

Crown Call: An Updated History

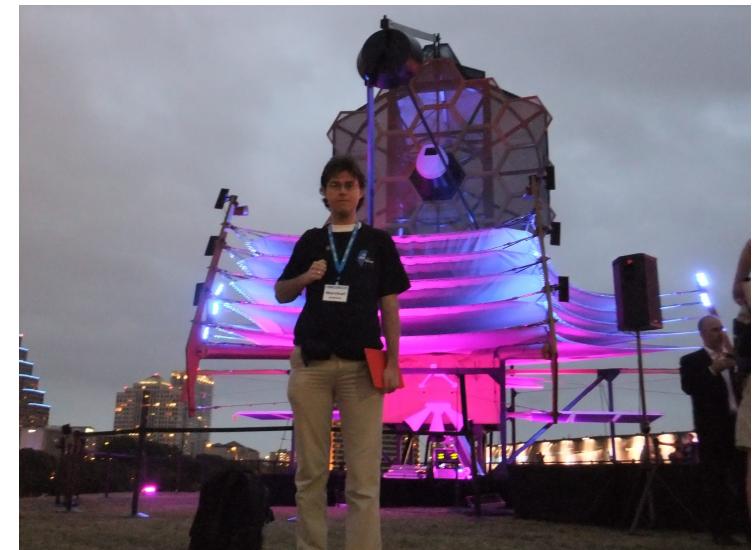
Raquel Martinez

Graduate Student Postdoc Seminar

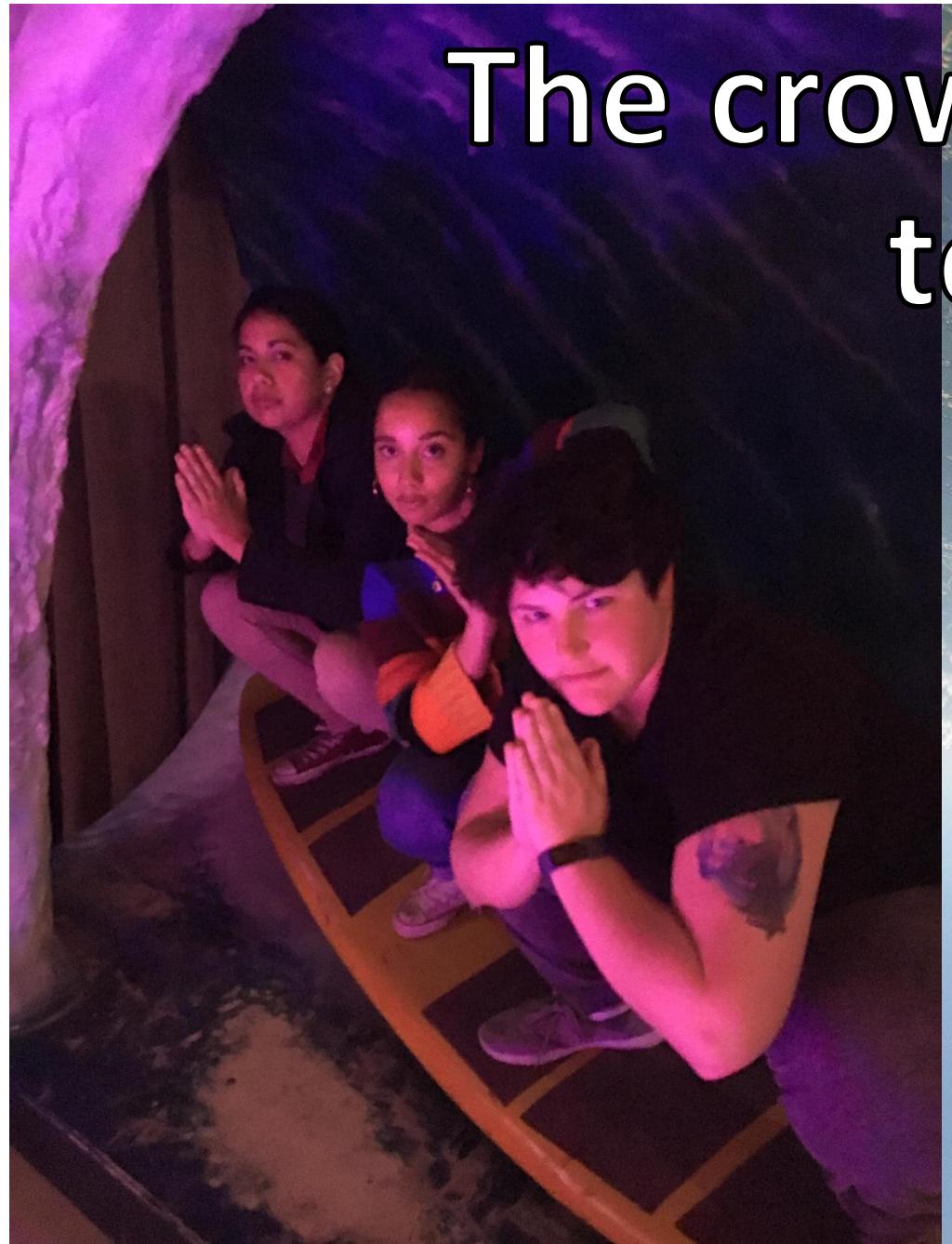
September 18, 2020

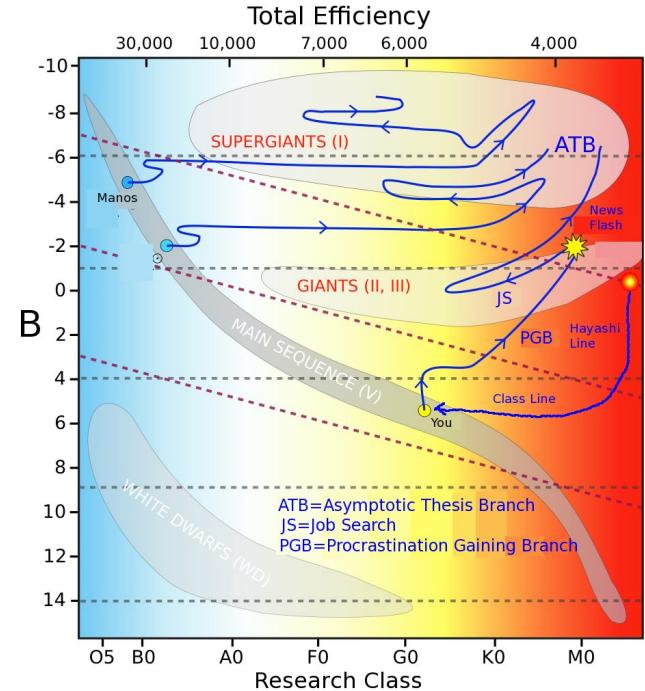


The crown callers of yesteryear



The crown callers of today





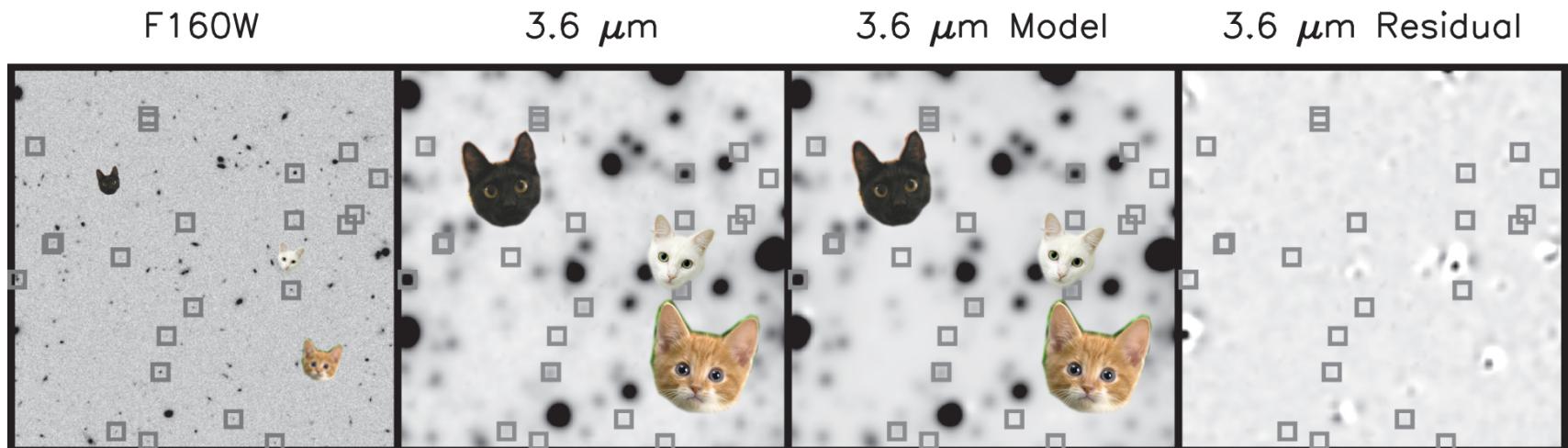
A Website???

Chicago Tribune @chicagotribune

Husband of Barbara Castanheira finds closest rocky planet <http://bit.ly/2bF0bON>



8/7/16, 3:33 PM



Lennay Kekua Wants to Meet You!

Meet Someone Special Today

Astro Singles is a new non-profit service provided by the AAS to find compatible dating matches for busy researchers who would not otherwise have time to meet their lifetime companions. This is the first of a weekly update you will now receive regarding your profile on Astro Singles.

Meet Lennay!



Lennay is a 27-year-old Stanford grad who currently works in Austin as a public relations officer for the Greater Texas Cancer Research Fund (formerly known as Livestrong). She recently marked your profile as a potential match, and would like to meet THIS AFTERNOON at [Crown & Anchor Pub](#).

Connect Today

While it may seem awkward at first to meet new people through an email dating service,

rest assured that Lennay, like all of our Astro Singles clients, is thoroughly screened for compatibility and TOTALLY REAL! So lighten up and have fun!

Happy website hour

Hi Jim,

Giving you my feedback on this is easy: The [old homepage](#) was MUCH BETTER! The [new one](#) is dark and harder to read and less classy looking. The old one was a refreshingly original look, easy to read, bright and cheerful, and not like every other Astronomy Dept. Homepage. Bring it back, plee-ee-ee-ase! It was NOT broken before, so why try to "FIX" it?

