

Saturday Morning Science

Fall 2009 Schedule

September 12

“Rovers on Mars”

Dr. Don Thomas
Towson University

Program will explore the latest images from the NASA rovers on the surface of Mars and offer students the opportunity to send their name to Mars aboard the next rover to be launched.

September 26

“The Starry Messenger: A Visit by Galileo”

Mike Francis
Actor

Four hundred years ago Galileo first observed the mountains and craters on the moon and discovered the four major moons of Jupiter using his newly devised telescope. This living history presentation will feature Galileo himself describing many of his scientific discoveries.

October 10

“The Science Behind Winning Games: Luck or Logic?”

Craig Holcomb
National Security Agency

Do you like to win when playing games? This presentation will introduce some of the basic concept of game theory and will involve the audience with various games and discuss strategies for winning.

October 24

“Wildlife on the Edge”

Valerie Garcia
Naturalist, Wildlife Adventures

What types of challenges do different animals have in their quest for survival? A range of live animals will be brought in to discuss habitats and the impacts humans have on wildlife in Maryland.

November 7

“The Magic of Chemistry”

Dr. Al Pribula and Liina Ladon
Towson University

Come join us for a chemistry magic show as two of Towson University's finest “magicians” present demonstrations which will show chemistry's playful side, including sudden color changes, “clock” reactions, preparation of “hard water” (which then turns into “fire water”), a chemical “traffic light,” a volcano, chemiluminescence (without lightning bugs!), and spontaneous fires.

November 21

“The Science of Chocolate”

Dr. Jim Saunders
Towson University

Learn about the trials and tribulations of how chocolate is made, growing from the trees of the world's tropical rainforests to the delicious treats that are part of our culture. The impact of chocolate on social and political cultures of producing countries as well as biological and physical problems faced in growing, processing, and manufacturing chocolate will be discussed. One of the most delicious science talks you will ever attend!

December 5

“What Happened to Pluto? Why Isn't it a Planet Anymore?”

Max Mutchler
Space Telescope Science Institute

From its discovery in 1930 until 2006, Pluto was considered the Solar System's ninth planet. On August 24, 2006 scientists came up with a new definition of what a planet is and officially “demoted” Pluto to a “dwarf planet”. Find out why they decided to do this and learn more about these dwarf planet objects in our Solar System.