



Astronomy This Week

February 20, 2006



Colloquium Schedule

Thursday, February 23, 3:30 p.m., 2015 McPherson Lab: Christy Tremonti

The full colloquium schedule is available at: <http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~martini/coll.html>

Events This Week

Monday, February 20, 12:00 p.m., 4054 McPherson Lab: Stars Lunch

Wednesday, February 22, 12:30 p.m., 4054 McPherson Lab: AGN Lunch

Friday, February 24, 12:30 p.m., 2015 McPherson Lab: Journal Club

Absences

David Brewer, February 22

Darren DePoy, February 20-22

Patrick Osmer, February 20-25

Brad Peterson, February 20-March 3

Visitors

Nick Gnedin, February 20-22

Stacey Harms, February 20-21

Alejandro Quintero, February 23-24

New Awards

PI	Title	Sponsor
Chris Kochanek	Measuring the size of a quasar with microlensing	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Sultana Nahar	Atomic data for multi-wavelength spectroscopy of iron in astrophysical plasmas	National Aeronautics & Space Administration
Kris Sellgren	IRAC colors of reflection nebulae illuminated by cool stars	Jet Propulsion Lab

Announcements

1. New Medical/Prescription Drug Cards Being Issued

The university's medical claims administrator, NGS American, **will be re-issuing medical/prescription drug cards in February** to all faculty and staff who are enrolled in a university-sponsored medical plan.

The re-issued card will replace the current card and should be presented by members and/or covered family members when visiting the doctor or pharmacy.

The new card will list a **preprinted, unique identifier comprised of letters and numbers** that will replace the Social Security Number (SSN) that is currently printed on the existing cards. Removing the SSN from the card was done to provide better protection against identity theft.

Although SSNs will no longer be printed on medical/prescription drug cards, members and medical provider(s) will still have the ability to access appropriate records via phone or a self-service website by using a Social Security Number (SSN) or the new unique identifier.

Managed Health Care Systems (MHCS) has made an effort to notify most medical and pharmacy providers of the new cards, but **faculty and staff should still be encouraged** to request their medical and pharmacy providers update their files with the new, unique identifier when presenting the new card to their doctor or pharmacist.

To request additional or replacement medical/prescription cards, please contact NGS American at 1-866-442-8257 or <http://www.ngsamerican.com>.

2. Medical Premium Holiday

The university will be offering a “**premium holiday**” during the month of **March** for all OSU Faculty and Staff who are enrolled in a medical plan.

This “premium holiday” is being offered because a recent financial analysis of the medical plan projected that by the end of this year, our medical plan will most likely have a surplus of funds. This is because the claims and administrative costs paid out will not exceed premiums paid in.

Some “**Frequently Asked Questions**” regarding the premium holiday can be found on the Office of Human Resources (OHR) website at: <http://hr.osu.edu/benefits/premiumholidayfaq.pdf>.

More information is to come.

3. The Office of Human Resources (OHR) has updated several items on its website regarding the **2006 Prescription Drug Plan**. Some of the new materials included are: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Maximizing Your Pharmacy Benefits Tips, Medications Requiring Prior Authorization, and OSU-Approved Prescription Drug Formulary information. These items can be found online at: <http://hr.osu.edu/benefits/healthprescription.htm>

Also, OHR has sent a **special mailer to the home address** of all faculty and staff members who are enrolled in a university sponsored medical plan to remind them of the 2006 Prescription Drug Plan changes. The mailers should be arriving in mailboxes by the end of next week.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding changes to the Prescription Drug Plan, please contact Office of Human Resources, Customer Service Center, at: service@hr.osu.edu or (614) 292-1050.

Special Events

Buckeye Bargains Thrift Shop is more than just a good deal...
<http://www.uwc-osu.org/Buckeye%20Bargains%20-%20Index.htm>

Please send any news items to Cherie Jarvis at jarvis@astronomy.ohio-state.edu.