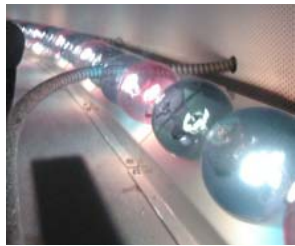


# RITTER PLANETARIUM & BROOKS OBSERVATORY HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Visited by over half a million people since 1967.
- ★ Received a grant from the Toledo Rotary Foundation to renovate the star projector and provide programming to underprivileged groups.
- ★ Awarded a NASA-PLATO grant to purchase “Skywatchers of Africa”, a new program from the Adler Planetarium.



★ Installed a state of the art computer controlled special effects lighting system in 2003.

- ★ Awarded a NASA grant with Dr. Nancy Morrison for a week long summer program to train area teachers in astronomy education.
- ★ Presented 350 programs for school groups from 40 districts in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana in the 2002-2003 school year.

## Excitement Under The Stars!

A pristine view of the night sky is a rare and exhilarating experience. Such views have inspired much of mythology, philosophy, poetry, art, and sparked the first flames of science.

Ritter Planetarium-Brooks Observatory stands at the crossroads of science, mythology, poetry, philosophy, and art. The planetarium is poised to take its 30,000 annual visitors on many rewarding journeys.

In recent years, Ritter Planetarium—Brooks Observatory has increased the number and quality of original programming. Some of the subjects covered have been the discoveries of extra-solar planets, the mythologies of Native Americans, and the search for life beyond Earth.

Grant awards have made possible the refurbishment of the central star projector, the purchase of new programs, the training of area K-12 teachers in astronomy, and field trips for underprivileged students. A state of the art lighting system was also recently installed.

Future grants and donations will help to enhance our programming with a video projection system, interactive lobby displays, upgrades to the Brooks Observatory, and new production equipment.

In the last decade, several Ritter student employees have gone on to work in other planetariums. Ritter Planetarium is now working with the Department of Physics and Astronomy to institute a new Masters Degree in Planetarium Astronomy, thus helping to ensure that future generations too can feel the “Excitement Under The Stars!”

---

Dr. Lawrence Anderson-Huang, Director  
Mr. Alexander Mak, Associate Director

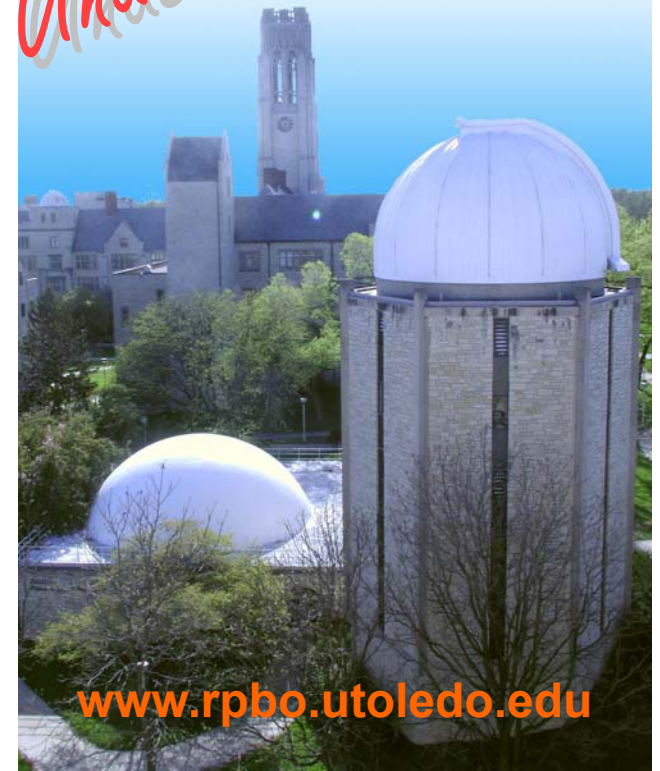
Office: 419-530-2650  
24 – Hour Info Line: 419-530-4037  
E-mail: [rpbo@astro.utoledo.edu](mailto:rpbo@astro.utoledo.edu)