Cheers,
Paul

Friends,

You may have noticed the dramatically changed homepage for [nasa.gov](#). We've had a long standing request for a website that is much leaner and I think this is a step in the right direction.

We're interested in your feedback so feel free to send comments, and pleeeeeeee-ease don't forget to reply all to the entire astronomical community. We've already had some very positive feedback, and one complaint saying that it looks like every other government website these days (ick!). We will be holding a meeting to discuss these issues at Crown, so come by at 5:00!

JMNRAS

Happy Trivia Hour

Greetings Geeks and Geekettes,

For this "frosty" morning (chuckle from the mid-west girl) here is a trivia quiz to get your brain cells working...

How well do you know the Edmonds Lounge portrait?

1. How many people are in the picture?
2. How many people have pens on their person?
3. What common office item is on the desk?
4. What non-office item is Dr. de Vaucouleur holding?
5. What is the title of the book on the top of the bookshelf?

How did you do...?

Number Correct

0 - Did anyone tell you there are free cookies daily at 3pm? Get out of your office once and awhile. Your computer will still be there at 3:30...cookies will not be.

1-2 - You are a regular attendee of cookie time but, you have occasionally found the conversation boring causing your mind to wander about the room.

3-4 - You are a daily attendee of cookie time and have wondered if that picture was staged or were they really talking about something important when someone with a camera walked by.

5 - Seriously? Even the book one? You spend way too much time in the department. You need to get out of RLM and over to the C&A!

