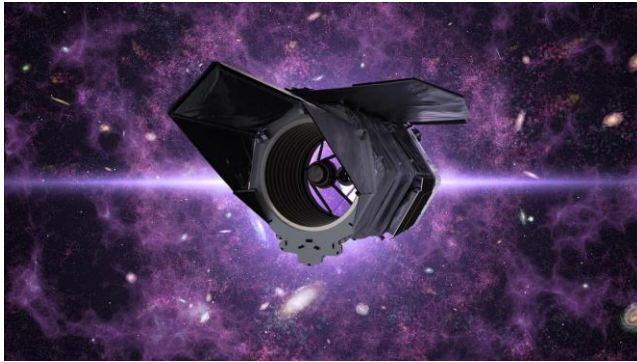




THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Astronomy & Steward Observatory

September Newsletter

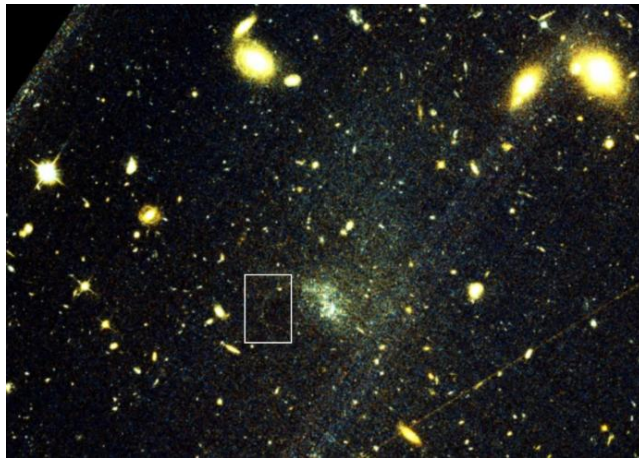


The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope.
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

**U of A Scientists Play Crucial Roles in Nancy
Grace Roman Space Telescope Science
Following Successful Launch on Sunday!**

Several University of Arizona faculty and students will be watching the launch from Cape Canaveral in anticipation of the start of science activities, slated to begin in January 2027.

[Learn more](#)



Hubble Space Telescope image showing the globular cluster stellar stream outlined with a box. Credit: Hubble Space Telescope and Holm et al. (2026)

SciTechDaily: Astronomers Discover a Ghostly River of Stars That Could Reveal Dark Matter

Astronomers, including UA Astronomy Professor David Sand have discovered an extremely faint stream, or “river,” of stars wrapping around a small, diffuse galaxy about 115 million light-years from Earth. The structure surrounds the galaxy UGC 9050-Dw1 and represents the first known example of a globular-cluster stellar stream found in another galaxy. The discovery was reported in *Nature* and could provide a powerful new method for studying dark matter.

[Learn more](#)

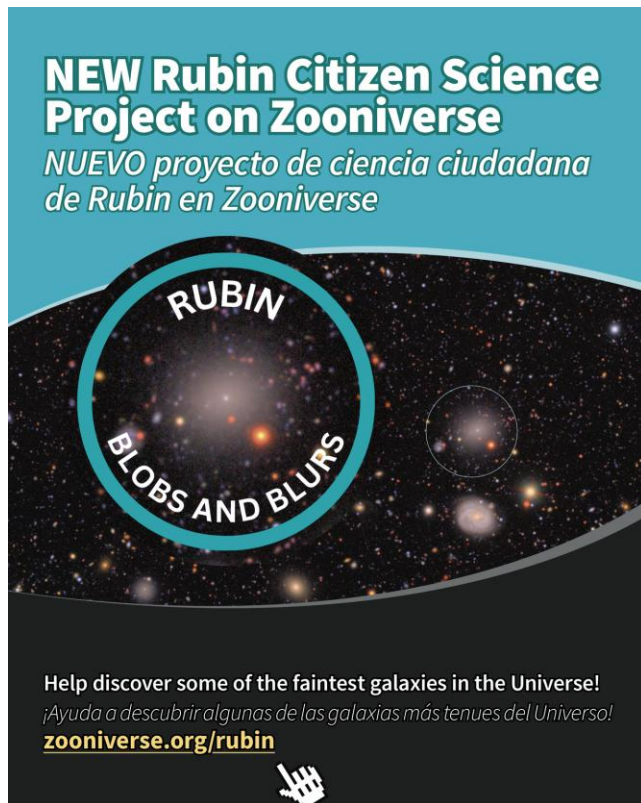


Starts with a Bang podcast: Space in the ultraviolet

Whenever you look at the Universe in a more powerful way than you ever have before, either in a new set of wavelengths, at higher sensitivity, on wider-field scales, or with novel capabilities, you open yourself up to a remarkable possibility.

[Learn more](#)

This image shows a mock-up of the ASPERA mission, slated to launch in just a few months, in space, where it can probe the far-ultraviolet emissions in the outer halo of our own galaxy and a whole lot more. [Credit:](#) NASA/ASPERA/C. Vargas/University of Arizona

A banner for the Rubin Citizen Science Project on Zooniverse. The top half has a teal background with the text "NEW Rubin Citizen Science Project on Zooniverse" in white, followed by "NUEVO proyecto de ciencia ciudadana de Rubin en Zooniverse" in a smaller white font. Below this is a dark space image with a large, glowing orange and yellow galaxy in the center. A teal circle with the text "RUBIN" at the top and "BLOBS AND BLURS" at the bottom is overlaid on the galaxy. To the right of the main galaxy is a smaller, fainter galaxy. At the bottom of the banner, there is a black bar with the text "Help discover some of the faintest galaxies in the Universe!" in white, followed by "¡Ayuda a descubrir algunas de las galaxias más tenues del Universo!" in a smaller white font. Below that is the URL "zooniverse.org/rubin" in yellow, and a white hand cursor icon pointing at it.

