



Announcing the 2019 ALPO Conference

You are cordially invited to attend this year's ALPO Conference, to be held jointly with the Southeastern Region of the Astronomical League at Gordon State College, in Barnesville, Georgia, Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13, 2019. Barnesville is located 50 miles south of Atlanta and is accessible by air via Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport and by freeway via I-75.

Paper Presentations

Interested parties are hereby invited to submit papers and research posters on the astronomy-related topics of their choice for presentation at the ALPO conference.

Paper presentations will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, July 12th, on the campus of Gordon State College, at the Instructional Complex Building, off of Stafford Ave., in rooms 101, 108, 111, 112, and 118. To orient yourself to the campus, please go to the Gordon State Campus interactive map at <https://www.gordonstate.edu/about/interactive-map/index.html> Parking - since this is summer, attendees to the conference may park anywhere on campus except in a handicapped parking space.

Additional papers will be presented at the same locations on Saturday morning, July 13th, as-needed.

Participants are encouraged to submit research papers, presentations, and experience reports concerning various aspects of Earth-based observational astronomy. Suggested topics for papers and presentations include the following:

- New or ongoing observing programs and studies, specifically, how those programs were designed, implemented and continue to function.
- Results of personal or group studies of solar system or extra-solar system bodies.
- New or ongoing activities involving astronomical instrumentation, construction or improvement.
- Challenges faced by Earth-based observers such as changing interest levels, deteriorating observing conditions brought about by possible global warming, etc.

If presenting a paper for presentation, please submit an abstract of your paper presentation no later than the registration deadline of June 18th. Abstracts should be around 100 words long and can be submitted in two ways.

By email at: Schmude@gordonstate.edu.

By postal mail to: Richard Schmude, 419 College Dr., Barnesville, GA 30204

Presentations should be no longer than approximately 15 minutes in length; the preferred method is 12 minutes for the paper presentation plus several minutes for follow-up questions.

The preferred format is Microsoft PowerPoint.

An electronic or hard-copy version of your paper should be made available for future web site publication, to the addresses above.

Research posters, commonly done at other academic and professional conferences everywhere, also requested.

Other Conference Events

The annual ALPO board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Friday evening, July 12th, location to be announced later. Later on that evening, there will be a star viewing, if there are clear skies. The star viewing will be on at Richard Schmude's property, about four miles north of Gordon State College.

As is traditional, there will be an awards banquet on Saturday evening. The banquet will be held at Brian's Restaurant in Griffin, Georgia on Saturday evening, July 13th. Brian's is about 15 to 20 miles north of Gordon State College. It's

address is 1323 N Expy, Griffin, Georgia. Since it is a buffet, attendees will have choices about what to eat. Please note the registration charge of \$30.00 (see registration directions below) does not include the banquet. The banquet is a separate charge to be paid at the time of the banquet. Please allow about \$15 to \$20 for the banquet including tip.

Online Registration (Deadline June 18)

1. Go to <https://www.gordonstate.edu>
2. Click on *Community Education* in the header near the top of the screen.
3. Scroll down, then click on *Registration Page*.
4. Select *Astronomy Symposium* in the list of *All Courses*.
5. On the *Astronomy Symposium* screen, click on *Enroll Yourself*.
6. On the *Log On* screen, click on *Sign Up* in the right column.
7. On the *Add New Profile* screen, complete the various fields (empty boxes), then click on *Add Account* at the bottom of the screen.
NOTE: The fields preceded by an asterisk (*) must be completed. All others are optional.
8. Once back at the *Log On* screen, enter your email address and password, then click on *Log On*.
9. Proceed to complete the registration process, making payment (\$30) with your credit card or debit card.
NOTE: You will receive a confirmation email afterwards.
10. Print out the confirmation email and have it with you at the ALPO Conference as proof of your registration.

Hard-Copy (Paper) Registration

If you prefer not to register online, please send a check for the \$30 registration fee to Richard Schmude, 419 College Dr., Barnesville, GA 30204. The check should be made payable to Gordon State College and state "ALPO Conference" in the note section at the bottom left of the check. Be sure to include a return postal address with your check, in case we need to contact you.

Your accompanying paperwork should include an abstract about your talk, if you decide to present one.

Lodging Details

Because Barnesville, where Gordon State College is located, is well away from Atlanta, there are very few decent motel possibilities in Barnesville itself. Two places located only about 5 minutes from the school in Barnesville (the Sun Inn and the Lamar Inn & Suites) are rated possibly ok, but not much more.

There are, however, a number of places, especially in Forsyth, about 20 minutes or so from Barnesville. This includes Rodeway Inn, LaQuinta Inn, Days Inn, Red Roof Inn and so forth.

The recommendation, therefore, is that you go online and search for "motels near Gordon State College, Georgia". Remember to use just those keywords in the search bar.

Here is one online site that came up with good results for you to consider:

<https://hotelguides.com/colleges/georgia/gordon-state-college.html>

Keep in mind that the drive-time to the college will be about 20 to 30 minutes if booking a Forsyth lodging place. Also add into that the time to find a parking space and walk to the classroom building -- estimate at least another 15 minutes.

So with the first conference session of the day set for 9 a.m., plan to leave your motel no later than 8 a.m. — especially if you're staying in Forsyth.

-- Ken Poshedly, Member of the Board, Assn of Lunar & Planetary Observers,
Coordinator, ALPO Publications Section, Atlanta, Georgia USA