

The Keck Institute for Space Studies presents an open lecture:

Moon Diver Mission Concept

Descending into a Moon Cave to Better Understand the Solar System's Largest Volcanic Eruptions

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Monday, April 2, 2018

4:30 PM Refreshments 5:00 PM Lecture

Lees-Kubota Lecture Hall Guggenheim Building California Institute of Technology

In 2009, several deep volcanic collapse pits were discovered on the Moon by the Japanese spacecraft SELENE. The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera subsequently captured high resolution oblique images of the pits, revealing that some of them opened into subterranean caverns, and that the walls of the pits exposed up to 40 meters of pristine lava stratigraphy. The Moon Diver mission concept proposes to send the JPL-developed Axel extreme terrain rover into one of these pits, rappelling down the wall to expose the history of the lunar mare, and to illuminate the workings of the flood basalt eruptions that created them: eruptions on a scale never before witnessed in the history of humankind.

Seating is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis.