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All the Stars: A Celebration of Harvard Astronomy

April 24, 2013

GSAS was proud to welcome more than 100 alumni from across the globe for a [celebration of Harvard Astronomy](#) on April 5, 2013. The day presented opportunities to engage with some of the leading research in the field, to celebrate new discoveries, and to connect with colleagues and current students.

The program began in Phillips Auditorium at the Department's Garden Street home base, with an alumni-led career panel for current students, sponsored by the [Graduate School Fund](#), that focused on nonacademic pathways. Then faculty and students took the floor to host a series of presentations that updated reunion guests on the latest research in the department and on the students' wide-ranging mentoring and professional development activities. ([Click here](#) to learn about the Graduate School Fund's reunion campaign.)

Later, alumni, students and faculty reconvened in the Sheraton Commander Hotel for a celebratory luncheon followed by a series of panel discussions featuring some of the greatest minds in astronomy. In the first session, panelists explored the nature of the universe and discussed the methods involved in measuring and understanding the cosmos. Equally as stimulating, the second session offered panelists the chance to present their research on exoplanets and the potential for extra-solar life. It was an exciting day, one that Harvard's astronomy community will not soon forget. Please enjoy a selection of photos from the event below.

An alumni-led career panel opened the day's festivities, offering current students a chance to explore nonacademic professional pathways.



Department chair Avi Loeb held a morning session showcased research highlights.



Astronomy PhD students outside the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics



Professor Avi Loeb, poses with Joe Taylor, PhD, '68, Nobel Laureate 1993, Brian Schmidt, PhD '93, Nobel Laureate 2011, and Nathan Sanders, co-founder of Astrobites, at the Harvard-Smithsonian Observatory.



Professor Alyssa Goodman, PhD '89, listens in as Professor Emeritus Owen Gingerich provides a historical review of astronomy at Harvard.



Professor Emeritus Owen Gingerich, PhD '62, speaks on the history of Harvard Astronomy.



Timken University Professor Irwin Shapiro moderates a panel on Einstein's Theory of Gravity.



Joe Taylor, PhD, '68, Nobel Laureate 1993, offers his thoughts on Einstein's Theory of Gravity.



An audience of students, alumni, and faculty listens as panelists discuss the nature of the

universe and the search for extra-solar life.



Brian Schmidt, PhD '93, Nobel Laureate 2011, participates in a panel on the ever-evolving nature of the universe



Professor Charles Alcock, Director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, moderates a panel on Extra-Solar Planets and Life.



Sara Seager, PhD '99, participates in a panel on Extra-Solar Planets and Life.



Heather Knutson, PhD '09, responds to a fellow panelist



Eliza Kempton, PhD '09, offers her thoughts on the search for extra-solar life.



Frank Shu, PhD '68, presents his research on exoplanets.



Professors Jim Moran and Bob Kirsher discuss the day's events at an evening cocktail reception.

The Graduate School Fund: Investing in Great Minds

In honor of the Astronomy and Astrophysics departmental reunion, the [Graduate School Fund](#) will be leading an effort to raise financial support for graduate students. Help us raise as many graduate fellowships as possible (\$25,000/student of current-use support) and make a gift today. All gifts in honor of the reunion, big and small, are deeply appreciated and will be counted toward the total.

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