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Presentation on the Mars phenomenon

Summary:

(September 12, 2003)-The public is invited to a presentation on the current phenomenon surrounding the planet Mars, "Mars: Beyond Opposition," at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the Science Auditorium at the University of Minnesota, Morris. This discussion, sponsored by the UMM physics discipline, is free and open to the public.

UMM physics faculty, Gordon McIntosh and Christopher Reese, will discuss Mars' close approach to Earth as well as recent spacecraft exploration of the red planet's surface. Following the discussion, the public will be invited to a telescope viewing of Mars and Uranus.

"We are offering this presentation as a service to the public and to explain what is going on," said McIntosh.

Mars was about 0.4 AU from the Earth on August 27. An AU, or astronomical unit, is approximately the average distance from the Earth to the Sun. Normally Mars' distance from Earth varies from .5 AU to 2.5 AU.

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