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NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022 / 2023

Begins 1-18-23

Almost underway...



Sixteen sessions of the upcoming **LASI 150G Interstellar Seminar** at Wichita State University will feature statewide scientists like Washburn's Brian Thomas and NASA-connected ones like Rob Stough, Wayne Schubert, Les Johnson, and more. Course is in both online and hybrid forms. (CRNs 26710 online and 26711 hybrid)

Students, there's still time to register for this 1-credit hour course.

PLUS, there's an audit opportunity for Kansans aged 60+. Seniors must [apply for admission](#) to get a University ID, then register in-person on January 19 at Jardine Hall on the WSU campus or the WSU South or West campuses to receive a tuition waiver. Bring driver's license or similar ID to validate age. Audit is non-credit.



Kansas suppliers helped make Artemis 1 successful

On Nov. 18, 2022, Kansas U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, the lead appropriator on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) with jurisdiction over NASA, released comments congratulating Kansas suppliers of the NASA Artemis 1 launch. "...suppliers across Kansas helped make this mission a success and many more will be involved in years to come." said Moran, offering the list below.

Kansas Suppliers Connected to Artemis:

- Fastenair Corp. – Wichita
- MPM Inc. – Wichita
- Pasternack Enterprises Inc. – Wichita
- Wichita State University – Wichita
- Wesco Aircraft Hardware Corp. – Wichita
- Galaxy Technologies Inc. – Winfield
- Firelake – Arrowhead NASA Services – Lawrence
- US Bank National Association – Overland Park
- YRC Inc. – Overland Park
- NDT Supply Com Inc. – Lenexa
- Mid-State Aerospace Inc. – Olathe
- Smiths Interconnect Americas Inc. – Kansas City
- Heartland Precision Fasteners Inc. – New Century
- Aircraft and Commercial Enterprises – Derby
- DJ Engineering Inc. – Augusta

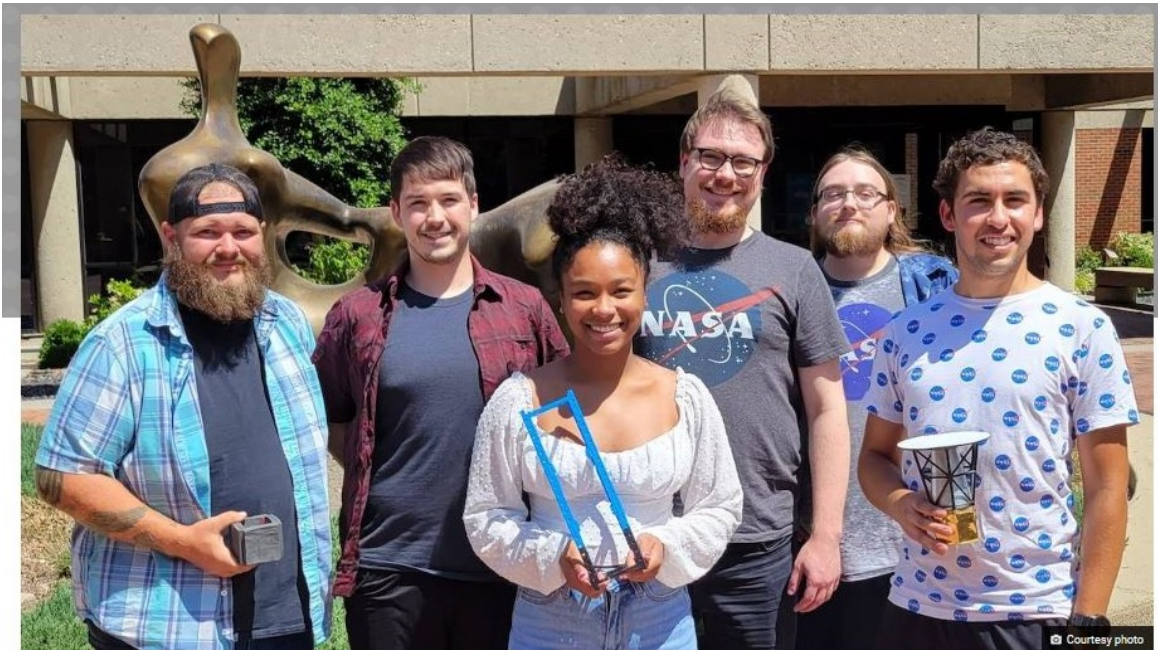
New Star, Planet name proposed by
Chickasaw Nation and Cosmosphere



HUTCHINSON--In early December, The Language Committee of the Chickasaw Nation and the Cosmosphere's education department proposed a new name for an "exoworld" as a submission to the International Astronomical Union's "NameExoWorlds" competition.

If selected, they will become official names of a star and planet in the Volans constellation, which depicts a flying fish. The names submitted are Nani' Wakaa' Ifochik and Nani' Wakaa', Chickasaw for "flying fish star" and "flying fish."

The process was headed by NASA astronaut and Chickasaw Tribe member Commander John Herrington. Results will be named in March 2023. [Short video here](#) *courtesy photo*



Wichita State students present work on NASA neutrinos project at Paris conference

WICHITA--Subatomic particles called neutrinos hold some of the biggest mysteries in fundamental physics. WSU researchers are taking a lead role in investigating them.

Once thought to be massless, the big question now is why do they and how do they have mass, according to Jonathan Folkerts, Wichita State graduate student and researcher.

Last fall, WSU researchers Folkerts, Jarred Novak and Trent English presented papers on their neutrino detector prototype at the International Astronomical Congress in Paris. They represented the \$2 million NASA-funded Solar Neutrino Orbiting

Laboratory Detector Development Project awarded to WSU in 2021. This project will allow the research team to design a solar probe to look for neutrinos.

[Read More](#)

Photo: WSU students and staff working the grant project, "Cube-sat Space Flight Test of a Neutrino Detector" include (L-R) Jarred Novak, Trent English, Ayshea Banes, Jonathan Folkerts, Brian Doty and Octavio Pacheco. *Courtesy photo*



What about micro-organisms, extreme conditions and space?

LAWRENCE--A team of University of Kansas researchers is studying microscopic organisms in extreme environments to see if life is possible beyond Earth. The primary research question is whether microbial communities adapted to extreme environments are more resilient to space-like stresses and whether resilience to one of these stresses — such as radiation — makes a community more resistant to multiple other stresses. Where and how are they doing their fieldwork? [Read more](#)

Photos: KU Office of Research

Upcoming Events:

April 22--Ad Astra Space Celebration-Topeka

This 13th annual FREE science event for the family held at Washburn University and sponsored by the Ad Astra Kansas Foundation. More in our Spring issue.

April 22, 2023 SWE Engineering Expo--Wichita

FREE fun and hands-on STEM activities for families since 1998. [Read more](#). Sponsored by the Wichita Society of Women Engineers Professional Section

May 18-20: 2023 National Science Olympiad Tournament--Wichita

Wichita State University will host over 1800 middle and high school students from across the United States, Canada and Japan competing in 23 science events. [Read more](#).

INTERSTELLAR R&D column will return in the Spring

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