



NEWS

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS CUSTER INSTITUTE 35TH ANNUAL ASTRONOMY JAMBOREE

Riverhead, NY – Suffolk County Community College proudly hosted a portion of Custer Institute of Southold’s 35th Annual Astronomy Jamboree this past Saturday, October 26, 2013, at the College’s Eastern Campus in Riverhead.

In his welcome speech, Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College, said, “Our long-term partnership with Custer has made it possible for many bright students to continue learning and advancing in their studies, thanks to the dedication of the professors who guide this work. At Suffolk, we have a vision of providing the community with a deep understanding and appreciation of the universe and all the science necessary to fully enjoy that vast display. We work to achieve this by actively promoting and endorsing astronomy through public engagement programs such as this weekend’s Jamboree.” The College recently installed a state-of-the-art observatory on the roof of the Smithtown Science Building on the Ammerman Campus in Selden. Once commissioned, the College will have one of the largest observatory facilities on Long Island, and it will also be among the largest in New York State. The new Observatory will serve as a teaching tool for our students, a research tool for our faculty, and a resource for the local community.

This year’s program for the Jamboree included a feature-length documentary “The Dark City” (2011), about light pollution; planetarium shows at the College’s planetarium, featuring *Interstellar Boundary Explorer* (IBEX), a NASA satellite mapping the boundary between our solar system and interstellar space; *Cosmic Collisions*, from the Hayden Planetarium, and *Two Small Pieces of Glass*. A presentation “Opportunity Martian Probe” was given by Dr. Scott McLennan, Professor of Geochemistry at Stony Brook University. Dr. Robert Pappalardo, Chief Editor of *Europa*, presented the “Hidden Ocean of Europa: Exploring a Habitable World.” Three of Custer Institute’s antique refractor telescopes from the 19th Century were displayed along with other historical items related to astronomy. The day’s events concluded with a lecture “Ghosts from Space – Getting Acquainted with Comets” given by Joe Rao, meteorologist for News 12 Westchester, NY. Mr. Rao writes about astronomy for the *New York Times* and is a frequent guest lecturer at the Hayden Planetarium.



Photo Caption: Ted Koukounas, Academic Chair and Associate Professor of Mathematics, Suffolk County Community College; Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President, Suffolk County Community College; Dr. Scott McLennan, Professor of Geochemistry, Stony Brook University; William Bogardus, President of Custer Institute; Tom Carey, Adjunct Instructor, Natural Science, Suffolk County Community College; and George Lomaga, Adjunct Professor, Earth and Space Science, Suffolk County Community College.

About Suffolk County Community College

Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) is the largest community college in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, enrolling approximately 26,000 students at its three campuses in Selden, Brentwood and Riverhead. SCCC offers the Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees, as well as a variety of certificate programs. Offering affordable college tuition, a highly respected Honors program, extensive extracurricular activities, championship athletic teams, and numerous transfer programs, SCCC is a first-choice college for Long Island students. Visit us online at sunysuffolk.edu.

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