Answers to the quiz to be given at cookie time. :)

A&A

with special thanks to Ross



The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Astronomy
College of Natural Sciences



Exploring the universe and advancing the frontiers of human knowledge.

The Department of Astronomy's mission is to advance the frontier of human knowledge and share it with future generations. It actively engages students in the journey of scientific exploration and leads frontier research in cosmology, galaxy formation and evolution, stellar evolution and star formation, and planetary systems. Its research contributes to UT Austin's ranking in space science as 4th among US public universities and 10th worldwide. It is a major founding partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope, one of the world's largest next generation telescopes. It is home to McDonald Observatory, which hosts cutting-edge telescopes, instrumentation, and a renowned education and public outreach program.

**Bolsters
UT Austin's
ranking
in Space
Science as
4th among
US public
universities
and 10th
worldwide**

STUDENTS
Enrollment (Fall 2015)
104 Undergraduate / 38 Graduate

FACULTY
21 faculty
25 research scientists, fellows and associates
20 postdoctoral fellows
1 Nobel Prize in Physics
2 Members of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers
3 Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards
2 NSF Early Career Development Grant Awards
6 Alfred P. Sloan Fellowships
1 Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering
1 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award



One of the largest premier astronomy programs in the nation

RESEARCH

Research covers frontier areas, such as cosmology, galaxy formation and evolution, stellar evolution and star formation, and planetary systems.

AFFILIATED CENTERS & INSTITUTES

McDonald Observatory

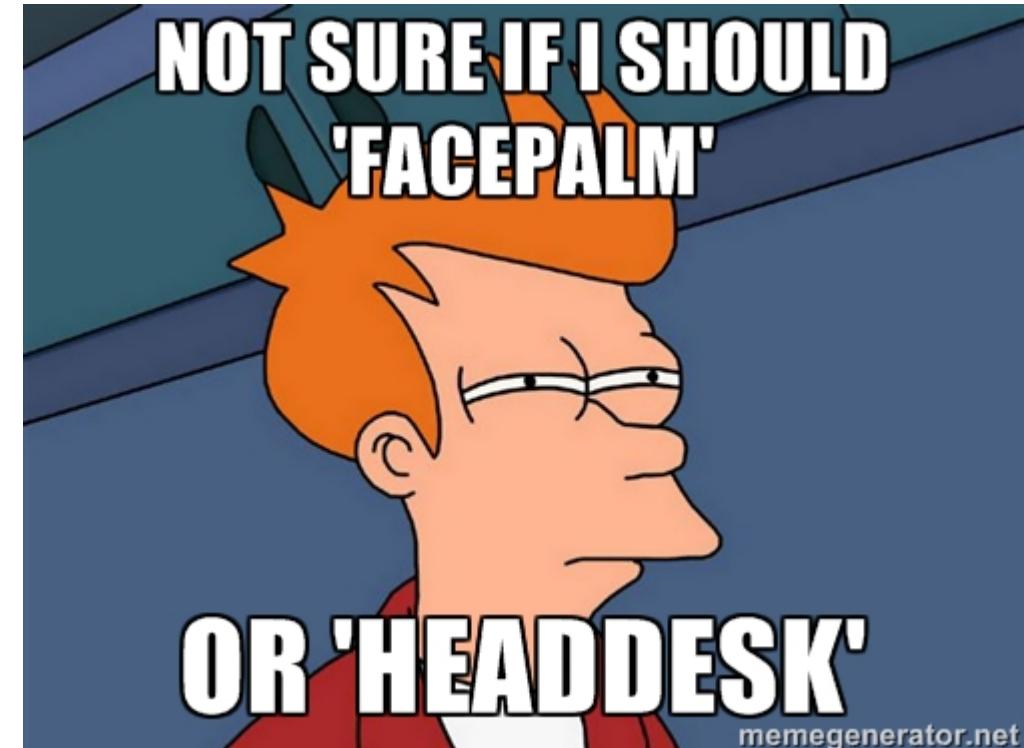
HIGHLIGHTS

- Leads research that contributes to UT Austin's ranking in space science as 4th among US public universities and 10th worldwide.
- Conducts world-renowned research in frontier areas of astronomy.
- One of the largest premier undergraduate and graduate astronomy programs in the nation.
- Provides research-centered innovative undergraduate education.
- Major partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope, one of the world's largest next-generation telescopes.
- Leads the Hobby Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment (HETDEX) to explore the nature of dark energy.
- Home of McDonald Observatory, hosting world-class telescopes and 60,000 annual visitors.
- Home of StarDate radio, tuned in to by 2.1 million people daily.



