



## Dr. Dana E. Backman

*Astronomer and Director of Education and Public Outreach,  
SOFIA Mission (the SETI Institute and NASA-Ames)*

Friday, May 7, 2010 @ 6:30 pm

MiraCosta College, Oceanside Campus

Aztlan A&B in Building 3400



## Celebrate Space Day with MiraCosta College and SOFIA: NASA's New Airborne Observatory

The Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is a 2.5-meter telescope carried aboard a Boeing 747 aircraft. Designed for altitudes of more than seven miles, it will provide astronomers with sensitive, high-resolution data in the infrared and submillimeter wavelengths. This world-class airborne observatory will complement the Hubble, Spitzer, Herschel, and James Webb space telescopes as it contributes "Great Observatory"-class astronomical science during its expected 20-year lifetime. Initial science missions begin later this year, after a milestone on December 18, 2009: first flight with the telescope doors fully opened! Enjoy a public talk and Q&A with Dr. Backman, then a stargazing party (weather-permitting) with Professor French and students and staff from the MiraCosta Astronomy Program.

### Highlights

- FREE & open to the public
- Free lithographs of SOFIA  
(limited quantity)
- Learn about NASA's SOFIA mission & infrared astronomy
- View the "open door" flight video
- Q&A with guest speaker  
Dr. Dana Backman
- Public stargazing party  
(weather-permitting)



## MIRACOSTA ASTRONOMY

Prof. Rica Sirbaugh French  
760.757.2121 x6506

<http://tinyurl.com/k4zj6>

From I-5, exit Hwy 78 East  
From I-15, exit Hwy 78 West  
From Hwy 78, exit College Blvd.  
North on College Blvd.  
Left on Barnard Drive

Dr. Backman's visit is sponsored by the  
Harlow Shapley Lectureship  
Program of the American  
Astronomical Society.  
<http://www.aas.org>



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