

## BCC Space & Astronomy lectures set to open with 'Moon, Mars and Stars'

By Ken Datzman

Brevard Community College is tapping into the growing, worldwide interest of astronomy in 2009, in a timely fashion, as well as space exploration, through a new cutting-edge public lecture series.

Experts from aerospace and astronomy will dissect the latest industry issues and their impact on the Space Coast in six unique lectures spread over the school year. The discussions will be framed in non-technical language.

To celebrate the "International Year of Astronomy 2009," BCC has put together, under the direction of acclaimed astrophysicist Fiorella Terenzi, a "Space and Astronomy Lecture Series" that the school will host at 7 p.m. on the second Friday of each month throughout the 2009-2010 academic year.

"We live on the Space Coast, where people in aerospace are doing pioneering work," said Dr. Terenzi, a BCC physics and astronomy professor and founder of the Space and Astronomy Lecture Series.

"Astronauts can go to the moon from

Cape Canaveral. I was thinking of how we could tap into this concentration of talent, this 'super IQ,' and bridge the gap between aerospace, astronomy and technology, and engage the community, students, and families in a public setting. So, we have established the series at the perfect time, during the International Year of Astronomy. We are celebrating a major event," she added.

The series will cover a range of subjects, from the future of space exploration to space tourism and entrepreneurial opportunities to President John F. Kennedy's legacy of America's space program. To gain input for the series, Dr. Terenzi created a Space and Astronomy Lecture Series Board of Advisers.

The board includes representatives from Florida Tech, University of Central Florida, BCC, NASA, National Space Club, Space Florida, Brevard Astronomical Society, BCC SpaceTEC, Canaveral Council of Technical Societies, Florida Academy of Sciences, and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

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BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

BCC will open its new Space and Astronomy Lecture Series Sept. 4 at the school's Planetarium and Observatory in Cocoa. The series is free of charge and open to the public. The program will feature six presentations that run through spring 2010. BCC's Dr. Fiorella Terenzi, an astrophysicist who has an international reputation in her profession, created the series. Mark Howard is director of BCC's Planetarium, one of the few facilities of its kind in the nation housed on a college campus.

## Millions of people are hanging up landlines to go wireless-only

By Gina Kim  
Scripps Howard Service

Millions of cost-cutting Americans are asking: Ditch the landline phone and go completely wireless, or keep paying two bills for dependability and peace of mind? Many have already clipped the cord.

Wireless-only households have surpassed those solely dependent on landlines, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which tracks the information.

Still, some won't give up on their landline with its comforting dial tone,

whether out of laziness, safety concerns, sound quality, cell phone costs, or simply tradition.

"It's a fixture in the house, kind of like the refrigerator," said technology analyst Larry Magid. "It's just there, it's reliable, it's wired and glued in place because of the cord, and there's no meter on it."

There were 270 million cell phones in use in December 2008, the most recent figure available from the CTIA-The Wireless Association trade group. That's up from 110 million in 2000. It means 87 percent of Americans have a phone they take everywhere, the group found.

More than 20 percent of households

were wireless-only in December, and another 15 percent said they took most calls on cell phones instead of landlines, according to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Just 17 percent of households had a landline without a cell phone.

"I have both a landline and a cell phone, and every time I pay that landline bill I wonder why," said Stephen Blumberg, an NCHS senior scientist.

Blumberg fell into tracking phone use in

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