A founding partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope

A founding partner in the Giant Megellan Telescope



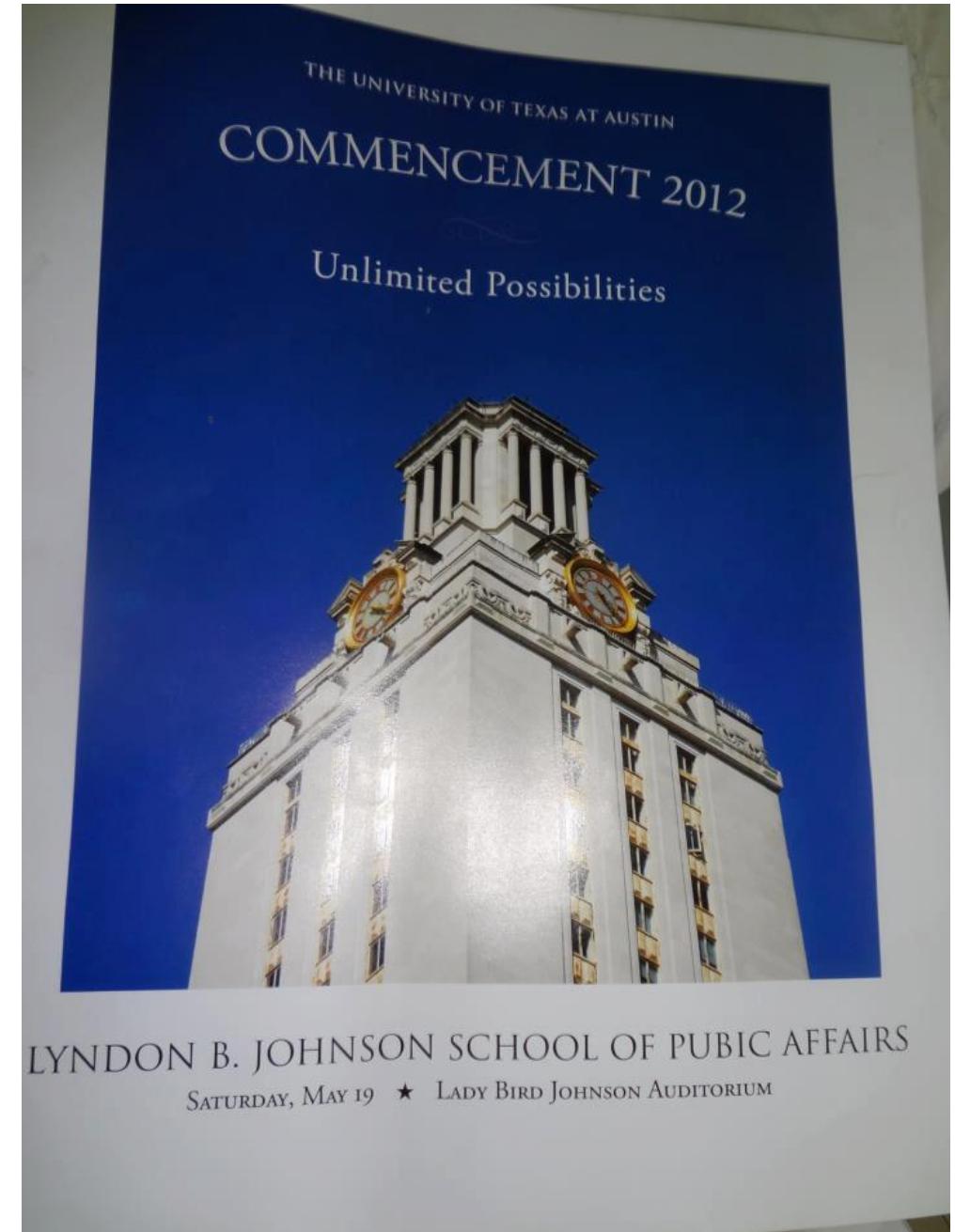
Happy Typo Hour

Deer colleagues,

As we're sure your aware, today and tomorrow our first set of prospective grad students are visiting the Department. Due to scheduling conflicts tomorrow, we invite you too join us for a special happy hour at 4:30 today. At the Clown & Anchor pub we can discuss the Department's strengths, such as the Bobby Eberly Telescope, the Giant Megellan Telescope, TALC, and mandatory use of speel check software. In light of several recent embarrassing incidents ([some more egregious than others](#)), please double-check your spelling before replying all too the entire department.

Come welcome are prospectives to the University of Texas at Baustin. What starts here charges the world.

KMNRS



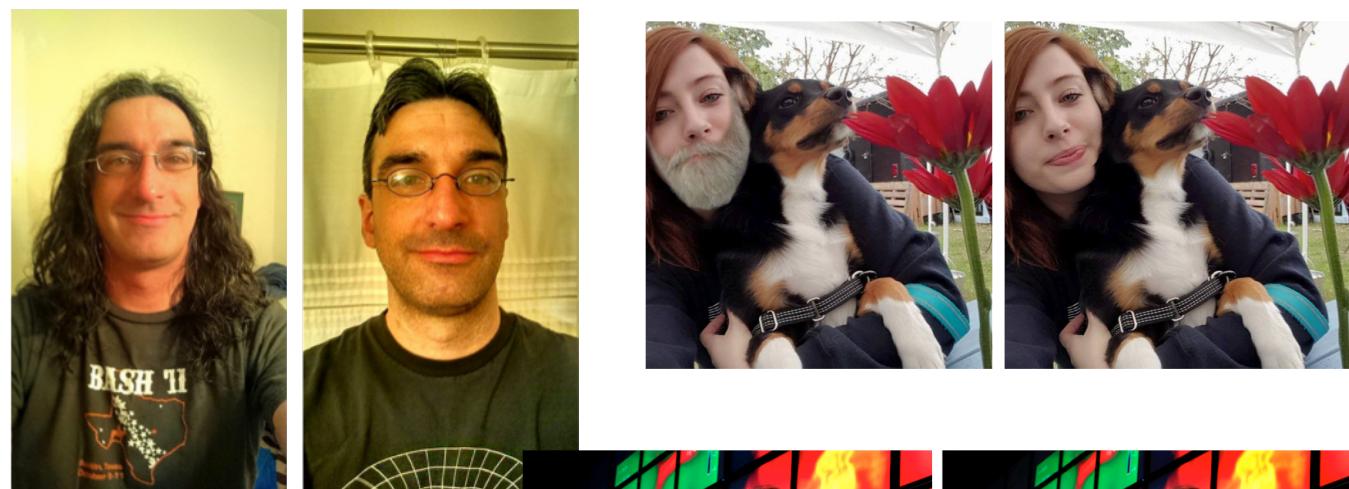
Happy Beard Hour

Greetings Crownigans,

This past Wednesday, devoted Crownite Jacob Hummel successfully defended his dissertation and KMRAS wishes him a hearty congratulations!!! As many of you already know, Jacob had been growing a “thesis beard” so as not to lose any of the hard-earned knowledge he had obtained over his tenure in Austin. Now that he is officially Dr. Hummel, KMRAS is launching a new email feature called “Beard Drop” so that he can remember what it was like to be without that beard. See pictures below for examples from the beta test.

