SAS Honors Seminar 259: Extraterrestrial Life

12/3/2008

GBT remote observing tonight

When: 12:15 – 2:00 (?) am

Where: Serin Lab 309W

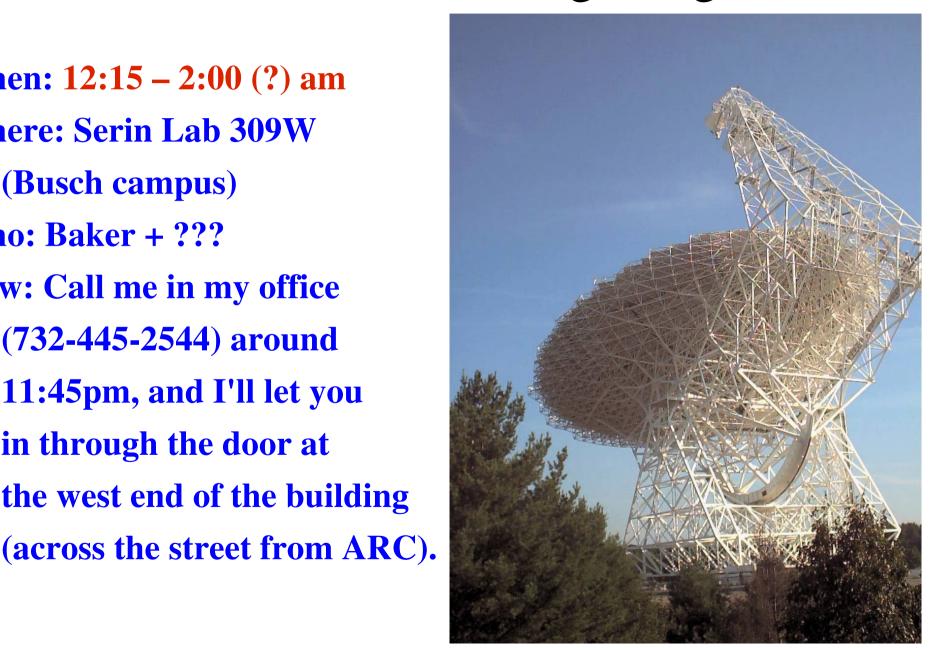
(Busch campus)

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



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!