



For Immediate Release

May 25, 2010

Media Contact:

Jeff Harman
808-969-9705
jharman@imiloahawaii.org

Vincent Recinto
808-969-9714
vrecinto@imiloahawaii.org

What's Hot and What's Not in the Universe

Hilo, Hawai'i –Take a temperature reading of our Universe in this months Maunakea Skies with Dr. Glen Petitpas from SMA. *What's Hot and What's Not in the Universe* is the topic for this month's program at 'Imiloa on Saturday, June 19, at 7 p.m. in the planetarium.

The Universe is mostly cold, but contains objects of such extreme temperatures the figures are overwhelming. Dr. Petitpas will describe the wide range of temperatures measured in outer space, from dust clouds just above absolute zero, to the cores of supernovae which can reach hundreds of billions of degrees. Observations of these extreme objects require special tools and throughout the talk he will also describe the instruments (past, present, and future) used to make these extraordinary measurements.

Glen Petitpas is currently an astronomer at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array (SMA). He has been working at the SMA on Hawai'i Island for almost four years. Born in Canada, he received his Ph.D. from McMaster University in Ontario, and held post-doctoral positions at the University of Maryland and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

The monthly "Maunakea Skies" planetarium presentations are held on the third Saturday of each month, and replaces the Center's previous "Directors' Lecture Series" held for the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. Presented in 'Imiloa Astronomy Center's 120-seat planetarium, admission is \$5 for 'Imiloa members and \$8 for non-members. Pre-purchase tickets at the 'Imiloa front desk or by phone at (808) 969-9704; Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i is located at 600 Imiloa Place in Hilo, off Komohana and Nowelo Streets at the UH-Hilo Science and Technology Park. For more information, go to www.imiloahawaii.org, or call (808) 969-9703.



Figure 1 Dr. Glen Petitpas on a lava hike

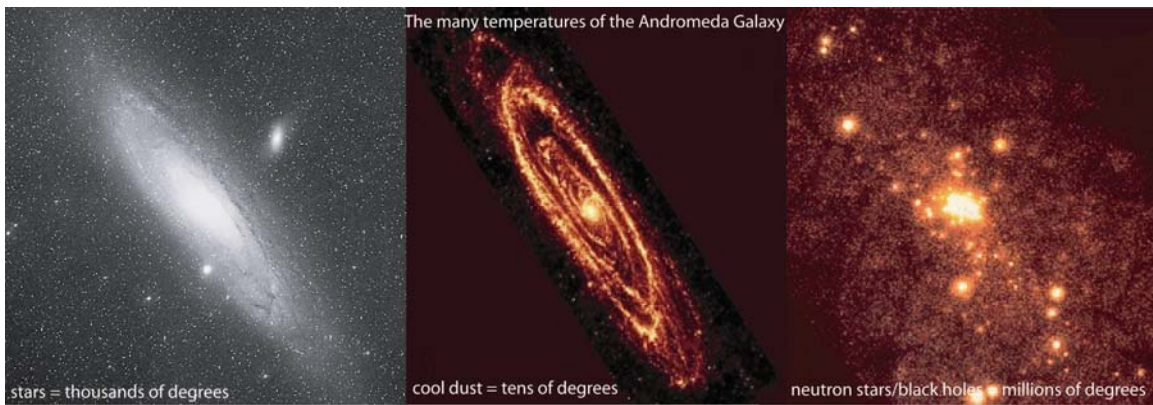


Figure 2 M31

###