Come to Crown at 5pm to celebrate the newly branded Dr. Hummel!

KMRAS



Happy Dr. Captain Exoplanet Hour

Greetings Crowneteers!

This past Wednesday, the M in MNRAS, Marshall Johnson, successfully defended his dissertation. He continues on to a prize post-doctoral fellowship at the Ohio State University this fall and we all wish him well. Marshall is a generous and active "Space Cadet" for Astronomy on Tap here in Austin, going by the apt moniker of Captain Exoplanet. NRAS has put together this little ditty (sung to the Captain Planet theme song - [listen here if you've somehow forgotten it](#)) to commemorate his promotion.

Come to Crown at 5pm to drink some cider and celebrate with Dr. Johnson!

MNRAS

Bill!
Chris!
Rob!
Mike!
Andrew!
Heart!

GO EXOPLANETS!

By the UT Astronomy Department powers combined, Marshall Johnson is now Dr. Captain Exoplanet!

Dr. Captain Exoplanet, he's our hero,
Gonna take his diploma down to Ohio
He's our powers magnified,
Also writing witty Crown Calls on the side

Dr. Captain Exoplanet, he's our hero,
Using Doppler tomography to seek new info
About systems with spin-orbits misaligned,
Now planet migration processes cannot hide

(The physical manifestation of Planet Migration Processes shouting)
"You'll pay for this Dr. Captain Exoplanet!"

We're the exoplaneteers,
You can be one too!
'Cause studying exoplanets is the thing to do,
Observing and computing is the way,
Hear what Dr. Captain Exoplanet has to say:

"THE POWER IS YOURS!!"



Happy Chirp Hour

Momentous news Crownigans!

The LIGO collaboration announced their first detection of gravitational waves this week. The signal came from a binary black hole merger 3 billion light years away where 3 solar masses worth of energy were lost to gravitational waves. To put this in perspective, this amount of energy is equivalent to 10^{31} pints if converted directly into beer, which is enough to satisfy the current world beer consumption for 4×10^{19} years—until well after all stars have burned out.

KMNRAS is beginning its own gravitational wave experiment, the Baryonic Excitation for Energetic Recovery of Gravitational-waves Observatory (BEERGO), in an attempt to confirm LIGO's ground-breaking results. We've already run simulations (attached) and are hopeful to observe the propagation of gravity waves in beer.

Come to Crown at 5 to christen BEERGO's first official run.

KMNRAS



Happy Reply all Hour

Good afternoon, Crownites!

Earlier this week, the astronomy department was asked to nominate individuals for staff awards to be recognized at the Board of Visitor's meeting in February. Someone responded to the nomination call with the cryptic message, "Lollipops lol or p," to which another obviously confused department member replied, "What?" While no explanation has been given as to why we were lucky enough to be sent this message, RSS would like to recognize that this is not the strangest nor most awkward email that has ever been sent to the department (Email 1 with original formatting attached) or across the internet (Email 2 attached). We also hope it will not be the last.

Please join us at Crown at 5pm and raise a glass to the emailer for bringing some much needed levity into the work place and contemplate what was really meant by "Lollipops lol or p."

RSS





Raquel Martinez <raquel.a.martinez14@gmail.com>

Astronomy External Review and Request for Suggested Reviewers by Mar 20/2016

1 message

Shardha Joglee -- Chair <chair@astro.as.utexas.edu>
To: "everyone@astro.as.utexas.edu" <everyone@astro.as.utexas.edu>

Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 1:19 PM

Dear Colleagues

We have a first discussion of the Astronomy program external review at the last Faculty and Research Scientist meeting on Feb 26/2016 and I am writing with some summary information and updates

UT CNS departments/programs typically have an external review commissioned by the Dean every eight years. We had one in 2009 (commissioned by Dean Mary Ann Rankin) in 2009 and we are due for one in 2017, being commissioned by Dean Linda Hicke. I met with the Dean Hicke in late February and on March 8. In our earlier discussion, she was inclining toward reviewing the Astronomy Department and McDonald Observatory separately, and this was a cause for concern at our last Faculty and Research Scientist meeting. I met with Linda this week and pressed for a joint review, advocating a case for the Astronomy department and McDonald Observatory -- jointly described as the Astronomy program -- working symbiotically to achieve excellence in research and education. I am happy to report that she has agreed to a joint review.

Here are the next steps

1) I have asked Taft Armandroff to lead the self-study and all aspects of the review related to McDonald Observatory. I am grateful to him for leading this important component.

2) I have attached a document from the Dean's office, showing the **review schedule, key deadlines, and our responsibilities**. The External Review Committee (ERC) is expected to visit around February to March 2017. The document outlines the schedule starting about a year before (i.e., "12 months out" refers to now -- March 2016). Please note that while the document only mentions faculty and students, we would like our Astronomy program to include input of postdocs, research scientists, research associates/fellows, and the leadership in West Texas.

3) Please send your suggestions for members of the External Review Committee (ERC) to chair@astro by March 20, 2016, 5 pm CST. I will work jointly with Taft to provide the Dean with a list of at least 12 external reviewers from which she will pick ~3-4 to form the ERC. She needs

The ERC should have a set of diverse expertise aligned with our goal of becoming one of the top programs worldwide. As reference, the 2009 ERC consisted of:

- Dr. Wendy Freedman, of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (GMT partner)
- Professor Jonathan Lunine, of the University of Arizona (Planetary science; NAS member)
- Professor Anneila Sargent of the California Institute of Technology (Long wavelength astronomy)
- Professor Michael Skrutskie of the University of Virginia. (IR instrumentation; Galactic structure, stellar astronomy)

4)

The Astronomy program currently bolsters UT Austin's ranking as 4th in space science among US public universities (U of Arizona, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz)

4) We will make the past self-study and external review available

be diverse in their

- Dr. Wendy Freedman, of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (GMT partner)
- Professor Jonathan Lunine, of the University of Arizona (Planetary science; NAS member)
- Professor Anneila Sargent of the California Institute of Technology (Long wavelength astronomy)
- Professor Michael Skrutskie of the University of Virginia. (IR instrumentation; Galactic structure, stellar astronomy)

