



# DOWN TO EARTH



*Newsletter of the Department of Earth Sciences, U.W.O.*

*Friday, November 27, 2009*

## **NASA Lunar Science Seminar Series**

Come watch the second seminar in NASA Lunar Science Institute's Fall 2009 Director's Seminar Series!

Western's Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration (CPSX) and the Canadian Lunar Research Network will be hosting a viewing of this virtual seminar:

**When: Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 12:00 PM**

Where: Sharcnet conference room, WSC 148 (the building just across the road from Physics and Astronomy)

Topic: **The Lunar Cataclysm Hypothesis & Implications for the Entire Solar System**

Speaker: **Dr. David Kring**, PI for NLSI's LPI Team based out of Houston, TX

Overview: One of the grand intellectual legacies of the Apollo Program is the lunar cataclysm hypothesis, which suggests the Earth-Moon system was severely bombarded ~3.9-4.0 billion years ago. In the post-Apollo era, that concept has been repeatedly tested with additional sample analyses and photogeologic analyses. Those data are consistent with the lunar cataclysm hypothesis and further suggest the bombardment affected the entire inner solar system. An important source of that bombardment appears to be asteroids that were perturbed when Jupiter's orbit shifted and resonances swept through the asteroid belt. Thus, analyses of lunar surface samples are providing clues to the evolution of both the inner and outer solar system. Testing this hypothesis remains the

nation's highest science priority for lunar exploration.

Hope to see you all there!

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## **Congratulations...**

to **Caitlin Latimer**, for her recent successful M.Sc. defense.

to **Junhui Wang**, for her recent successful Ph.D. defense.

to **Pengfei Chen**, for his recent successful Ph.D. defense.

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## **Colloquium Schedule, 2009-10**

The Earth Sciences Colloquium is held weekly on Fridays in B&G 0153, 3:30-4:30 PM.

**December 4** – Robert Hodder Chair candidate. Title TBA.

For the most up-to-date version of the Colloquium schedule, visit

<http://www.uwo.ca/earth/news/colloquium.html>.