



Open House in Astronomy Wednesday
Oct. 20, 2010
 7:00 p.m.
 180 REDC

Join Dr. Marc Imhoff of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland for an astronomical presentation. Following the lecture, there will be a viewing of the stars at Mehalso Observatory.

Quote of the week:

"Science is built up of facts, as a house is built of stones; but an accumulation of facts is no more a science than a heap of stones is a house."

~Henri Poincaré

Chemistry week presents new themes

RYAN GULA
science editor

It's time again for the windows of OBS to be painted with the phrase, "National Chemistry Week."

The week of Oct. 17 is designated as National Chemistry Week. The purpose of Chemistry Week is to remind community members about the importance of chemistry in their daily lives.

Penn State Erie's chemistry department has much planned to celebrate and educate students about Chemistry during the week.

Tracy Halmi, a senior lecturer of chemistry, is heading the Erie Community events this week.

Events that will be open to the public and are free include, "Harry Potter Potions" on Monday, Oct. 25, 'Hands - On Chemistry' activities at Millcreek Mall on Saturday, Nov. 6.

Another event will take place on Saturday Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Experience Museum, attending the event includes free admission to the museum itself as well.

On Friday, October 22nd, the Halloween Chemistry Spooktacular, sponsored by Penn State Behrend will kick off the Halloween season with its first annual Halloween Demonstration.

This event will take place from 6:30p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the mainstage Experience museum. It will be a \$3 cost for members and an \$8 cost for non-mem-



"The show will demonstrate how the media uses chemistry in special effects and also examine some of the pseudo-science used in popular science-fiction."

Tracy Halmi
 Senior Lecturer in Chemistry

bers.

A special Event for students will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 19 in 101 OBS and will feature Chemistry in the movies.

"The show will demonstrate how the media uses chemistry in special effects and also examine some of the pseudo-science used in popular science-fiction," said Tracy Halmi.

Last year, the event was very popular among the students in attendance, leaving only standing room at the event.

All of these events were

made possible with hours of work from numerous members of the chemistry Club at Behrend.

They have all worked to make the events possible, and still have more work planned, such as the Annual Window Painting at OBS.

This will serve as another reminder of the event this year. Wherever you look this week, it will be impossible to miss Chemistry Week, and will serve to remind all of chemistry's importance to everyday life and our quality of life.



Provided by Chemistry Club's website
 Photos above are pictures from 2007's Chemistry week. Professors assist students in chemistry projects throughout the week for both chem, and non chem majors.

Second Annual Chemistry Show

Tuesday October 19th, at 7:00 p.m.
 in 101 OBS

Doctoral program tops the charts

RYAN GULA
science editor

Often times, students debate whether or not to go back to school.

Penn State students who graduate with a Doctorate in the sciences will have a little more to brag about according to the National Research Council (NRC).

The comprehensive evaluation is of over 5,000 doctoral programs at 212 Universities. In over 60 fields Penn State has ranked amongst ivy league schools like Harvard, Yale, and Cornell in terms of their science doctoral programs.

Over 20 separate characteristics were evaluated to determine schools performance which ranged from student performance to research performed by the faculty.

Schools were given a range in which their performance was ranked. Rather than assigning a

number, the range system was used to more fairly assign ranks.

Penn State's top performing courses included Anthropology and Kinesiology.

"It's exciting to see so many doctoral programs at

the top and so strong nationally, based on these criteria," said Rodney Erickson, executive vice president of Penn State in the press release.

To put this accomplishment into context, Harvard ranked between two and

five while Stanford placed between three and nine. Both these schools trailing Penn State's rank of between one and two in Anthropology out of 82 evaluated doctoral programs.

Penn State doctoral research programs with notable 5th and 95th percentile S-Rankings for overall program quality (numbers in parentheses represent total ranked programs in the field):

Anthropology	1 and 2 (82)
Plant Biology	1 and 3 (116)
Nutrition	1 and 10 (44)
Astronomy & Astrophysics	2 and 7 (33)
Entomology	2 and 13 (28)
Biology	3 and 16 (120)
Food Science	3 and 17 (31)
Meteorology	4 and 20 (50)
Physics	4 and 21 (161)
Statistics	5 and 14 (61)
Mathematics	5 and 16 (127)
Geography	5 and 12 (49)
Plant Pathology	8 and 45 (116)
Geosciences	9 and 31 (140)
Chemistry	10 and 32 (178)
Bio Chem, Microbiology, & Molecular Biology	16 and 54 (159)

Tropical Storm Paula

moves into Cuba

Tropical Storm weakens as it nears the Island's center

ADAM FRACASSI
managing editor

Located 110 miles from the capitol city of Havana, Cuba, Tropical Storm Paula has just been downgraded.

Paula is a very small system with winds up to 40 miles per hour.

The system has continued to move northeast since early Monday morning. It is expected to continue moving northeast into Cuba.

Paula is expected to pass western Cuba dumping heavy rain onto the island. Outer bands of the storm will move across the Florida Keys, causing rain and gusty winds through

the weekend.

A tropical storm watch is in effect for the US from Crag Key west-ward to the Dry Tortugas.

A tropical storm warning is in effect for the Provinces of La Habana and Ciudad de La Habana in Cuba.

Meanwhile, in the Pacific Ocean, Megi strengthened. The storm currently has maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour. It is moving northwest.

Megi is just short of being considered a Typhoon and is expected to become one later this week.

It is sitting in the waters of the Pacific near the Philippine Islands.

Interested in

SCIENCE?



Write For The Beacon!
 RGG5029@psu.edu