

Astronomy Cast

<http://www.astronomycast.com>

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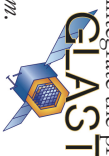
All you need is an
Internet connection.
No iPod required!

Astronomy Cast takes a facts-based journey through the cosmos as it offers listeners weekly discussions on astronomical topics ranging from planets to cosmology. Hosted by Fraser Cain (Universe Today) and Dr. Pamela L. Gay (SILE), this show brings the questions of an avid astronomy lover direct to an astronomer. Together Fraser and Pamela explore what is known and being discovered about the universe around us. Shows come in three formats: topical shows, scientific meeting coverage, and listener questions shows.

New Educational Program: Student Questions Shows

Inspired by the success of their "Questions Shows," *Astronomy Cast* is creating a monthly "Student Questions" series. These shows will answer a selection of student questions, emphasizing questions related to high-energy astrophysics, in standard 30-minute episodes. High-energy astrophysics studies some of the most energetic and exotic objects in the Universe, including: supermassive black holes and their jets of charged particles, exploding stars, and city-sized neutron stars spinning thousands of times per second. Each show will have an illustrated transcript, and questions will also be indexed online by topic. Submitted questions not used in shows will still be answered, but will only appear in the online index. To facilitate educators submitting audio questions, *Astronomy Cast* will provide recording devices that can be shipped to schools at no cost to them and used with ease.

To apply, teachers are asked to submit a letter explaining: why they want to get involved; how they will use the questions and their answers to motivate learning about high-energy astrophysics; and describe the grade-level and diversity of the target student audience. Letters will be reviewed quarterly, starting Oct. 1. *Astronomy Cast* will sort requests by month of planned classroom use and will use request letters to select schools for involvement when more than one school is interested in a given month. Teachers who have their own recording equipment are also invited to participate on a one school per month basis. Preference will be given to large classes in diverse areas and schools where small classes will work collaboratively, and that demonstrate an ability to integrate the project into their class. Apply at: <http://www.astronomycast.com/educate/>



This program is sponsored by NASA's

Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope Education and Public Outreach program.

To learn more about GLAST and high-energy astrophysics, visit <http://glast.sonoma.edu/edu.html>

Meet the Cast & Crew

Fraser Cain: In addition to co-hosting *Astronomy Cast*, Fraser publishes *Universe Today*, one of the most popular space and astronomy websites on the Internet. Fraser has been working in the software/Internet industry for the last 13 years, and was a partner in two software companies that are now traded publicly. He studied engineering & computer science at the University of British Columbia. Fraser has written 3 books and publishes a popular astronomy guide called *What's Up*.

Dr. Pamela L. Gay: A lifetime stargazer, Pamela has followed her obsession to a profession. Today Pamela is on the Physics faculty at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Teaching by day, she works on astronomy data by night, teaming up with amateur astronomers who are expert observers to study variable stars. Podcasting is a creative outlet that brings together her love of astronomy with her passion for teaching, making staying current in an ever-changing field a fun endeavor. Pamela blogs at <http://www.starstryder.com>.

Rebecca Bemrose-Fetter: A self-proclaimed geek, Rebecca loves learning about, as well as teaching, anything and everything related to astronomy. A native of Toronto, Canada, Rebecca is currently an undergraduate physics major at SILE. When she's not keeping things running smoothly at *Astronomy Cast*, Rebecca enjoys working with Pamela on variable star research, reading books of all genres, and procrastinating on homework.