

## Press Release

For immediate release

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### Grand Re-opening of the Blakemore Planetarium

After several years of planning, fundraising, design and construction, the newly renovated Blakemore Planetarium will hold a Grand Re-opening for the public on Saturday evening, October 3, 2009. An official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at the main entrance at 5:15pm with special guests including Texas House Representative Tom Craddick and Dr. David Lambert, Director of the McDonald Observatory.

The re-opening festivities which will run from 5pm till 8pm will include special presentations of "Oasis in Space", one of the new programs designed for the Spitz High Definition Projection System. Longtime Planetarium Director Gene Hardy along with the new Curator of Education and Public Programs, Dr. Andrew Kerr, will present the computerized star shows in the newly refurbished Viewing Dome.

Dr. Lambert will give a short talk titled "Dark Ages to Dark Energy" in the new Education Classroom and speak about the International Year of Astronomy. This talk will highlight some revealed secrets -- some with a Texas flavor -- and conclude with the humbling thought that the matter of which we, the Earth, and stars are made of is just a mere few percent of the content of the universe.

Fun family food will be available during the event, and special activities and demonstrations will be presented by "Mad Science". For more information, phone the Museum of the Southwest at (432) 683-2882 or see the website at [www.museumsw.org](http://www.museumsw.org)

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