

**Special Events Featuring University of Texas at Austin Presenters**  
211<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the American Astronomical Society  
Austin Convention Center

**Tuesday, 8 January 2008**

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Opening Remarks (Ballroom D, 8:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m.)

by Dr. J. Craig Wheeler (President, American Astronomical Society, and Samuel T. and Fern Yanagisawa Regents Professor of Astronomy, The University of Texas at Austin)

Press Reception (Room 7, Level 3 South, 6:00 p.m., *media and invited guests only, please.*)

Nobel Laureate Dr. Steven Weinberg, Dr. David Lambert (Director, McDonald Observatory), and Dr. Neal Evans (Chair, UT-Austin Dept. of Astronomy) welcome the AAS press corps to Austin.

**Wednesday, 9 January 2008**

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Press Conference (Press room, 9:00 a.m., *media representatives receive seating priority*)

Sky Surveys. Features exciting news by Dr. Shardha Jogee on the history of galaxy mergers and star formation from the GEMS sky survey using Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes.

Henry Norris Russell Prize Lectureship (Ballroom D, 11:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

A Half-Century of Spectroscopic Astrophysics, by Dr. David L. Lambert (Director, McDonald Observatory, The University of Texas at Austin)

Press Tour of Texas Advanced Computing Center (Bus leaves at 2:30 p.m., check press room for location)

*Media only, please.* Tour the home of Ranger, the most powerful supercomputer in academia. See supercomputer simulations of the earliest stars in the universe from Dr. Volker Bromm. Learn how supercomputers contribute to astrophysics from Dr. Jay Boisseau, director of the Texas Advanced Computing Center. Transportation provided from the Convention Center, and afterward to self-treat press dinner at County Line on the Hill Restaurant, and back to the Convention Center.

**Thursday, 10 January 2008**

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Invited Lecture (Ballroom D, 8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.)

Evolution of Disk Galaxies: New Insights and Future Challenges, by Dr. Shardha Jogee.

Press Conference (Press room, 12:30 p.m., *media representatives receive seating priority*)

New Observatories and Instruments for Astronomy. Features presentation by Dr. Karl Gebhardt and Dr. Gary Hill on HETDEX (the Hobby-Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment), and the upgrades and new instrument the project is driving for McDonald Observatory's Hobby-Eberly Telescope.

**Friday, 11 January 2008**

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Splinter Meeting on "White Dwarfs Planets and Debris Disks" (Room 17A, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Organized by Dr. Ted von Hippel, and featuring well-known astronomers from the U.S. and abroad. Newsworthy items expected to be announced; media are welcome to attend.

**Daily, 8-11 January 2008**

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Visit our booths in the Exhibit Hall on the Hobby-Eberly Telescope and graduate recruiting for the UT-Austin Astronomy Program.