**Web Site: [www.rpbo.utoledo.edu](http://www.rpbo.utoledo.edu)**



## Ritter Planetarium & Brooks Observatory

*Excitement Under The Stars!*



[www.rpbo.utoledo.edu](http://www.rpbo.utoledo.edu)

## Our Mission:

To provide educational and entertaining activities for the dissemination of material related to astronomy, the sky, and the place of our Earth in the Universe, and to provide opportunities for the public to view celestial phenomena with medium-sized telescopes.



**Ritter Planetarium** is the ideal place to learn about the sky and constellations, ancient mythology and cutting edge science, historic space flights and the future of humanity in the cosmos. The planetarium is a 40 foot domed space theater that seats 100 visitors. The theater houses a Spitz A3P star projector. The audience is visually immersed in a recreation of the sky as it appears from anywhere on Earth at any time, past present and future.

Slide projectors, special effects, and a sound system provide added abilities to inform, entertain and inspire an audience.

The lobby features up to date and interactive displays on astronomy and space science.

**Brooks Observatory** is located on top of McMaster Hall, next door to Ritter. The main telescope is a Brashear 6-inch brass body refractor permanently mounted inside a dome. There are several other mounts for auxiliary telescopes.

Guests are awed by the views of the Universe available from the observatory: planets, the Moon, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies!

## Services for the UT Community

Ritter Planetarium is a teaching facility. We hire and train UT students in all aspects of our mission. Student employees gain experience with public speaking, teaching techniques, observing, script writing, and leadership.

Our extensive astronomical image library is used daily for undergraduate instruction. Our facilities are routinely used to enhance a wide variety of courses including astronomy, education, communications, and geography.

Ritter Planetarium provides programming during campus wide special event days, like Parents' Day and Homecoming. Perhaps most importantly, we serve as an University of Toledo ambassador to the local community, giving a positive campus experience to 30,000 people annually.



## Services for the General Public

Ritter Planetarium delivers a wide variety of entertaining and informative astronomical programs every weekend. Our evening programs are designed for a general audience, while our afternoon shows appeal to children of all ages.

There are many opportunities to look through our telescopes each year. Free observing sessions are offered after each evening public program, weather permitting. Several special observing-only nights are scheduled each year as well.

The planetarium offers extended workshops on buying telescopes, astrophotography, beginning and advanced observing, plus the Parent/Child Space Academy, a very popular family workshop.

Larger groups are invited to schedule a private show, observing session or even rent the facility for special events.

## Services for the K-12 Community

Ritter Planetarium offers visiting school groups a wide choice of live and multi-media programming. Our curriculum based programs include topics such as Moon phases, the seasons, our solar system, cosmology, and the night sky. Many of our programs touch on other disciplines as well, like history, Earth science, mythology, and multi-cultural studies.



Additionally, students can tour the Ritter research telescope or the heliostat—a solar telescope. They can also make of game of exploring the lobby displays by finding items in a scavenger hunt .

Area educators benefit from teacher workshops, in-class activities, resource kits, and on-line teacher guides.



## Services for Scouting Groups

Ritter Planetarium offers monthly programs for Boy Scouts and Jr. Girl Scouts. The two hour program and handouts provide them with the tools to earn their respective astronomy badges. The Cub Scout and Brownie program is a one and a half hour program, more suitable to their ages. Ritter staff members have also gone to jamborees and campsites for outreach programs.

## Giving Opportunities

People interested in supporting Ritter Planetarium's mission of presenting astronomy in an entertaining and informative way are invited to join the Friends of Ritter program through the University of Toledo Foundation. Details on this program, and all that Ritter Planetarium - Brooks Observatory has to offer can be found on the web at:

[www.rpbo.utoledo.edu](http://www.rpbo.utoledo.edu)