

The Keck Institute for Space Studies
presents an open lecture:

Cassini's Grand Finale: Capstone for Saturn Exploration

Dr. Scott Edgington
Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Monday, May 15, 2017

4:30 PM Refreshments
5:00 PM Lecture

Lees-Kubota Lecture Hall
Guggenheim Building
California Institute of Technology

Cassini, orbiting Saturn for nearly 13 years, has revolutionized our knowledge of the Saturn system and informed us of new places to search for habitable environments. Cassini will send back its final bits of unique data on September 15th, 2017, as it plunges into Saturn's atmosphere, vaporizing and satisfying planetary protection requirements.

Before that time, Cassini will continue its legacy of exploration and discovery in 2017 and return unique science data provided by 22 orbits that take the spacecraft into unexplored regions near Saturn and its rings. These close orbits provide the highest resolution observations of both the rings and Saturn, and direct in-situ sampling of the ring particle composition, plasma, Saturn's exosphere, the innermost radiation belts and the gravitational and magnetic fields.

This presentation will also highlight recent results from the Ring Grazing orbits, where the spacecraft skirted the F ring 20 times.

A detailed illustration of the Cassini spacecraft in orbit around Saturn. The spacecraft is shown from a perspective that highlights its gold thermal blankets, various instruments, and the large dish antenna. Saturn's rings are visible in the background, and the planet's surface is partially visible at the bottom of the frame. The background is a deep blue space filled with stars.

**for more
information
go to:
kiss.caltech.edu**

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