



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Astronomy & Steward Observatory

October Newsletter



NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman speaks to hundreds of students and community members in the Bear Down Gym as part of NASA's Inspiration Tour on Wednesday. The agency aimed to inspire students to help shape a new era of space exploration.

Photo by Leslie Hawthorne-Klingler

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman inspires U of A students to help shape the golden age of space exploration

"The reputation of the U of A and its optics work is some of the best in the country, and not to mention all of its cameras out there helping us on the James Webb and providing us with unbelievable imagery of the Martian surface," Isaacman said. "What an absolutely amazing university for contributing to this great mission of discovery."

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more about UA's Space Missions](#)



AZPM: Exploring exoplanets with the Pandora Space Telescope

The latest in a series of outer space observatories is sending back images and data from Earth orbit. University of Arizona planetary scientist Daniel Apai discusses the new Pandora Space Telescope, and what it is expected to tell astronomers about exoplanets and their atmospheres.

Professor, Astronomy and Planetary Sciences
Astronomer, Steward Observatory

[Learn more](#)



UA Family Weekend: Welcome Wildcat Families! October 3-4

Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium invites you to experience how we teach introductory Astronomy to students first-hand! 10 - 11 am.

Join Dr. Thomas A. Fleming of Steward Observatory will present a lesson from his ASTR 170B1 course, *Exploring Our Universe*, designed to illustrate how we teach today's students. Topics will include black holes and the search for planets that orbit other stars.

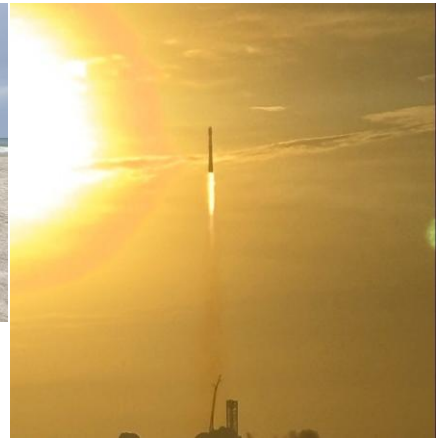
Flandrau Planetarium 1601 E. University Blvd.
([map](#))
Tucson, AZ 85721

[Purchase your tickets now!](#)

Cosmology Corner: Roman launch and how it's going...



Cosmology Lab team at the launch



Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, using a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope launched on Aug 30 at 7:26:04 AM from Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A, right on time as planned. The launch window was only 30 seconds long, and if the launch was delayed for any reason, the telescope and all its fans would have to wait another 24h. [Continue reading](#)

[Learn more about Arizona Cosmology Lab](#)

[NASA 's Official Roman Blog](#)

[Learn more](#)

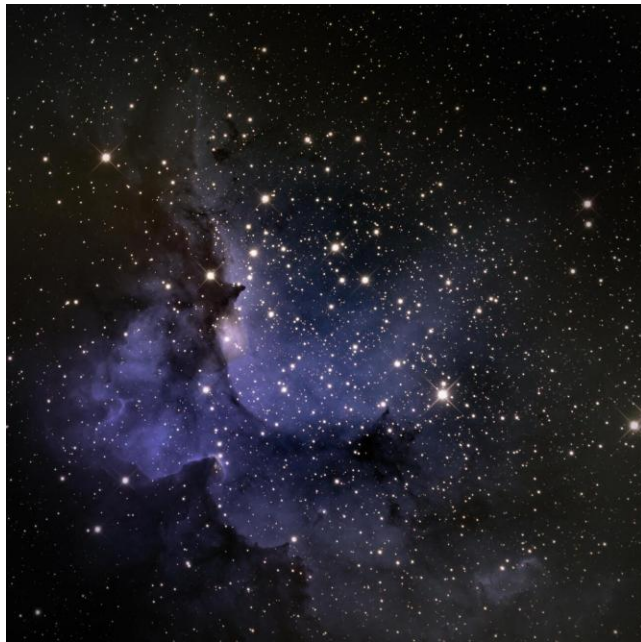


Image credit: Chase McMahon, Department of Astronomy student using the Phillips 24-inch telescope on Mt. Lemmon, Steward Observatory, University of Arizona

NGC 7380 — The Wizard Nebula: Just in Time for Halloween!