External reviews provide an important opportunity for our Astronomy program to plan a long-term

1) I have attached a document from the Dean's office, showing the review schedule and our responsibilities, deadlines. This document assumes the External Review Committee will visit UT Astronomy between February and March 2017, and the "12 months

We need to p

. The dates will be

from the Dean's office.

not sure whether to

on Feb 26 and on Mar 6

Our pro

I have some positive updates on the department external review

1) I reiterated to Dean Hicke the multiple

talked to the

ou were still evaluating whether the Astronomy department and McDonald Observatory would be reviewed together, as had been done in 2009, and earlier reviews.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Updates on External Review and Retreat (resending from Chair's email)

Date: Thu, 10 Mar 2016 12:22:24 -0600

From: Shardha Joglee -- Chair <chair@astro.as.utexas.edu>

To: Taft Armandroff <taft.armandroff@astro.as.utexas.edu>

Hi Taft

I have some good news and updates to share with you:

1) Joint External Review

I could not schedule the joint meeting between Linda, you, and me last week due to my schedule and the need for prior consultation with her. The proposal to have a joint meeting was my idea, and not Linda's, so I wanted to run it by her first. I was pre-scheduled to meet with her on March 8 for our regular meetings, and I sent her some arguments as to why the Astronomy department and McDonald Observatory should be reviewed together. The good news is that when we met on March 8, she accepted the arguments and agreed to now proceed with the joint review. I can forward you my email with the arguments, if you wish.

I also suggested a future joint meeting with you, me and Linda. She indicated that we probably do not need a joint meeting since she has already discussed the external review process twice with me and provided the schedule (attached). Instead, she said she would meet with you one-on-one, to discuss a number of issues, in addition to the review. I believe her office will contact you, but feel free to contact her office if you would like to do so.

She asked me about the department and observatory committees and I provided her with the link below.
<http://www.as.utexas.edu/astronomy/2015-16Committees.pdf>

2) Schedule and Reviewers

The review schedule from the Dean, which I showed at the faculty and RS meeting on Feb 26, is attached. I will email the department about the review and request suggestions for external reviewers.

I will indicate that I have asked you to lead the self-study and all aspects of the review related to McDonald Observatory. I would be grateful if you could lead this very important component of the review.

HETDEX and GMT are programmatic priorities and as such should appear in the strategic vision plan for the department/program and fold in with the ranking, faculty/student hires, and global funding priorities. We also need to build a coherent vision plan well beyond these two initiatives, as indicated in the past review.

3) Retreat

Past faculty retreats have alternated between being purely faculty (this was the case for the only retreat ~ 8 years ago) or at times including Res Sci. I suggest that going forward, we make the retreat a joint tradition of Faculty and Research Scientists, with the department and observatory jointly funding the effort.

We need to lock the dates for the retreats ASAP as the dates are going "very" fast. Jessica said you are open on Sep 10, 17 and Oct 8 and we will include these in the doodle poll. Let us talk about details during our Friday meeting so I can send the email by 5 pm on Friday?

Regards,

This is in regard to my cryptic reply-all on Monday. Please delete now if you don't know or don't care what I'm talking about.

The short story is that the email was written and sent from my phone, while it was in my pocket as I loaded up a rental van in the RLM loading dock. I assume autocorrect is responsible for turning random characters into words.

For the longer story, I need to go back a day, to the early hours of Sunday morning. I woke up around 3am with the unmistakable feeling of imminent vomiting. Food poisoning or a stomach flu would have its way with me all day Sunday and the one thing on my mind as I lay on the bathroom floor was the long week ahead. Monday, I would pick up a rental van, *load tools and equipment at RLM*, pick up Gary Hill at his place, and drive to the observatory. We were somewhere around Fredericksburg by the time I realized that I sent the "Lollipops lol or p" email. I was still quite compromised at this point and there was no way I could type, let alone think of an apology or witty excuse for that reply-all.

It was an intense week at HET; restringing four VIRUS IFUs, pulling the LRS2-B IFU and instrument, replacing the acquisition camera shutter, and shimming the fiber feed interface. Add to that watching the final presidential debate and an unexpected midnight drive back to Austin and the entire week seems like some bizarre fever dream.

Now that it's over, I can look back and laugh at the whole experience. But a special thanks to Raquel Martinez for sending around the hysterical Futurama meme. Lollipops lol or p indeed.

I hope you all had a great weekend!

-Brian V

Let's Celebrate the Week!

The Astronomy Program is hosting
its weekly happy hour!

~ Please say you will be here ~

Let's celebrate the first freeze warning of the season
with colleagues and good beer!

Friday, November 16, 2018

5:00pm - Whenever the Pitchers Run Dry

Crown & Anchor Pub

2911 San Jacinto Blvd.

Austin, TX 78705

You are welcome to bring guests that contribute to the pitcher purchasing
or your immediate family but ask that you RSVP so that
we have a proper count for cheese fry purposes.

Happy NBA finals Hour

Greetings Crownballers,

Game 1 of the NBA Finals between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Golden State Warriors got off to an interesting start last night with the Warriors winning in overtime after an incredible blunder from Cavalier J.R. Smith at the end of regulation. With a tie game and only 4.7 seconds left, Smith rebounded a missed free throw by teammate George Hill and instead of immediately attempting a final shot for Cleveland, dribbled away from the basket, seemingly believing that the Cavaliers were ahead. Cleveland fans across the country and teammates in the arena simultaneously expressed anger, frustration, and disbelief at this bonehead play. Perhaps the most visibly upset was Lebron James (see picture), which of course the internet turned into the most epic caption contest meme.

Some highlights include:

“We almost had the glove off, Star Lord. Why would you do that?”

“When a *Chopped* contestant says they’ll make a panna cotta during the dessert round.”

“We just left a rest stop! Why didn’t you go then?”

