sun generate radiation? How hot is the sun and how long will it last? Get all your questions about the sun answered in this program.

Trip Through Space: Visit destinations across the universe in this show built for younger audiences.

Two Small Pieces of Glass: Learn how telescopes work and how they are used. The show also gives tips on how to choose a telescope and what not to buy.

We Go to the Moon: Ever wonder what it would be like to go to the moon? Find out in this show! Young students will also get a chance to discuss what they would need for their lunar voyage.