The Ball State University Planetarium Fall 2013 Free Public Programs



Nova: Endings and New Beginnings

September 6, 7 & 13, 14 – 7:00 & 8:00 PM

This past August, an exploding star brightened in the night sky. Historically, a star of this kind was called a *nova*, which means "new". In fact, the star had been there before but it was too faint to be seen until now. During this program the audience will learn about this nova and how it came to be. This presentation marks the start of the 47th year of public planetarium programs for the Muncie community. This also marks the *ending* of operations at the current facility. Come and learn about another "new star" – the new Ball State Planetarium arrives with a sky filled with new stars *beginning* in the fall of 2014.



The Rings of Saturn and Beyond

September 20, 21 & 27, 28 - 7:00 & 8:00 PM

Saturn's rings are one of the most beautiful sights in the solar system. Astronomers have known about these rings for over 400 years, yet they still present many questions. During this show we will discuss the mysterious features seen by spacecraft that have explored Saturn and beyond.



Halloween Astronomy

October 11, 12 & 25, 26 – 7:00 & 8:00 PM

What do you associate with Halloween? Trick-or-Treating, costumes... astronomy? After all, Halloween *is* an astronomical holiday! Learn how Halloween fits into the seasons as a "cross-quarter day" with activities under the stars and see what your Halloween night sky will look like.



A Comet's Tale

November 8, 9 & 15, 16 – 7:00 & 8:00 PM

Where do comets come from and where do they go? Why do they have tails? Will comet ISON, a sungrazing comet, be as bright as some have speculated? Learn the answers to these questions and more during this program.



The Star of Bethlehem

November 22, 23 & December 6, 7 – 7:00 & 8:00 PM

Can the Star of Bethlehem, as described in the Bible, have a natural explanation? Can the *star* be explained as a nova or an unusual alignment of the planets? Potential natural explanations for the star of Bethlehem will be discussed along with some recent ideas.

The Planetarium shows are **free** of charge. **NO tickets or reservations are required**, but plan to arrive early for the best seats. The Planetarium is located in the southeast corner of the lower level of the Cooper Science Complex (room CP 90). Doors will open 30 minutes before show time. **No one will be admitted after the program begins.** Children 12 years and under should be accompanied by an adult. The programs are approximately 45 minutes long and the observatory will be open after each show (weather permitting).