“When someone has two comments and a question during colloquium but it’s 4:35pm.”

“Why did you reply-all to that email!?”

“When the astro email server is down.”

“When an undergrad tries to use the elevator to reach floors 5,6, or 7 in RLM.”

“Who cares about Posse East’s nachos? We always go to Crown and get cheese fries!”

“Why did you get a pitcher of Guinness in Austin during the summer? It’s 98 degrees outside and feels like 105!!!”

Join us down at Crown at 5pm to share a drink with colleagues and come up with your own Lebron James meme!

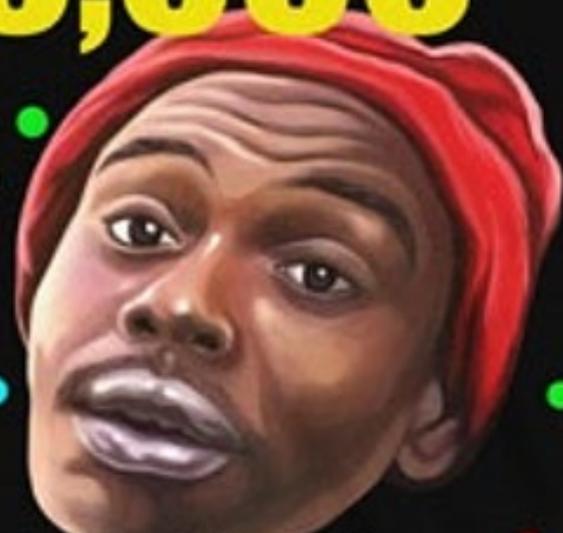
RSS

Come to
Tyrone's
\$450,000
Crack
Party
Come One,
Come All!

Midtown Amory 123 Grove St. Newtown, NY

Friday, 13th June, 2003

Plus - Present this ad at the door,
and your name will be enter in the
"One Year Supply of Crack Sweepstakes"



Come to
Sinclaire's
\$450,000
Cider
Party

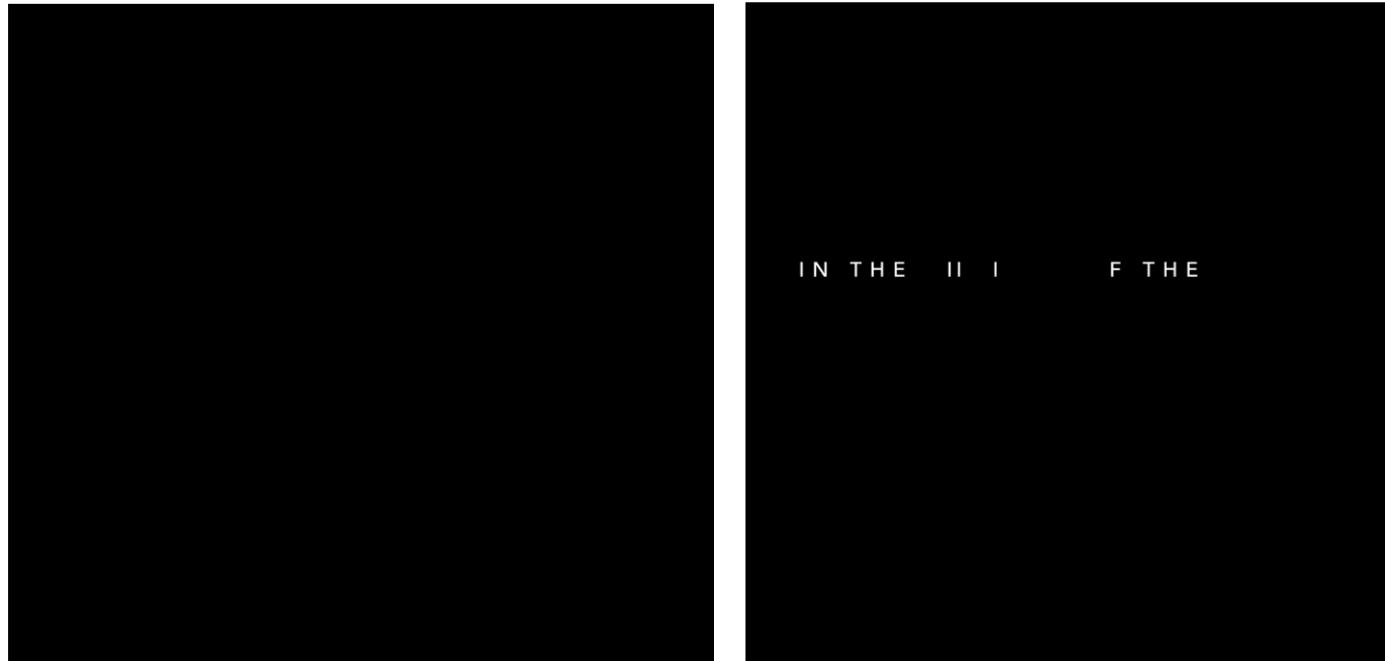
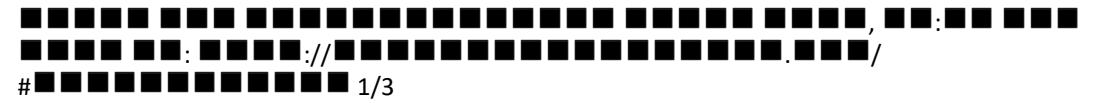
Come One,
Come All!



Crown & Anchor Pub 2911 San Jacinto Blvd. Austin, TX
Friday, 17th March, 2017

Plus - Present this ad at the door,
and your name will be entered in the
"One Year Supply of Cheese Fries Sweepstakes"

Major RSS Announcement 12 April 2019, 17:00 CDT
Join us: <http://crownandanchorpub.com/>
#RSSCrownCall 3/3



Major RSS Announcement 12 April 2019, 17:00 CST
#RSSCrownCall 2/3

Happy Dr. Kaplan Hour

How Now Brown Crownigans!

