



HGS Bulletin

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AWARDS ISSUE

**GUEST NIGHT 2016
ORIGIN OF LIFE ON EARTH AND
THE CONNECTION TO LUNAR IMPACTS**

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HGS Guest Night - June 11

ORIGINS OF FIRST LIFE ON EARTH

A VIEW FROM THE MOON 3.8 BILLION YEARS AGO

Houston Museum of Natural Science

7 pm- 10:30pm

Tickets: \$60 adults

\$30 children

and students

- Dinner in Dino Hall
- Lecture in the Giant Screen Theatre
- 3D Movie "Journey to Space"

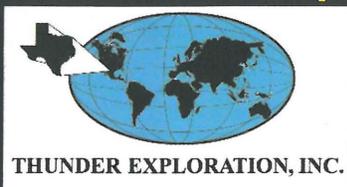


Special Guest Speaker

Dr. David Kring, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston

Author of popular science articles, videos, and multimedia

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HGS Guest Night to Discuss Origin of Life on Earth and Connection to Lunar Impacts 3.8 Billion Years Ago

by Linda Sternbach

HG S Guest Night, to be held on Saturday, June 11, will feature Dr. David Kring, Senior Staff Scientist of the Lunar and Planetary Institute here in Houston. The lecture topic is one of science's biggest questions: did life on Earth arise because of meteor impacts from space? His research focuses on evidence of early catastrophic bombardment of the Moon and Earth 3.8 billion years ago, including rock evidence collected by the Apollo missions. Dr. Kring advocates new manned missions to the Moon, and is a NASA advisor on astronaut training.

Guest Night will be held at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, starting at 7 pm. The event includes a buffet dinner amongst the fearsome T-Rex, triceratops and other dinosaurs of the Hall of Paleontology. After dinner, Dr. Kring will take the stage in the Giant Screen Theatre and talk about cosmic collisions. Following the talk and Q&A, we will show the 3D movie "Journey to Space" narrated by Star Trek captain Patrick Stewart. Adult tickets are \$60; children and student tickets are \$30. Tickets may be purchased on the calendar event page on the HGS website.

About our Guest Night Speaker, Dr. David Kring:



Dr. Kring received his PhD in Earth and Planetary Sciences from Harvard University. He specializes in impact cratering processes produced when asteroids and comets collide with planetary surfaces. Kring is perhaps best known for his work with the discovery of the Chicxulub impact crater, which he helped to link to the K-T boundary mass extinction of dinosaurs. The science

community, through the International Astronomical Union (IAU), honored Dr. Kring and his work by assigning asteroid 8391 the formal name "Kring" in the year 2000. Based on the astronomically measured absolute magnitude of the asteroid, the diameter is estimated to be 10 to 15 kilometers. That is comparable in size to the asteroid that produced the Chicxulub impact crater and extinguished most life on Earth 65 million years ago.



Dr. Kring has studied how impact cratering may have affected the early evolution of the Earth-Moon system. In particular, he has led a decade-long campaign to test the lunar cataclysm hypothesis, which is one of the great intellectual legacies of the Apollo program. Indeed, the bombardment of the Earth-Moon system remains the highest science priority for our nation's return to the Moon. Kring has suggested that an intense period of impact bombardment may have affected the origin and early evolution of life on Earth. Dr. Kring also led a joint academia-industry-NASA design team for a robotic lunar lander and rover system that can be deployed anywhere on the lunar surface. He is particularly interested in the interfaces between science, exploration, and operations, to ensure our nation's return to the Moon maximizes productivity while enhancing safety and efficiencies during robotic and crew operations. He has trained astronauts how to move around on planetary surfaces (e.g., the Moon, Mars, and asteroids) affected by impact cratering and volcanic processes. He has also developed mission concepts for human-assisted lunar sample return missions, human exploration of the lunar surface, and helped lead simulations of lunar and near-Earth asteroid missions in analogue terrains here on Earth. ■

For more information about Dr. Kring see <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/kring/>