



# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009

THE UNIVERSE : YOURS TO DISCOVER



## How Graduate Students Can Get Involved in IYA

If you are a graduate student, here are some ideas for how you and your university can participate in the International Year of Astronomy 2009, celebrating 400 years since Galileo began observing the heavens through his telescope. We hope that the programs and connections that come out of IYA2009 will continue for many years to come!

### Ways to get involved and learn more about IYA right away:

- Visit the international IYA2009 website ([www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org)) and watch the movie trailer. And see the U.S. website ([www.astronomy2009.us](http://www.astronomy2009.us)) to see which projects fit best with your college or university.
- Contact your school's film club and get the IYA trailer shown before feature presentations.
- Print out IYA2009 posters and post them on department bulletin boards and on your office doors (<http://www.astronomy2009.org/resources/>).
- Participate in star counting events to raise awareness about dark skies and light pollution:
  - How Many Stars – an ongoing global citizen science program ([www.sternhell.at](http://www.sternhell.at))
  - Great World Wide Star Count, October 9-23, 2009, and October every year ([www.starcount.org](http://www.starcount.org))
  - GLOBE at Night, March near new moon every year ([www.globe.gov/GaN/](http://www.globe.gov/GaN/))
  - Earth Hour, March every year ([www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org))
- Give a talk about IYA2009 events and activities. You can download several appropriate *PowerPoint* presentations at ([www.astronomy2009.org/resources/presentations/](http://www.astronomy2009.org/resources/presentations/)). You can augment your presentations with the IYA2009 movie trailers mentioned above.
- If you TA undergraduate lab courses, ask your professor if you can discuss the IYA2009 during one of the labs. Better yet, try to get observations of the variable star Epsilon Aurigae included in a lab syllabus. (Visit [www.citizensky.org](http://www.citizensky.org) for more information.)
- If you organize any events, contact the PR department in your administration. They may want to publicize your IYA2009 event on your school's web site, in an alumni newsletter, etc.
- Have your department host a series of lectures around an IYA2009 theme.
- Host a star party using IYA Discovery guides ([www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html)) which include monthly hands-on activities that are related to NASA's featured celestial targets

**Please visit the U.S. International Year of Astronomy website: [www.astronomy2009.us](http://www.astronomy2009.us)  
and the International Year of Astronomy website: [www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org)**