More good news in the department this week as our esteemed colleague, Kyle Kaplan, successfully defended his dissertation. To properly acknowledge Dr. Kaplan's momentous achievement, RSS has written an ode in his honor highlighting the many attributes we love and will miss about Kyle.

Never unfriendly

IGRINS master

Bitcoin trader

In to game nights

Really likes observing

Up for anything

Intelligent

Smiles with his thumbs

Ready to hike

Eccentric

Are these cheese fries up for grabs?

Lamejokes.tripod.com

Come to Crown & Anchor at 5pm to congratulate Kyle and wish him well on his next adventure as a postdoc in Tucson, AZ.

RSS

Happy defense Hour

Greetings Crownrangers,

Qualifying Exam season is upon us as Sydney Sherman became the first 2nd year to pass their qualifying exam. Congratulations!! While half of the qualifying exam takes place in a "closed-door" session, RSS has created what we believe to be an accurate portrayal of how the proceedings went.

Come to Crown at 5pm to give Sydney a well-deserved pat on the back, enjoy a cider, and discuss the myriad flaws of anyone that spells Sydney with an "i."

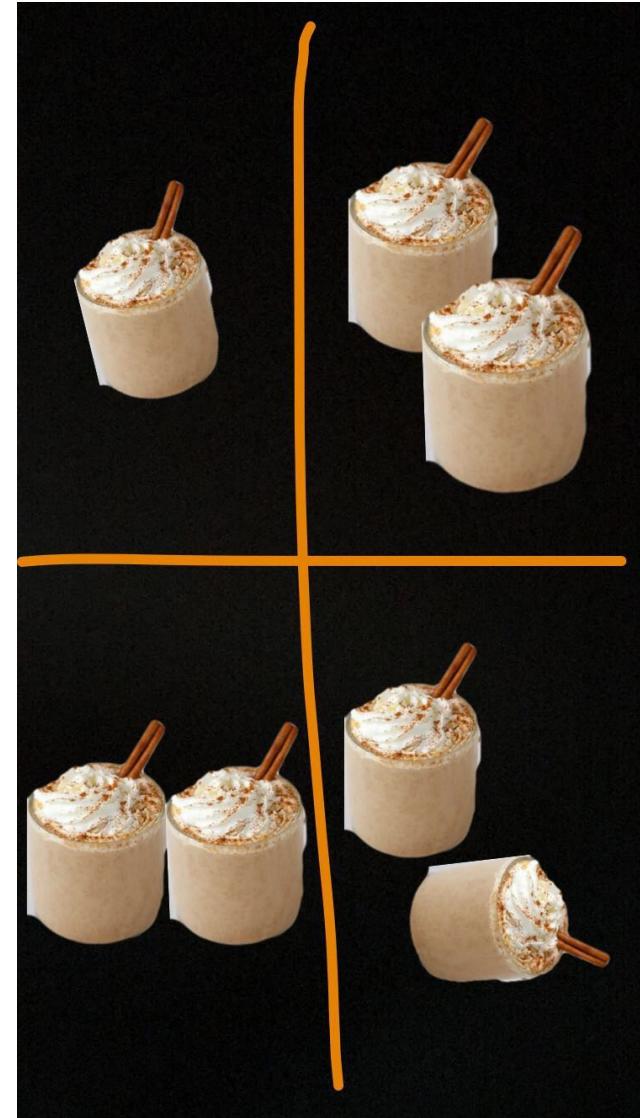
RSS



Happy PSL Hour

Come to Crown & Anchor at 5pm to celebrate the beginning of the month of October and have this picture explained if you don't know it already.

RSSJ



Happy Buc-ee's goes national Hour

Dear Buc-ee and Buc-ee supporters,

If you've ever driven through Texas, you might be familiar with our beloved beaver mascot, Buc-ee. This handsome beaver watches over the humongo, ginormous, overwhelmingly large gas station and convenience store all over our great state of Texas. This past week, founder Arch "Beaver" Aplin III announced plans for Buc-ee's to go NATIONAL! That's right, now you will be able to get your fill of jerky, kolache, beaver-themed merchandise, and 40-oz sodas in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas. Unfortunately, there are still no plans for Buc-ee to bless us on the drive out to McDonald Observatory, but we can dream.

Come on down to Crown & Anchor to celebrate this momentous occasion, although we can't promise that Crown will have bathrooms as clean, snacks as delicious, or beavers as cute and cuddly. But they do have one thing that Buc-ee's doesn't: a bunch of astronomers drinking ice cold beer! We can't wait to hear your favorite Buc-ee's memories.

RSSJ

P.S. If you don't have a Buc-ee's t-shirt to sport, don't worry, these #1 fans have plenty of extras!



Happy Spotify Hour

Your 2019,
Wrapped

You drank
2000
pints of beer this year.

Guess who your #1 is?

Dig into the beer that made your year.
Because no one drank quite like you.

Unwrap your 2019.

RSSJ

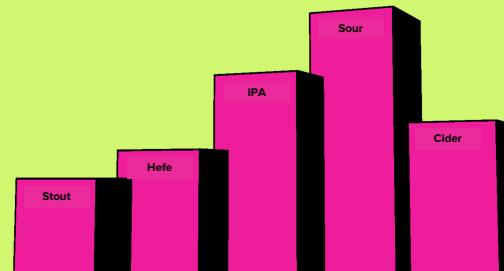


In 2019, your beers
changed with the seasons

Winter

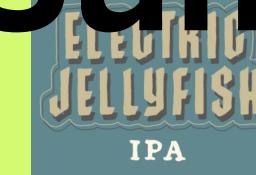


You were beer genre-fluid.
You refused to let one beer define you.



In 2019, your beers
changed with the seasons

Summer



Your Bar of the Decade is
CROWN & ANCHOR.

This is a pretty big deal.



We've been so lucky to share this
time with you. Come to Crown at
5pm so we can reminisce on the
past decade of Happy Hour.

COME JOIN US!!!