



For Immediate Release

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Life Cycle of Stars

Origin, Life, and Death of Stars in the Imiloa Planetarium

Hilo, Hawai'i –Join Dr. Luca Rizzi, Joint Astronomy Centre, in his presentation *Origin, Life, and Death of Stars* topic for this months “Maunakea Skies” program at Imiloa on Saturday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the planetarium. The audience will fly out in 3D through our local celestial neighborhood and visit different structures in our Galaxy.

Stellar evolution is the science that uses the wealth of knowledge regarding the physics of plasma and nuclear reactions to understand the origin, the life, and the death of stars. Dr. Luca Rizzi will review the basic facts of stellar evolution, and follow 3 stars (a low-mass, an intermediate mass and a massive star) in their path from their birth to the explosive events that conclude their life.

Dr. Rizzi graduated in astronomy at Padova University, in an eight century old academic institution where Galileo Galilei taught in the early 1600s. He received his Ph.D. in astronomy at the same university in 2003, defending a thesis on the stellar populations in nearby dwarf galaxies. He then moved to Hawai'i where he joined the Institute for Astronomy in Manoa. In 2007, he joined the Joint Astronomy Centre in Hilo, as a sky survey support astronomer.

Dr. Rizzi's research is in the study of stellar populations in nearby galaxies, and in the reconstruction of their star formation history. His main interests lie on stellar populations, distance scale, and galaxies evolution. To this purpose he employs both optical and infra-red observations, as well as theoretical instruments such as synthetic stellar populations. On his spare time, he enjoys cooking and scuba diving, and is trying to improve on his hula skills.

Before Dr. Rizzi's presentation, "Maunakea Skies" host Shawn Laatsch, planetarium manager, will provide observational highlights of the spring night-time skies over Hawai'i, pointing out prominent constellations and stars one can see during this time of year.

The monthly "Maunakea Skies" planetarium presentations are held on the third Saturday of each month, and replaces the Center's previous "Directors' Lecture Series" held for the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. Presented in 'Imiloa Astronomy Center's 120-seat planetarium, admission is \$5 for 'Imiloa members and \$8 for non-members. Pre-purchase tickets at the 'Imiloa front desk or by phone at (808) 969-9704; Visa and MasterCard accepted.

'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i is located at 600 'Imiloa Place in Hilo, off Komohana and Nowelo Streets at the UH-Hilo Science and Technology Park. For more information, go to www.imiloahawaii.org, or call (808) 969-9703.



Figure 1 Homunculus Nebula with Eta Carinae star system .

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