

## International Space University 2015 Space Studies Program Astronaut Panel - 40 years of spaceflight experience from Apollo to ISS!

Strasbourg, France: the International Space University (ISU) is pleased to confirm that the International Astronaut Panel as part of this year's Space Studies Program (SSP15) now features Jack Schmitt, Sergei Krikalev, Bob Thirsk and Paolo Nespoli .



The four astronauts, representing the American, Russian, Canadian and European space agencies, will participate in a round table conference, open to the general public, in the evening of **17<sup>th</sup> June 2015** from **20.30 to 23.00** in the **Baker Center Ballroom, OHIO University, Athens, USA**. The four space explorers represent 40 years of space exploration on most every vehicle to carry humans into space and orbit Earth during that time.

Astronauts:

- **Harrison Jack Schmitt** – Apollo 17 and only scientist to walk on the moon, as ex-US senator he will also be able to highlight the political importance of space activities
- **Sergei Krikalev**, Russia's preeminent cosmonaut and rocket scientist who is presently world record holder of the duration spent in space and was the only human having been in space alone on board of a spacecraft for several months
- **Bob Thirsk**, Canadian astronaut who has flown Shuttle, Soyuz and served as an Expedition crewmember on the International Space Station, now chancellor of one of the most important Canadian Universities
- **Paolo Nespoli**, an ESA astronaut who was on board ISS with Shuttle and Soyuz experience; an Italian professional engineer and parachutist jumpmaster.

The Astronaut Panel, conducted in English, is a longstanding highlight in SSP sessions. The roundtable format gives the participants and public a direct occasion to ask a broad range of questions to a number of astronauts in an interactive mode. This panel of space explorers was selected on the basis of their varied international, interdisciplinary and intercultural backgrounds, which will highlight a contrasting variety of spaceflight experience. The panel's experience ranges from intensive short-duration flights to long-duration stay on board space stations, and includes spaceflights aboard Apollo, Soyuz, Shuttle, MIR and the International Space Station.

For all those interested in space, this is a great opportunity to come and learn from the experts, who have seen it for themselves.

**Seating for this event is available on a first come, first served basis.**



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The SSP is an intense nine-week program which offers the participants a unique and comprehensive professional development experience covering all aspects of space programs and enterprises. Disciplines highlighted include space physical sciences; space engineering; space policy, economics and law; space management and business; space and the humanities; space applications; and human performance in space. This program targets young and seasoned professionals from all disciplines as well as post-graduate university students. The program features core lectures, departmental activities, and team projects that allow participants to produce new perspectives on current space topics by combining their international, interdisciplinary and intercultural backgrounds. Every summer, the SSP takes place in a different location around the world. Recent sessions have convened in Graz (Austria), Melbourne (Florida, USA), Strasbourg (France), and Montreal (Canada).

This year the program benefits from the support of many local and worldwide actors including amongst others **NASA** and **Lockheed Martin**.

#### **About the International Space University - [www.isunet.edu](http://www.isunet.edu)**

The International Space University (ISU), founded in 1987 in Massachusetts, US and now headquartered in Strasbourg, France, is the world's premier international space education institution. It is supported by major space agencies and aerospace organizations from around the world. The graduate level programs offered by ISU are dedicated to promoting international, interdisciplinary and intercultural cooperation in space activities. ISU offers the Master of Space Studies program at its Central Campus in Strasbourg. Since the summer of 1988, ISU has also conducted the highly acclaimed Space Studies Program at different host institutions in locations spanning the globe. ISU programs are delivered by over 100 ISU faculty members in concert with invited industry and agency experts from institutions around the world. Since its founding, 25 years ago, more than 3900 students from over 100 countries graduated from ISU.

#### **About Ohio University - [www.ohio.edu](http://www.ohio.edu)**

Ohio University strives to be the best student-centered learning community in America, where more than 35,000 students realize their promise, faculty advance knowledge, staff achieve excellence, and alumni become global leaders. OHIO is committed to fostering, embracing, and celebrating diversity in all its forms. Our Athens Campus offers students a residential learning experience in one of the nation's most picturesque academic settings. Five regional campuses serve additional students throughout central and southeastern Ohio, and online programs further advance the University's commitment to providing educational access and opportunity.

#### **About the Russ College - [www.ohio.edu/engineering](http://www.ohio.edu/engineering)**

Offering undergraduate and graduate degrees across the traditional engineering spectrum and in technology disciplines aviation, computer science, and engineering technology and management, the Fritz J. and Dolores H. Russ College goes beyond technical education to produce meta engineers and technologists who are poised for leadership and aware of their influence on the world around them. World-class research in avionics engineering is an ongoing focus, with strategic research in transportation infrastructure, energy and the environment, and bioengineering. Named for alumnus Fritz Russ and his wife, Dolores, the College is home of the National Academy of Engineering Russ Prize, the top bioengineering prize in the world.

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