



Cleveland Astronomical Society

www.clevelandastronomicalsociety.org

Thursday, Feb 4, 2010 Meeting Announcement

6:15—7:00 p.m. – Get acquainted and snacks

7:45—8:00 p.m. – Short Business Meeting

7:00—7:45 p.m. – Buffet Dinner (Reservations Required)

8:00—9:00 p.m. – Featured Speaker (Free to public)

Leonard Krieger CanalWay Center

4524 East 49th Street (turn onto Whittlesey Way to reach Center), Cuyahoga Heights (216-206-1000)

Speaker: Dr. Steven A. Hauck, II

Associate Professor

CWRU—Dept of Geological Sciences

The MESSENGER Mission to Mercury

Launched in August 2004, the Mercury Surface, Space Environment, Geochemistry, and Ranging (MESSENGER) spacecraft was the first visitor to Mercury since Mariner 10 in 1974-5. During the course of three flybys of Mercury, MESSENGER has viewed ~98% of the surface and made important discoveries about the planet's surface, interior and interaction with the solar wind. Each of these flybys helped shape the spacecraft's trajectory for orbiting Mercury beginning in March 2011. We will discuss why Mercury is so important to study, what we are already learning from MESSENGER's flybys in 2008 and 2009 and what the future holds for the mission and our understanding of Mercury.

High School Teachers interested in bringing two students, as our guests, please contact Bob Sledz, President, at 440-333-7827 or sledzbob@yahoo.com by the Friday prior to the scheduled meeting date.