



Alumni Update

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EXTREMOPHILES AND EXOPLANETS: A Public Talk



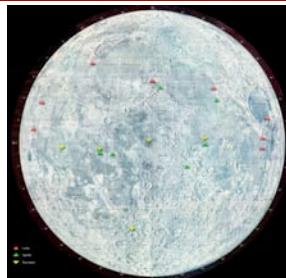
You might recall *Contact* the film that starred Jodie Foster? Now, Professor Jill Tarter, the person on whom Foster's character was based will be in Sydney as a guest lecturer of the Professor Harry Messel International Science School (ISS) 2009.

Professor Tarter is the Director of SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Life). Tarter says that since life-as-we-know-it is so extraordinarily hardy, might it exist today (or in the past) on any of the exoplanets that are being found? A group of astrobiologists are trying to answer that question. In conjunction with the ISS2009 Professor Tarter will give a public lecture at 6.30pm on Tuesday 21 July in the Seymour

Centre that will discuss what appears to be possible in the near future, as well as the questions that will likely remain unanswered until new technologies enable new explorations in the more distant future. The cost is: \$20 or \$15 concession. Bookings are essential – call: 02 9351 7940 or visit: www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2009/extremophiles_exoplanets.shtml

IYA Event: Small Step, Giant Leap Celebrating Apollo at 40

In July 1969, the world watched in wonder during the Apollo 11 mission as Neil Armstrong took "one small step", becoming the first human being to set foot on the Moon. This historic spaceflight represented a "giant leap for Mankind". The Apollo 11 lunar landing was one of the most significant scientific and technological events of the 20th Century, and the program that made it possible inspired the best and brightest students to seek out careers in the exciting fields of space exploration, astronomy and aeronautical engineering. From 20 July to 10 September 2009, the University of Sydney's School of Physics and the Science Foundation for Physics will present an exhibition commemorating the 40th anniversary of Apollo 11's historic lunar landing. Featuring contemporary artefacts and memorabilia, this display will present the history of the Apollo Project and explore the relationship between the US space program and the University of Sydney's School of Physics. *Small Step Giant Leap* is a free exhibition in the new SciTech Library, Level 1, Jane Foss Russell Building, 160 City Rd, Darlington (near Wentworth).



ISS2009 : Two Weeks and Counting

The Science Foundation for Physics is gearing up for the arrival of 140 Year 11 and 12 science enthusiasts on Sunday 12 July. The scholars are staying on campus for two weeks and are very excited about attending the ISS (we can attest to a range of responses on being told they had won a scholarship from stunned silence to screams of delight). The students will experience a diverse range of activities as well as hearing lectures by eminent scientists including Director of SETI, Professor Jill Tarter (see opposite), French biologist, Professor



Michel Morange and University of Sydney's own pioneering nutritionist and low GI proponent, Professor Jennie Brand-Miller. As well as the sea of new faces we will be revisited by some of our ISS2007 cohort who are returning as 'ISS Staffies'. All our alumni - ISS and Physics - are invited to meet these outstanding young scholars at the ISS2009 Gala Reception to be held on Wednesday 22 July in The Great Hall, Main Quadrangle, from 6pm-8pm. It is a great evening and a chance for these outstanding students to thank all those who have supported them through the Messel Endowment and directly through the ISS2009. It's also a good opportunity to relate your own science experiences, achievements and career highlights to these future scientists. To be a part of this special event please RSVP to Alison Muir on tel: +61 2 9036 5194 or email: a.muir@physics.usyd.edu.au We hope to see you there!



Thank You for Making a Difference



Thanks to the ANZ Banking Group for helping to fund the ISS Indian student scholarships for the second time. Thanks also to the Adolph Basser Trust, The James N Kirby Trust, The Nell and Hermon Slade Trust and to all the individual donors. Gifts & grants to the ISS2009 totalled over \$110,000. Thank you to all of you who gave to the recent Physics Access Scholarship Appeal. This scholarship provides financial aid for those students who are experiencing financial difficulty and might have to discontinue study without support. With around \$6,000 raised your donations will certainly make a difference to these students.