

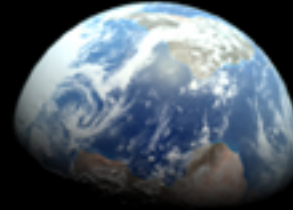
Sigma Xi and the American Astronomical Society Present Two Public Talks by Astronomer and Author

Neil F. Comins

Tuesday, April 25th at 4:00 PM
Sykes Theater

The Traveler's Guide to Space

Space tourism began in 2001 and since then a total of 7 people have paid to spend time in the International Space Station. Several private companies are now preparing a variety of space travel options for tourists. In this talk, astrophysicist Neil F. Comins will present an overview of the space travel experiences for tourists that will be available in the years to come. These will include: journeys into space and then right back, journeys to orbiting space stations, as well as journeys to the Moon, to nearby asteroids and comets, to the moons of Mars, and to Mars, itself. The talk will also cover topics including training for space travel, adapting to space, experiences on different worlds, and returning to Earth.



Wednesday, April 26th at 4:00 PM
Merion Science Center 113

What if the Moon Didn't Exist?

The Earth's companion has had profound effects on our planet ever since the two worlds formed about 4.5 billion years ago. The Moon's presence has affected the length of the day, the tides, the seasons, and the types of life on Earth, among other things. In this talk, astrophysicist Neil F. Comins will explore the Moon's impact on several of these aspects of life and what the Earth would be like if the Moon had never existed. Spoiler alert: The Earth would have been very different than it is today.

Neil F. Comins grew up in the other Westchester. He earned his B.S. in Engineering Physics from Cornell, M.S. in Physics from U. Maryland, and Ph.D. in Astrophysics (General Relativity) from University College, Cardiff, Wales. The first professional talk he gave was to Stephen Hawking and his group at Cambridge. His early work was cited in S. Chandrasekhar's 1983 Physics Nobel Prize lecture. Since 1978, he has been a professor on the faculty of the University of Maine. He was also a NASA-ASEE fellow at NASA Ames research center, Moffett Field, CA, during the 1980s. Comins is the author of numerous research articles, popular magazine articles, and 20 books, including *What if the Moon Didn't Exist* and *The Traveler's Guide to Space: For One-Way Settlers and Round Trip Tourists*.