

The January Sky

In 2017, Spring is a season of planetary conjunctions. The year began with Neptune and Mars about $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a full Moon apart in a telescope eyepiece.

On the evening of the [January 12th](#) SkyTalk, a telescope would show Venus and Neptune less than an apparent full Moon apart, though Venus will be 100,000 times brighter.

Sunset on [January 31st](#), will show the Moon, Mars and Venus fitting into a circle of $5\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, about the distance between the pointer stars in the big dipper.

Come and see the sky through many different telescopes at one of the [Blue Grass Amateur Astronomy Club](#)'s outings at [Raven Run](#). The (Saturday) dates in 2017 are:

March 25th at 8:15pm

April 22 at 8:30pm

May 27 at 9:00pm

June 24 at 9:15pm

July 22 at 9:00pm

August 19 at 8:30pm

September 16 at 8:00pm

October 21 at 7:00pm.

Call Raven Run an hour before sunset to verify that the weather will be sufficiently clear.

You will find an [all-sky finder chart](#) and the PDF of this flyer at [our web site](#).

UK MacAdam STUDENT OBSERVATORY

UK's MacAdam Student Observatory, designed and built in 2007, was officially opened in 2008. The Observatory is located atop Parking Structure #2 between the W.T. Young Library and the Chemistry-Physics Building, and its dome houses a high-quality 20-inch reflecting telescope plus a variety of state-of-the-art optical instruments. The Observatory is dedicated to serving UK students as well as astronomy enthusiasts of every age and experience level throughout Kentucky.

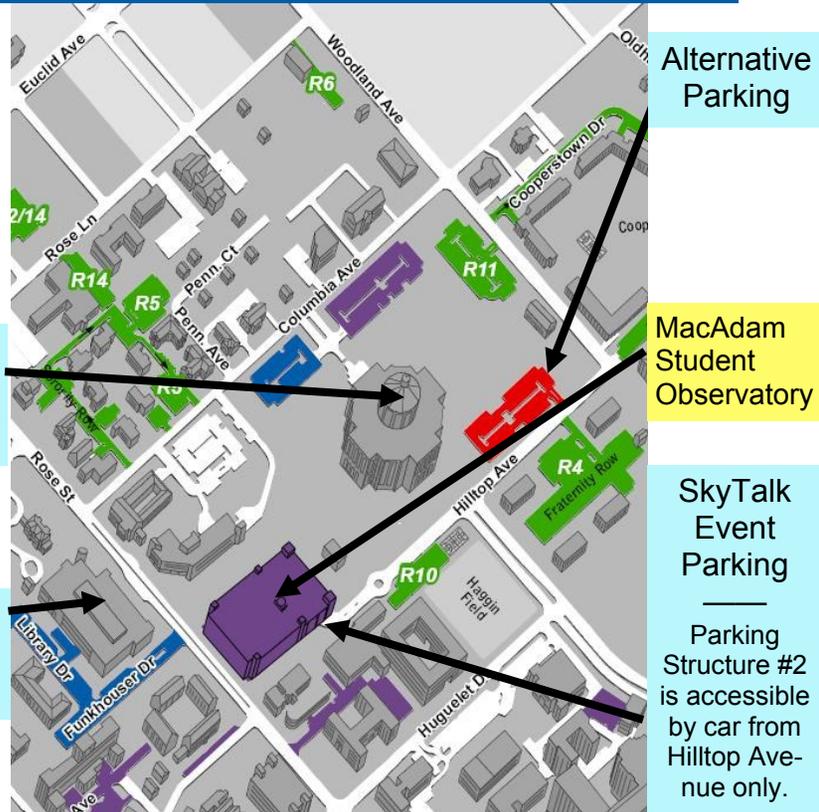
Are you interested in informal talks on astronomy and astrophysics? Are you curious about telescope design and operation? Would you care to take a look through the eyepiece?

The Department of Physics & Astronomy in UK's College of Arts & Sciences welcomes you! Join us to experience the excitement of stargazing through a powerful telescope. An up-to-date calendar of events can be found on our website:

<https://pa.as.uky.edu/observatory>



How to find the MacAdam Student Observatory



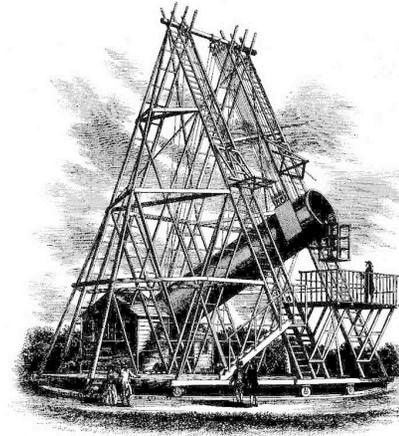
Monthly Meetings

The MSO hosts monthly public-observing sessions, each with a kick-off 40 minute presentation in the Chemistry-Physics Building. The presentations will take place even on cloudy nights. If the sky is clear, the observatory will open after the talk! Can't make the SkyTalk? Then come after!

Next month:

February 9, 2017 - **7:00 PM** - Chem-Phys Room 155

Kentucky SkyTalk



William Herschel completed this telescope in 1789; at the time the largest telescope in the world. Its aperture was more than four feet, its length 40 feet. The “40-foot” was located at Slough, England, 30 miles west of London, near the royalty at Windsor. To stay on the good side of George III, it was necessary for William Herschel to run something of a scientific shell game.

Tim Knauer— University of Kentucky

Thursday - January 12, 2016 7:00 PM

Chemistry-Physics Building Room 155

Keep Looking Up: The Heavenward Herschels

The Family Herschel, William, Caroline, and John, were the most productive astronomers of their times. They bridged the visual and photographic eras in astronomy, and catalogued thousands of faint, fuzzy objects in the night sky. To the Herschels we owe the words “infrared,” “asteroid,” and “photography.” William claimed:

“I have looked further into space than ever human being did before me. I have observed stars of which the light, it can be proved, must take two million years to reach the earth.”

And so he did. In this SkyTalk we will visit the highlights of this remarkable family and sample modern images of what they saw in the eyepiece 200 years ago.

Tonight's *Kentucky SkyTalk* is part of an ongoing series. These are presented by the UK Department of Physics and Astronomy, and the MacAdam Student Observatory. Held every 2nd Thursday of the month, they are always free and open to the public.