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NOTED ASTRONOMER AND BUFFALO NATIVE RETURNS TO WNY TO EXPLORE THE SKIES WITH MUSEUM GUESTS

Clifford Stoll, Ph.D. to present astronomy programs at Buffalo Museum of Science

BUFFALO, NY (March 10, 2009) -- When **Clifford Stoll** speaks, you can't help but listen. Full of restless energy, he jumps from one topic to the next, darting back and forth across the stage. You may not be sure where he's going, but the ride is always part of the adventure. Dr. Stoll, a Buffalo Native, noted astronomer, and best selling author and educator, will join the Buffalo Museum of Science on **March 14, 15 and 18** to celebrate the *International Year of Astronomy* with astronomy-related programs for families and educators.

Astronomy in Action with Cliff Stoll

Saturday, March 14th

1:00 – 3:00pm

Free with Museum Admission

Join Cliff in the museum's *Our Place in Space* exhibit on the Museum's fourth floor for hands-on astronomy and physics activities.

Solar Sunday with Cliff Stoll and the BAA

Sunday, March 15th

1:00-3:00pm

Free with Museum Admission

Cliff Stoll and the Buffalo Astronomical Association members will be on hand to demonstrate safe methods for observing the daytime spectacle of the closest star - our sun! Here's your chance to learn about solar science, and if the weather cooperates, see sunspots, surface structures and dramatic prominences extending out thousands of miles from the solar chromosphere.

Astronomy 101 with Cliff Stoll*

Wednesday, March 18th

4:00-5:30 in the Museum Auditorium

*For Educators Only

FREE

Co-sponsored by: Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership Program at Daemen College

Join Cliff Stoll, astronomer-turned-teacher, as he shares his passion for science. He will measure the speed of light as did Galileo some 400 years ago, present hands-on astronomy and physics activities and shares teaching science strategies. Those interested are asked to pre-register by emailing jprotas@sciencebuff.org.

Visitors will also be able to view the museum's current exhibits, **FIRST OBSERVERS** and the nationally-travelling **ALIEN EARTHS**, which celebrate the *International Year of Astronomy*. For more information on programs with Cliff Stoll or our exhibits, visit www.sciencebuff.org.

MORE ON CLIFF STOLL

A Buffalo native and University at Buffalo graduate, Clifford Stoll (or Cliff Stoll) spent his early years presenting Sun Shows to Museum audiences as a high school and college student. Stoll is a U.S. astronomer and author. He received his Ph.D. from University of Arizona in 1980. Stoll has written three

-CLIFF STOLL, *Cont'd*-

books as well as technology articles in the non-specialist press (e.g., in *Scientific American* on the Curta mechanical calculator).

Stoll's role in catching hacker Markus Hess in the 1980s, while Stoll was employed at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, led to his authoring the book *The Cuckoo's Egg: Tracking a Spy Through the Maze of Computer Espionage* and the authoring of the paper "Stalking the Wily Hacker", published at the professional journal *Communications of the ACM*. Stoll's book was later chronicled in an episode of WGBH's NOVA entitled "The KGB, the Computer, and Me" which aired on PBS stations in 1990. In his 1995 book, *Silicon Snake Oil*, Stoll raised questions about the influence of the Internet on future society and whether it would be beneficial. Along the way, he makes various predictions, calling e-commerce unviable due to a lack of personal contact.

Stoll is fascinated by one-sided objects and currently sells blown glass Klein bottles on the Web. He is currently a "mostly" stay-at-home dad. He teaches eighth graders about physics at Tehiyah Day School, in El Cerrito, California. Stoll was a regular contributor to MSNBC's *The Site*.

ABOUT *FIRST OBSERVERS*: On view through April 30, 2009

The *International Year of Astronomy* ignites a celebration of the human spirit's sense of wonder. It is this sense of wonder that has been a driving force behind great explorations of our land, seas and heavens. In *First Observers*, the Buffalo Museum of Science pays tribute to those whose curious pursuits have laid the path for better understanding our planet, our solar system, our universe and ultimately ourselves. It is from these findings that we will formulate the questions that will determine tomorrow's explorations. Where will your questions take you?

ABOUT *ALIEN EARTHS*: On view through April 30, 2009

Address some of humankind's most ancient concerns: Where did we come from? Are we alone? Through hands-on components and multi-media presentations, the nationally-traveling *Alien Earths* invites visitors to join the search for distant, habitable worlds. Learn about the formation of stars and planets, the search for planets beyond our solar system, and search for life beyond Earth. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to compare the life cycle of our Sun to other stars; set planets in motion around a star and watch what happens; experiment with an infrared camera and ordinary objects; explore the methods used to search for extrasolar planets; listen to sounds from space and find out what signals from intelligent beings might sound like; and have other experiences of the search for alien earths.

The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. General admission to the Museum is \$7 adults; \$6 seniors (age 62+); \$5 students and children over 3; and free for members and children under 3. The Museum also operates Tiff Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, NY, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites.

For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit www.buffalomuseumofscience.org.

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