NEW Rubin Citizen Science Project on Zooniverse
NUEVO proyecto de ciencia ciudadana de Rubin en Zooniverse

Help discover some of the faintest galaxies in the Universe!
¡Ayuda a descubrir algunas de las galaxias más tenues del Universo!
zooniverse.org/rubin

Help discover some of the faintest galaxies in the Universe!

Your Eyes Can Help Make Discoveries!

Rubin is designed to survey enormous areas of the sky with unprecedented sensitivity and speed. The volume of data will be extraordinary, making collaboration between astronomers, computers, and citizen scientists increasingly important.

One exciting new effort focuses on dwarf galaxies around M49, a giant elliptical galaxy in the Virgo Cluster. Dwarf galaxies are among the faintest and most difficult galaxies to detect, but finding them is important for understanding how galaxies form and evolve and how dark matter is distributed on small scales.

[Learn more](#)

Astronomy Things to Do in September

on Mt. Lemmon



Join us for NASA's International Observe the Moon Night Sat Sept 19

[For more information and to purchase tickets](#)



View Venus at Its Brightest in 2026! Sunday, September 20

[For more information and to purchase tickets](#)

Steward Observatory Public Evening

Fall 2026 Lecture Series

Celebrating over 100 years of astronomy lectures and telescope viewing to the public!

Location: 933 N. Cherry Ave., Room N210

Doors Open: 7:00 pm

Lecture Begins: 7:30 pm

Map: [Here](#)

Telescope viewing available to the public after the lecture depending on weather

[Watch Lecture Live On Zoom](#)

Monday

September 21

How It's Made: Astronomy PhDs and Supernova Rates

Dr. Christa DeCoursey, Steward Observatory

Monday

October 5

Title TBD

Dr. Aafaque Khan, Steward Observatory

Monday

October 19

Big G: The Ghost in the Machine

Dr. Vasileios Paschalidis Steward Observatory, Dept of Physics

Monday

November 2

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, NASA's next Astrophysics Flagship Telescope - Launch and Science

Dr. Tim Eifler, Steward Observatory

Monday

November 16

Saturn's Rings: Ancient Icon or Cosmic Nepo Baby?

Dr. Zarah Brown

[Previous Public Evening Lecture Videos](#)

Friends of Steward Observatory

Your generosity helps us explore the cosmos

while inspiring those who will lead the next generation of discovery!

Steward Observatory: Welcoming a Fall Semester of Discovery

As the **Fall 2026 semester** begins, the University of Arizona welcomes a new generation of students ready to learn, explore, and make discoveries that will shape the future of astronomy. For more than a century, **Steward Observatory** has been at the forefront of astronomical research, education, and innovation.

Investing in the Next Generation

Every fall, students arrive with questions about the universe and the ambition to find answers. At Steward Observatory and the Department of Astronomy, they gain hands-on experience, work alongside leading researchers, and have opportunities to contribute to groundbreaking research.

These experiences are made possible, in part, by the generous support of our donors.

Your Support Makes Discovery Possible

Philanthropy provides students with opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom—from scholarships and research experiences to access to world-class facilities and advanced technologies.

Your generosity helps give the next generation of astronomers the tools, mentorship, and opportunities they need to explore what comes next.

As we begin a new academic year, we invite you to celebrate the discoveries ahead and the students who will make them possible.

Thank you for investing in the future of astronomy and helping Steward Observatory continue its legacy of discovery.

[Learn more](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

[Additional Astronomy Giving Options](#)

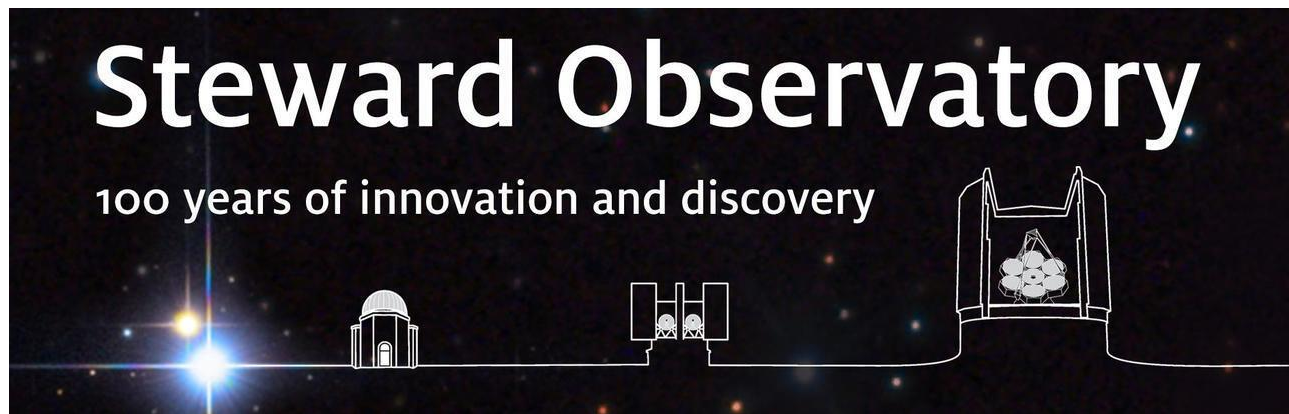
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For more information or questions

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