

## **Extra Credit Observing Project Astronomy 102-01 Spring Semester, 2009**

Students may earn up to 10 points by visiting Standeford Observatory at night and making observations of the moon, planets, stars, constellations and a variety of other objects. The Observatory is located in the trees at the south end of the field behind Gage Towers. It is next to the ropes course and across from the ROTC tower. You may walk to Standeford Observatory following the directions on the map on the back of this page. If you need to park your car you may, in theory, use the south end of Gage Lot 1 without penalty. **Do not drive through the gate along the "road" to the Observatory.** It is a good idea to walk to the observatory with classmates. If you need help getting to the observatory call MSU Security at extension 389- 2111 or notify your instructor. Standeford Observatory provides little protection against the cold so dress appropriately. Also, there are no restroom facilities.

When you get to the Observatory print your name and your instructor's name (Kipp) on a 3X5 card. Assistants will help you look at a variety of interesting objects in the sky using the telescopes. You may also identify constellations with the help of the assistants. Write the name of each object or constellation you observe on the card. Look at a minimum of five things. When you leave, sign your card (your card should have both your printed name and your signature) and leave the card with the assistant! You receive 4 points for the first visit, and 2 points for each subsequent visit to a maximum of 10 points.

Spring semester, 2009, Standeford Observatory is expected to be open clear nights, Monday - Thursday, beginning Monday, April 6 and ending Thursday April 30. Hours will be 9:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. (Bad weather might change these dates.) A sign on the road gate will indicate if the Observatory is open. However, since the assistants are students with busy schedules and since the weather can change at a moments notice, it is possible that you may find no one at the Observatory when you expect them to be there. To avoid this call ahead at 389-6208 if you have any doubts that someone will be there. If you want to visit Standeford Observatory don't wait till the last moment; cloudy weather or snow could wipe out the remaining observing time.

(MSU has two astronomical observatories: Standeford Observatory consists of a small silver dome and frame building inside a fence. Andreas Observatory consists of a large silver dome connected to a brick building. Andreas Observatory is just beyond Standeford so if you find yourself there go back.) If you anticipate having a problem getting to Standeford Observatory notify the instructor by the first week in April. An alternate project is available for those who really need it.

