



BRAZOS VALLEY
MUSEUM^{of} Natural
History

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“From Earth to the Universe”
at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History
November 9, 2009-January 30, 2010**

BRYAN, TX --- The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, in cooperation with the George P. and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy, the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the College of Science at Texas A&M University, presents **“From Earth to the Universe”, November 9 – January 30, 2009**. The exhibit will premiere at **6:00 pm, Tuesday, November 17** and will feature a fascinating presentation by Dr. Nick Suntzeff, award-winning observational astronomer who holds the Mitchell/Heep/Munnerlyn Chair of Astronomy in the Department of Physics & Astronomy at Texas A&M University. The free lecture and reception following in the gallery is open to the general public.

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei’s use of a telescope to study the skies and Johannes Kepler’s publication of *Astronomia Nova*. In acknowledgement of modern astronomy’s quadricentennial, the Museum will display fantastic images of the Universe captured by the world’s fleet of ground- and space-based telescopes.

Astronomical images are objects of beauty, art, culture, and, of course, science. The grandeur of popular images of the cosmos is captivating, and their allure also presents an opportunity to learn the science behind them. Objects relating to the exploration of space on loan from NASA’s Johnson Space Center, including an Apollo era spacesuit, will also be available for viewing, along with a variety of telescopes, meteorite specimens, and more. Join us!

This exhibit was made possible in part through Hotel Tax Revenue funded from the City of College Station through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and through underwriting provided by the William Knox Holt Foundation, the George P. and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy, the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the College of Science at Texas A&M University.

The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History is open to visitors Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm. The admission fees: adults \$5; seniors/students/children \$4; children 3 and under are free. For more information about this exhibit and other displays, events, programs and activities, please contact the Museum at 979-776-2195 or visit us on the web at www.brazosvalleymuseum.org.

This exhibit is part of an international project coordinated by the International Astronomical Union, a professional organization comprising nearly 10,000 distinguished astronomers from across the world. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects through international cooperation, including assigning designations to celestial bodies and the surface features on them. “From Earth to the Universe” is one of 11 global Cornerstone projects being supported by the International Astronomical Union’s International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009). To learn more please visit www.astronomy2009.org.

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