

Meeting Notice October 2017

Of the *Rittenhouse Astronomical Society*

PRESENTERS:

Brian Abbott ~ American Museum of Natural History; Hayden Planetarium Assistant Curator
Dr. Jeremy P. Carlo ~ Assistant Professor Physics Dept. Villanova University

The Society invites members, guests and the interested public to our upcoming meeting (students encouraged to attend.) FREE / Open to the general public, no admit fee. Membership not required.

Topic Titles:

The Grand Tour ~ B. Abbott
The Drake Equation ~ Dr. J. Carlo

WHERE:

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
222 20TH STREET & THE PARKWAY
PHILADELPHIA PA

WHAT: The Grand Tour: Where are we among the stars in the Milky Way? Do we hold a special place in the universe? The Grand Tour will answer these questions as you travel from Earth to the most distant objects in the universe, exploring planets, stars, and myriad galaxies as we fly through the 3D Digital Universe Atlas. **The Drake Equation:** The question of whether intelligent life exists on other planets - and whether it is feasible to communicate with them - has fascinated people since antiquity. While there is no clear answer to the question, we will explore the issues involved and come up with our own estimate for the abundance of extraterrestrial intelligent life in the universe.

WHEN: Wednesday October 12, 2016

7:00 PM - Doors Open // 7:15 - Call to Order ~ Observatory Report
7:20 PM - Planet Report D. Vacca // 7:30- The Grand Tour ~ Brian Abbott
8:15 PM - President's Address ~ Ted Williams
8:20 PM- The Drake Equation ~ Dr. Jeremy P. Carlo
9:15 PM- Observatory Viewing ~ (Weather Permitting, Directed Mixer Poor Weather)

Web Portal: www.RASPhilly.org

FaceBook: [RittenhouseAstronomy](https://www.facebook.com/RittenhouseAstronomy)

Website: <http://www.RittenhouseAstronomicalSociety.org>

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Brian Abbott is the assistant director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History and oversees the Digital Universe, a 3-D atlas of the cosmos which is available on the web and shown in planetariums around the world. Brian arrived during the building of the Rose Center for Earth and Space and was one of the key scientists who provided astrophysical data and scientific support for the inaugural space show and exhibits. He remains involved with data analysis and outreach efforts in and out of the museum.

Jeremy P. Carlo is an Assistant Professor of Physics at Villanova University, where his research interests include the properties of magnetic materials. In addition, Jeremy has been an avid amateur astronomer for nearly 30 years, has built several telescopes, and has served as a member or officer for several astronomy clubs in the Northeast. Jeremy has published 25 papers in scientific journals, and has conducted experiments at facilities including Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, TRIUMF, and the Canadian Neutron Beam Centre.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 21, 2016

Observing Opportunity: Methacton School District. Members who volunteer with telescopes or binoculars get free planetarium admission. Details on our [Members Site](#).

October 22, 2016

Muddy Run Observatory Dedication
Volunteers needed to assist with telescope views. 5:00 PM Dedication seating begins at outdoor Amphitheater, risers accommodate lawn chairs.

October 29, 2016

Rain Date Muddy Run Observatory Dedication

PLEASE NOTE

Membership renewals are preferred in September and October for the Academic year. Please consider renewal at this upcoming meeting.