

Department Newsletter

January 2026



AWARDS & SUCCESS

OSU celebrated long-serving employees at the annual Faculty and Staff Service Recognition Luncheon on Dec 10. Four members from Astronomy were recognized: **Jerry Mason**, **Sultana Nahar**, **Don Terndrup** and **David Weinberg**. December also saw the OSU [autumn graduation](#) and commencement ceremony including with 9 Astro majors and 2 minors, along with 1 Planetary Science certificate (also a major). The ceremony also saw emeritus professor **Jerry Newsom** being honored with an [OSU Distinguished Service Award](#). **Congratulations to all!**

ASTRO COFFEE FOR SPRING 2026

Astro Coffee will resume on **January 5** with a new line-up of organizers for the Spring: Mon – [Todd](#); Tues – [John/David](#); Wed – [Scott](#); Thu – [Barbara](#); Fri – [Paul/Annika](#). Please continue to email coffee@astronomy.ohio-state.edu if you'd like to present.

The first **Espresso** of 2026 will take place on **Fri Jan 16** during Astro Coffee with “*From Beans to Basics: Understanding Our Fields*”; final year graduate students will be “*decanting*” the foundational papers of their fields – the ones that first laid the “*ground*”-work for their research.

UPDATES FROM THE WORKPLACE CULTURE AND DEPARTMENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

The new Workplace Culture and Department Success committee now has representatives from across the department: faculty ([Scott](#) and [Don](#)), staff ([Jonathan](#)), postdocs ([Maddy](#)), graduate students ([Grace](#) and [Jennifer](#)) and undergraduates ([Laurinda](#) and [Phoenix-Avery](#)). Expect to see more from the committee during the semester, and feel free to reach out to any member of the committee with suggestions, issues and topics you'd like to make the committee aware of.

A SUCCESSFUL ASTRONOMY AUTUMN DINNER 2025

The 2025 Astronomy Autumn Dinner was a huge success and one of the highlights of the semester for our undergraduate community. The event strengthened the sense of community among astronomy undergraduates and showed how supportive and collaborative our department truly is. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the night so fun and memorable.

For current news stories, visit <https://astronomy.osu.edu/news>

Upcoming Events

COLLOQUIUM

Th Jan 29, 3:00pm: Michelle Wibbetsman (OSU)
Title: Incan and Andean Indigenous cosmologies (TBC)

Th Feb 5, 3:00pm: Earl Bellinger (Yale)
Title: TBC

OTHER EVENTS

Su 4 – Th 8 Jan: Winter AAS

Mo Jan 5: First Astro Coffee of 2026

Mo Jan 12: First Day of Classes

Fr Jan 16: Espresso @ Astro Coffee

Mo Jan 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No classes. Offices closed.

Fr Jan 23: SURP Application Deadline

CCAPP Seminars

Tu Jan 13, 12:00pm: Jorge Cortés (UCSC)

Tu Jan 27, 12:00pm: Katelin Schutz (McGill)

A list of upcoming events can be found at
<https://astronomy.osu.edu/events>

Submit events and news for the website, display screens and newsletter by emailing: astro-webrequests@osu.edu

SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Applications for the 2026 Astronomy Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) are due by 11:59pm ET on Friday, January 23. Further details are available on the [SURP website](#).

SHARED VALUES AND TRAINING AT OSU

OSU's [shared values](#) are an ongoing commitment to maintaining a welcoming, respectful and safe environment for all members of our community. The OSU Civil Rights Compliance Office encourages all members of the university to complete [training on the university's Non-Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct policy](#).