What better way to celebrate **Halloween** than with a cosmic wizard? ✨🧙

Located about **7,000–8,000 light-years** away in the constellation **Cepheus**, the **Wizard Nebula** surrounds the young open star cluster **NGC 7380**. Its dramatic shape—created by the interplay of glowing gas, dust, stellar winds, and intense radiation from young stars—gives the region its enchanting name.

The region is an active **stellar nursery**, where gravity is bringing material together to form new stars. At only about **5 million years old**, NGC 7380 is a remarkably young cluster by astronomical standards. The nebula itself spans roughly **100 light-years**, making this Halloween “wizard” truly enormous.

A perfect Halloween reminder that the night sky is filled with wonders that are stranger—and more spectacular—than fiction!

🎃 Spooktacular SkyNights: A Halloween Adventure Under the Stars!

Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1

Ready for a night that’s out of this world?

Join us on Mt. Lemmon for a **Spooktacular SkyNights** adventure where the universe provides the thrills!

The program includes presentations, stargazing, and views through the Schulman 32-inch and Phillips 24-inch telescopes. Reserve your spot before they disappear into the night!

[Purchase Tickets Now!](#)

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

Monday

October 5

The Universe in Ultraviolet: Tracing the Gas that Fuels Star Formation in Galaxies

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

[Watch Lecture Live On Zoom](#)

[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!

A Fall Season of Discovery

As October brings cooler nights and longer evenings, a new generation of students is beginning another season of discovery at Steward Observatory and the University of Arizona.

For more than a century, Steward Observatory has inspired students to explore the universe, pursue big questions, and help shape the future of astronomy. Today, that legacy continues at

the University of Arizona, recognized as No. 1 among U.S. public universities in space science by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Students gain more than classroom knowledge—they gain hands-on research experience, mentorship from leading scientists, and opportunities to work with world-class astronomical facilities and technologies.

Your generosity helps make these transformative experiences possible through scholarships, research opportunities, student support, and access to cutting-edge resources.

This October, celebrate a new season of discovery—and help inspire the astronomers and discoveries of tomorrow.

[Learn more](#)

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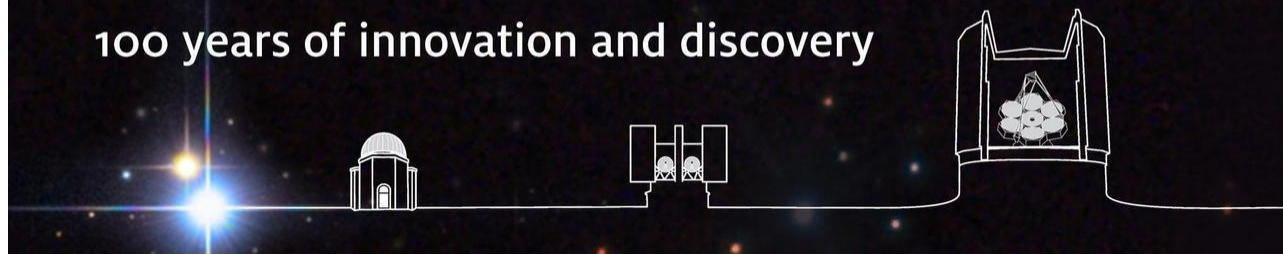
[Have a Friend Sign up For Our Monthly Astronomy Newsletter](#)

For more information or questions

Cathi Duncan | 520-621-1320 | cduncanf@arizona.edu

Steward Observatory

100 years of innovation and discovery



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