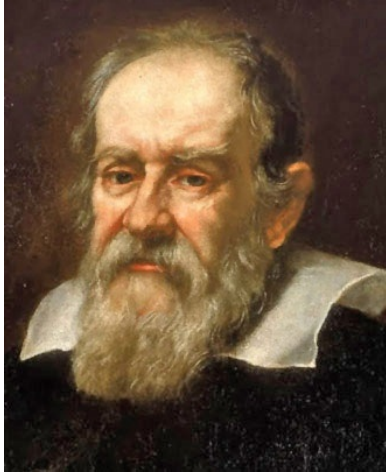


# International Year of Astronomy No Night Without a Telescope

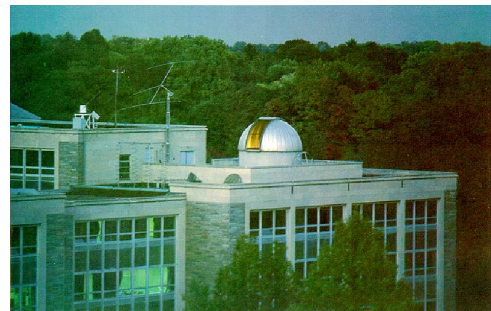


This year has been declared the International Year of Astronomy to mark the 400th anniversary of Galileo's remarkable discoveries.

Galileo Galilei is sometimes referred to as the “Father of Modern Science,” and his contributions to observational astronomy are many - including the telescopic discovery of the four largest moons of Jupiter (now named the Galilean satellites in his honor). His observations of the complete set of phases exhibited by the planet Venus eventually helped to show that the Earth was not the center of our Solar System.

In celebration of the International Year of Astronomy, Villanova’s Public Observatory is participating in the “No Night Without a Telescope” program. Along with other Philadelphia Area Institutions, astronomy events are available to the public *every* night from October 18 to November 24 (see [www.haverford.edu/iya2009/](http://www.haverford.edu/iya2009/)).

On Sunday evenings, beginning at 6:00pm, the Villanova University Astronomy Department will be opened to the public. Weather permitting, we will train our 14" Schmitt-Cassegrain -type reflecting telescope on Jupiter so that you can witness, as Galileo did for the first time 400 years ago, the four major moons that orbit that planet. If available, our own Moon and other deep-sky astronomical objects will also be available for viewing.



In addition, please feel free to inspect our Departmental resources. We have a fully operational research observatory with three separate telescopes that are designed and optimized for different astronomical observing techniques. Though the astronomy students that you meet are at various stages of completing their undergraduate degrees, most all are actively involved in current, professional research. Ask them! They are usually happy to talk about their discoveries!

## Directions to Villanova University's Public Observatory:

Whether you choose Planes, Trains, or Automobiles, the trip out to Villanova is quite simple and direct. Complete directions to the Main Campus can be found at:

[www1.villanova.edu/villanova/admission/visit/maps.html](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/admission/visit/maps.html)

If you take SEPTA's R-5 train, the "Villanova" stop is directly north of the Mendel Science Center. If you are coming from the Philadelphia direction, simply walk through the tunnel under the tracks and the proper building will be in front of you.

The telescope is on the fourth floor of the Mendel Science Center. Enter the Eastern wing of the building at the archway that bisects the entire building. Along the main hallway are elevators that will take you to the Astronomy Department on the fourth floor.

