TSI SEMINARS - FALL 2026

Beyond Outreach: Building Community Through Astronomy Communication

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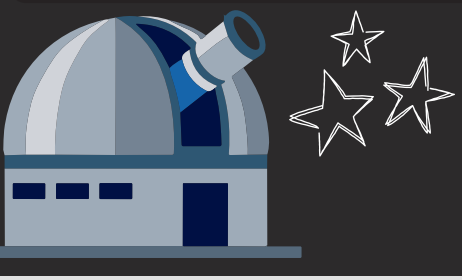
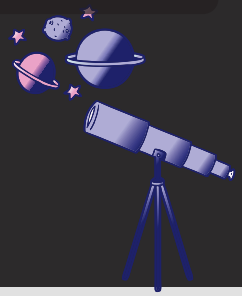
December 1, 3:30 PM

Bell Room (Rutherford 103)

Abstract: *Astronomy outreach is often viewed as a way to share scientific knowledge with the public, but it can also be a powerful tool for building lasting relationships between astronomers and their communities. Through activities such as public lectures, sidewalk astronomy, classroom visits, observatory tours and workshops, astronomers at all career stages have the opportunity to practice their communication skills and gain a fresh perspective on their own research. The benefits for audiences go well beyond a one-way transfer of knowledge. In addition to increasing access to astronomy knowledge, public engagement can foster a greater sense of belonging in science, develop local partnerships, and create welcoming spaces for people who might not see themselves represented in the sciences. This presentation will explore the astronomy outreach initiatives at by the Dunlap Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics at the University of Toronto, the community relationships that have grown from these efforts, and the lessons learned from using astronomy as a tool for engagement, connection, and outreach.*





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