

## Dr. Michelle Thaller

*Astronomer and Manager of Education and Public Outreach,  
Spitzer Science Center, California Institute of Technology*

Friday, February 27, 2009

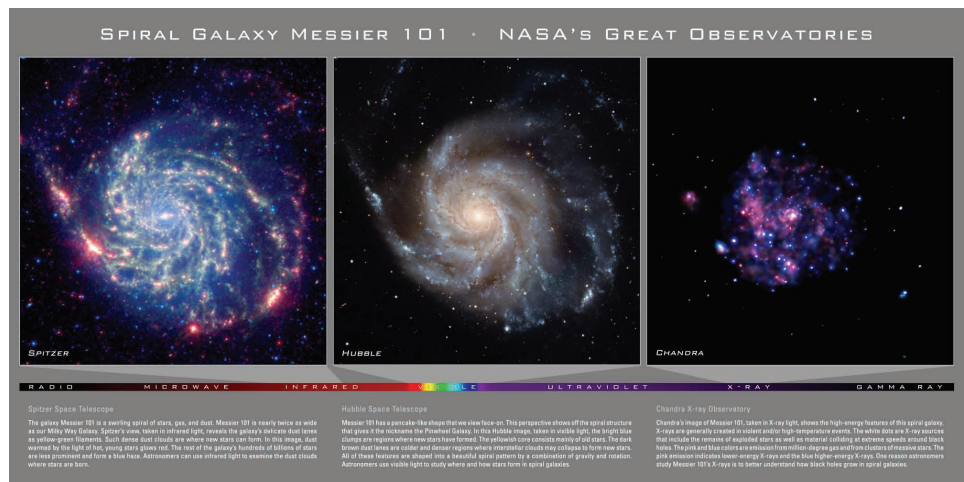
7:30 p.m., MiraCosta College Gymnasium

# Celebrate the International Year of Astronomy with MiraCosta College and NASA

In 1609 Galileo first turned a telescope towards the heavens...and modern astronomy was born. To commemorate the anniversary, the United Nations designated 2009 the International Year of Astronomy. The community is invited to join Dr. Michelle Thaller of Caltech and MiraCosta Astronomy Professor Rica Sirbaugh French as they unveil spectacular 6'x3' and 3'x3' images of the spiral galaxy Messier 101 from NASA's Great Observatories: the Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, and the Chandra X-ray Observatory. MiraCosta is the only location in California south of Santa Barbara to display these images. Enjoy a public talk and Q&A with Dr. Thaller, then a stargazing party (weather-permitting) with Professor French and MiraCosta's telescopes.

## Highlights

- FREE & open to the public
- Free lithographs of M101  
(limited quantity)
- View the official IYA trailer
- Learn about NASA's Great Observatories
- Q&A with guest speaker  
Dr. Michelle Thaller
- 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

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