

**SAS Honors Seminar 259:
Extraterrestrial Life**

12/3/2008

GBT remote observing tonight

When: 12:15 – 2:00 (?) am

Where: Serin Lab 309W

(Busch campus)

Who: Baker + ???

How: Call me in my office

(732-445-2544) around

11:45pm, and I'll let you

in through the door at

the west end of the building

(across the street from ARC).



Reading for Monday (12/8)

New images of exoplanets:

Marley (2008), which introduces...

Kalas et al. (2008)

Marois et al. (2008)

Cheat sheet will be coming for these at some point.

Highlights of the “Bad Astronomy” website:

Plait (2005): “Astrology”

Plait (2008): “Fox TV and the Apollo Moon Hoax”

Term papers: topics

Green lighted

S. Mitchell – Extremophiles in Ice

K. Rafferty – The Drake Equation

**N. Ramay – The Origin of Life on Earth vs. the (Possible)
Origin of Life on Mars**

**I will post and update a list on the website so that you know
who else may have a reference list that overlaps with yours.**

Term papers: advice on references

- (1) **Primary references** (journal articles, original opinion pieces, books, etc.) are the best.
- (2) **Secondary references** (newspaper or magazine discussions of new results; book reviews) are OK.
- (3) **Personal websites** whose authorship or date of construction is not clear are **NOT** good.
- (4) **Take advantage of the physics and life sciences libraries** (even if they are on Busch...).
- (5) **Take advantage of electronic citation databases.** (If you have found one useful article, you can figure out more recent articles that cite it and may also be useful.)
- (6) **Email me** if you need help.

Discussion next Wednesday (12/10)

Organize yourselves into at least three groups (every group should have at least three people).

Each group should discuss (in person or by email) the various terms in the **original form of the Drake Equation, and agree on consensus **most likely values** and **appropriate uncertainties**. **Do this before class.****

Different groups should not compare answers in advance!