Topics For Term Project

12.In view of the recent discoveries of real planets around other stars, how well justified are we in thinking that Earth-type planets are common (or rare)?

14. Discuss the role that the Moon may have played in the origin of life on Earth. A good source for discussion is the book “Rare Earths” by Ward & Brownlee.

17.What are the chances that a nearby supernova would destroy human civilization in the foreseeable future?

18. Why would the collision of a large comet with the Earth be catastrophic – what does such an impact actually do to/for the biosphere?

26. The nearest star to our sun is about 4 light-years away. Will it be possible for  humankind to visit this star?

42.Explore the role of meteorites and comets in bringing organic molecules to Earth.

43.Life on Mars? What experiments have been sent on spacecraft (or are planned for future missions) that might determine whether there is/was life on Mars? How much have these experiments told us?