



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

# Astronomy & Steward Observatory

March Newsletter

---



## **Cosmic predators: How supermassive black holes slow star growth in nearby galaxies**

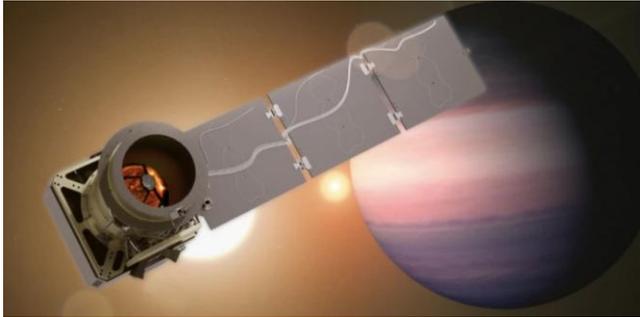
Intense radiation emitted by active supermassive black holes – thought to reside at the center of most, if not all, galaxies – can slow star growth not just in their host galaxy, but also in galaxies millions of light-years away, according to a study led by Yongda Zhu, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Arizona Department of Astronomy and Steward Observatory. [Learn more](#)



## **Preparing the Next Generation: Arizona Winter School Sets Stage for Roman Space Telescope Launch**

As NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope approaches its anticipated fall 2026 launch, the [University of Arizona Cosmology Lab](#) is leading in preparing the next generation of scientists for this transformative mission. In January, the lab

hosted a multi-probe cosmology Winter School that brought together 80 early-career researchers from around the world with some of the field's most distinguished experts. [Learn more](#)



**Nature magazine: NASA's latest telescope is a feat of early-career leadership**

Pandora's launch marks a first for many of the scientists and engineers involved in the mission. [Learn more](#)



**Reuters: Black hole continues to belch years after chewing up a star**

"Any object that approaches too close to the event horizon of a black hole risks being torn apart by tidal forces and stretched into a long stream of debris, a process called 'spaghettification,'" University of Arizona astrophysicist and study co-author **Kate Alexander** said. [Learn more](#)

---

**Galaxy Slam Week**

---



[See our scientists in a new light during Galaxy Slam](#)

The first University of Arizona Galaxy Slam brought together two of the university's biggest strengths – space science and basketball – in a weeklong celebration.

[U of A space scientists reflect on Galaxy Slam's debut](#)

[Watch Videos](#)

[AI Lecture Video](#)



**How reaching for the hoop prepared Marcia Rieke to reach for the stars**

Before Marcia Rieke embarked on a path that would lead her to help launch an entirely new field of scientific discovery – infrared astronomy – she hit the gym on a daily basis, chasing passes and scoring baskets. [Learn more](#)

## Spring 2026 Public Evening Lecture Series

---



### Daily Wildcat: Explore the cosmos with Steward Observatory's public evening lecture series

For over 100 years, Steward Observatory has been offering public lectures on topics related to astronomy, offering explanations and insight into complicated concepts in a way that anyone, regardless of any scientific background, can understand and appreciate. [Learn more](#)

**Monday**                      Lecture moved to March 30th

**March 2**

---

**Monday**

**March 16**

***Towards Atmospheric Characterization of TRAPPIST-1e: Our Best Chance at Habitable Exoplanet Characterization with JWST***

Dr. Sukrit Ranjam, Lunar & Planetary Laboratory

---

**Monday**

**March 30**

***Hot Dust Around the Star kappa Tucanae A***

Dr. Thomas Stuber, Steward Observatory

---

Monday

*A Visual History of America's National Observatory*

April 30

*Rocket Astronomy Program, 1963-1973*

Mr. James Lockridge, UA School of Journalism

---

Lectures are in-person or

Watch via **ZOOM** link <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/4470189357>

Location: Steward Observatory Lecture Hall N210

**Doors open at 7:00 pm and Lectures begin at 7:30 pm MST**

Nearest parking 2nd Street or Cherry Ave Garage

Telescope viewing follows at 8:30 PM - Weather Permitting

---

**Lectures you may have missed!**

---

Monday, February

*Bear Down, Look Up: AI on the Cosmic Court*

16

Dr. Marcia Rieke, Dr. Chris Impey, Dr. Ann Zabludoff,

Dr. C-K Chan

[Video](#)

---



College of Science 2026 Lecture Series

Tomorrow's World: Building a Better Future

[Watch the Series on YouTube](#)



## Marcia Rieke's Russell Lectureship Talk Now Available for Viewing

[View talk](#)

[Videos of previous public lectures](#)

---

### Space Drafts: Astronomy Lectures

Space Drafts is moving! Join us on the third WEDNESDAY of each month at our new location, Zerai's International Bar (2725 E Broadway Blvd). Our next installation will be on wednesday, October 15th at 7:30 PM. Stay tuned to our communication channels for future updates. In addition to email announcements you can also follow us on social media, we're on [Facebook](#) and [Bluesky](#).

---

### Friends of Steward Observatory

*"Your generosity powers discovery and inspires future astronomers."*

---

### 🍀 Steward Observatory: A Lucky Season of Discovery

As March brings a touch of green to the desert and we celebrate the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, the Steward Observatory at the University of Arizona is feeling especially fortunate.

Not for pots of gold—but for the extraordinary community that makes discovery possible.

### The Luck of Curiosity

In astronomy, “luck” often looks like preparation meeting opportunity: a perfectly timed observation, a new instrument coming online, a student asking a bold question. Each March, as the semester unfolds, our students and researchers continue exploring distant galaxies, uncovering exoplanets, and pushing the boundaries of what we know about the universe.

### Your Support Is Our Rainbow

Behind every breakthrough is a community of supporters who believe in discovery. Your generosity fuels scholarships, strengthens our facilities, and opens doors for students to gain hands-on research experience. Because of you, curiosity turns into discovery—and discovery into impact.

This St. Patrick’s Day, we’re grateful for the good fortune of your partnership.

 Here’s to a season filled with bright ideas, bold exploration, and discoveries worth celebrating.

[Learn more](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Additional Astronomy Giving Options](#)

---

## Connect With Us!



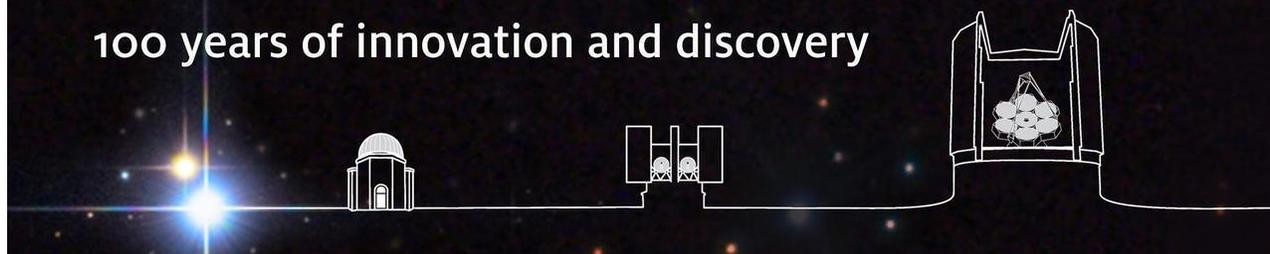
[Have a Friend Sign up For Our Monthly Astronomy Newsletter](#)

For more information or questions

Cathi Duncan | 520-621-1320 | [cduncanf@arizona.edu](mailto:cduncanf@arizona.edu)

# Steward Observatory

100 years of innovation and discovery



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

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

View this email [online](#).

933 N. Cherry Ave. | Tucson, AZ 85721 US