

## **BCC awarded grant, Space and Astronomy series**

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BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE, (COCOA, FLA.) – Brevard Community College was recently awarded a \$1,482 grant from the Florida Humanities Council through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The grant, which college applied for in February, will pay for two speakers for the BCC Space and Astronomy Lecture Series. This is the first time the grant was awarded to BCC in the past 10 years.

The objective of the grant is to offer two free lectures that educate the audience on where the moon and Mars exploration:

- The impact of John F. Kennedy on the development of the space program to go to the moon and civilian, commercial, and national security space efforts
- The history of Mars exploration and what it will take to get there

According to the grant application, the program will present information on "Moon or Mars?". Two presidents, two different approaches to space but the impact of each president on Florida is likely to be very different. A look at history will help audience members gain insight into the transition in NASA directives that will irrevocably alter Brevard County and Central Florida economy for at least the near future. Brevard County alone anticipates that 7,000 members of the shuttle work force will be unemployed by the end of the year."

"What a stellar opportunity this grant is!," said Dr. Fiorella Terenzi, coordinator of the Space and Astronomy Lecture Series and a physics instructor at the BCC Cocoa campus. "As the host and event director of "BCC Space and Astronomy Lecture Series" it is my desire to educate, enlighten and enthrall because education empowers us. It is the most powerful springboard for opening our minds and our hearts and guiding us to a greater understanding and appreciation of the universe and our place in it. It is when we understand that we possess the power to act."

Dr. Ethel Newman, provost for the BCC Cocoa campus, said, "Congratulations to Dr. Terenzi for receiving this award. The BCC Space and Astronomy Lecture Series will greatly benefit by being able to present internationally known speakers; and that is exciting!"

For more information about the Space and Astronomy Lectures, contact Dr. Fiorella Terenzi at [terenzif@brevardcc.edu](mailto:terenzif@brevardcc.edu). For more information about FHC grants, contact Susan Lockwood, grants director at (727) 873-2011 or email Lockwood at [slockwood@flahum.org](mailto:slockwood@flahum.org).

According to the Florida Humanities Council website, "The Florida Humanities Council is an independent, non-profit organization and is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, FHC funds hundreds of public programs

throughout the state that explore Florida's history, folklore, environment, literature, music, and art. (Your organization) was among numerous community organizations throughout the state to receive a grant that funds humanities programs."

According to the grant application, "The Florida Humanities sponsored Space and Astronomy Lectures will feature Pat Duggins and John M. Logsdon, Ph.D. These two lectures with a humanities focus will be part of the 2010-2011 Brevard Community College Space and Astronomy Series at the Astronaut Memorial Observatory and Planetarium in Cocoa, Florida. Access for Floridians will be increased beyond the lecture audience through a You.Tube posting of the interviews and a live Internet interview which will be archived."

The speakers are as follows:

- Pat Duggins is news director at Alabama Public Radio. He has spent more than 20 years providing national coverage of the space program, including the development of NASA's next generation spacecraft. He covered more than 100 space shuttle missions for National Public Radio. Duggins' new book is Trailblazing Mars: NASA's Next Giant Leap. His first book was Final Countdown: NASA and the End of the Space Shuttle Program.
- John M. Logsdon, Ph.D., became the Lindbergh Chair in Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., in 2008. Prior to this one-year appointment, Logsdon was on the faculty of the George Washington University for 38 years. He remains professor emeritus of Political Science and International Affairs. He was the founder in 1987 and long-time Director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. He holds a bachelor of science in physics from Xavier University (1960) and a doctorate degree in political science from New York University (1970). Logsdon's research interests focus on the policy and historical aspects of U.S. and international space activities. Logsdon is the author of "The Decision to Go to the Moon: Project Apollo and the National Interest." He is general editor of the eight-volume series Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program. He has written numerous articles on space policy and history.
- Dr. Fiorella Terenzi - Project director, described by Time Magazine as "a cross between Carl Sagan and Madonna," astrophysicist, author and recording artist, Terenzi received her doctorate in physics from the University of Milan, studied opera and composition at Conservatory G. Verdi, and taught mathematics and physics at Liceo Scientifico, Milan. She is currently a full time faculty member at Brevard Community College. In lectures at University of California San Diego, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History (NY), and in performances, live and on TV, in the U.S., Europe, and Japan, Terenzi has combined science and art to awaken people to the wonders of the universe. Due to space limitations, few details about her CD ("Music from the Galaxies"), her book ("Heavenly Knowledge"), her songs are featured on the Billboard Top 20 Music Video, her vocals, television appearances can be given here. For more information visit Terenzi's website at [www.fiorella.com](http://www.fiorella.com) for more background on Terenzi or amazon.com for a listing of her books.

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