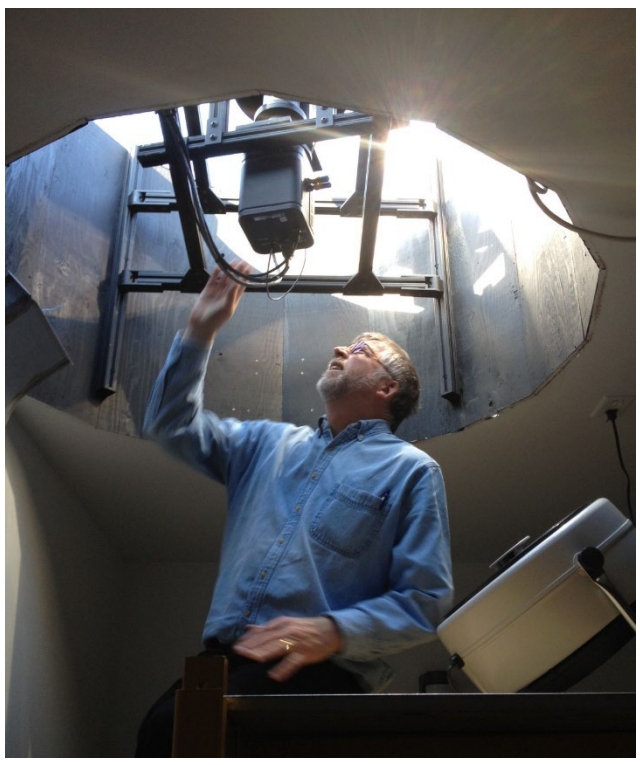
Science Outreach – Athabasca presents…

Three Decades of Space Adventures with Athabasca University



Speaker: Dr. Martin Connors,
Professor, Space Science/Physics
Athabasca University
Date: November 18, 2026
Place: Athabasca University
Room 106, Governing Council Chambers,
1 University Drive, Athabasca, Alberta
Time: 7 PM to 8 PM



My adventures with Athabasca University started in 1988 when I was hired as a tutor, nearly four decades ago. I have been a professor since 1996 and that is just over three decades. I had a long-standing interest in space and AU allowed me to indulge this in a wider way than might have been the case at a larger university, where interests tend to be specialized and channelled. I worked at University of Alberta for nearly a decade in computer support for space research and at that time became a tutor of astronomy as an "academic" activity. I then became a graduate student in the same lab, but my wide-ranging interests had me working, apart from my Ph.D. topic, on the Mexican crater that is evidence of the extinction of the dinosaurs. This led to a publication on the front cover of the famous journal "Nature". Shortly after that I was hired at AU and did a field trip to Mexico to measure the gravity field of the 150-km diameter crater. I wanted to discover a special asteroid associated with Earth, an "Earth Trojan" and built a telescope at AU to hunt for it. However, the discovery came from spacecraft data I found out about while visiting UCLA, in 2010. This was a second "Nature" front cover. My association with UCLA started in 1998 when they donated magnetic instruments to us, and I have visited many times. In 2005 we started strong cooperation with Japanese researchers, with many visits from them and with me having been a visiting professor in Nagoya. It was largely this cooperation that led to the Athabasca County large observatory that is now the best comprehensive aurora observatory in Canada. I will talk about numerous cool things about space including what a good place Athabasca is for space observations. Free community event!

This will be an in person and virtual event. Events may be photographed, recorded and shared.
Please join us in person at Athabasca University or
go to our website to join the event virtually on the day of this talk.
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Athabasca University