



Roy Chapman Andrews
Society

Join Us

For the 20th Distinguished Explorer Award Event
Presentation & Acceptance Lecture

Honoring Dr. Sarah Stewart Johnson

Friday, April 14th ~ 4:30 p.m. CT

In-person FREE event at the Beloit Public Library

Acceptance Lecture titled “Contending with the Truly Alien”

The Society will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the first Distinguished Explorer Award event that honors modern day explorers who exemplify the legacy of Andrews, the 100th year since Andrews was featured on the cover of Time Magazine, and his second exploration to the Gobi Desert.



Meet Our 2023 Distinguished Explorer Award Recipient

Dr. Sarah Stewart Johnson, American planetary scientist, astronomer, biologist, and geochemist.

Dr. Johnson is the Provost’s Distinguished Associate Professor of Planetary Science at Georgetown University.

Johnson’s research is driven by the goal of understanding the presence and preservation of biosignatures within planetary environments. She is also involved in the implementation of planetary exploration, analyzing data from current spacecraft, and devising new techniques for future missions. Her recent projects include searching for signs of habitability with the Curiosity Rover, studying the limits of life in Antarctica, assessing how biology affects patterns of mineralization in Mars analog environments, and helping to develop sequencing as a tool for spaceflight. Her lab is also involved in the implementation of planetary exploration, analyzing data from current spacecraft as well as devising new techniques for future missions. A former Rhodes Scholar and White House Fellow, Dr. Johnson received her Ph.D. from MIT and has worked on NASA’s Spirit, Opportunity, and Curiosity Rovers. She is also a visiting scientist with the Planetary Environments Lab at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. Her book, *The Sirens of Mars*, was a New York Times Editor’s Choice and selected as one of the

New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2020. It chronicles the personalities, the surprises, the dashed expectations and the claims of the discovery of life on Mars.



"As research proceeds deeper into the solar system, the chance that life shares a common ancestor with Earth diminishes. Particularly on non-water worlds like Titan, the molecular and polymeric building blocks of life may be vastly different from Earth. Our newest initiative, NASA’s Laboratory for Agnostic Biosignatures (LAB) project, is a multimillion dollar effort to develop new life detection methods that don’t presuppose any underlying biochemistry, such as chemical complexity, disequilibrium, compartmentalization, and energy transfer," according to Johnson.

Looking to Mars for Life as We've Never Known it!



The Sirens of Mars
Sarah S. Johnson



Searching for Habitability with the Curiosity Rover

"The hunt for life on Mars has entered a new phase. NASA’s Perseverance Rover is collecting rock samples that, when returned to Earth, may reveal whether life once existed on the red planet (and perhaps still does). Biologist Sarah Stewart Johnson explains how new discoveries about Mars and a better understanding of life on Earth have propelled this quest, and she ponders what the answers might say about life elsewhere in the universe. Johnson is author of *“The Sirens of Mars: Searching for Life on Another World.”*"

Mars Present: The Search for Microbial Life
Space on the Page Podcast

The Roy Chapman Andrews Society

Established in 1999, the Roy Chapman Andrews Society is intent on building awareness for Beloit's most celebrated explorer, adventurer, naturalist and educator who later became director of the American Museum of Natural History. Roy Chapman Andrews (1884-1960), for whom adventure and narrow escapes from death were a staple of exploring, is said to have served as inspiration for the Hollywood character "Indiana Jones."

The Society's mission is to inspire scientific discovery by engaging with contemporary explorers who exemplify the legacy of Roy Chapman Andrews, Beloit's native son.

Each year, the Roy Chapman Andrews Society Distinguished Explorer Award recognizes explorers for their outstanding achievements in scientific discovery through explorations that offer new insights into previously unknown or poorly known subjects or areas. The award presentation ceremony and acceptance lecture is free to the public at the Beloit Public Library and will be followed by a celebratory fund-raising dinner at the Beloit Club, 2327 Riverside Dr., Beloit. During their visit, recipients present lectures to area middle and high school students and often discuss their work with Beloit College classes.

Past recipients have included Philip Currie (2022), Sarah Parcak (2021), Neil Shubin (2019), Richard Alley (2018), Wade Davis (2017) Alan Rabinowitz (2016), Edith Widder (2015), Meg Lowman (2014), John Grotzinger (2013), Nathan Wolfe (2012), Steve Lekson (2011), Sylvia Earle (2010), Paul Sereno (2009), Mark Moffett (2008), Lonnie Thompson and Ellen Mosley-Thompson (2007), Steve Squyres (2006), Robert Ballard (2005), Mark Plotkin (2004), and Michael J. Novacek (2003).



Student Programs Sponsored by the Society



The Society's student educational programs are designed to engage students throughout the Distinguished Explorer Award events. From participating in the virtual school lecture, special seating at the public acceptance lecture, a private meet-and-greet reception with recipient, and a reservation to attend the celebratory dinner, this student inspired program includes photo opportunities and a book signing. Your tax-deductible donation will help to support these and other educational programs in science and exploration for local youth in the Greater Beloit Community.

Join Us As We Celebrate the 20th DEA Event

In 2023, the Society will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the first Distinguished Explorer Award event that honors modern day explorers who exemplify the legacy of Andrews, the 100th year since Andrews was featured on the cover of Time Magazine, and his second exploration to the Gobi Desert.

The 100th Anniversary exhibit, "A Visual History of Roy Chapman Andrews, Beloit's Native Son" will be on display at the Beloit Public Library starting the first of April. The exhibit includes banners of historic adventure photos purchased from the American Museum of Natural History, where Andrews was once the director, and exploration artifacts and personal photos of Andrews's life and career donated by his granddaughter.



Membership & Reservations for April 14th Fund-raising Dinner

Fund-raising dinner at the Beloit Club will be served approximately 7:00p.m. **Reservations & payment MUST be received by March 31 (later reservations will incur added costs).** Please reserve the following DEA celebratory dinner reservations: ___# member \$70/person,

___# non-member \$80/person, ___#member table of (8) \$560, ___#Student table of 6 (5 students 1 chaperone) \$600 includes seating at lecture, dinner, private reception with recipient, photo opp & book. Designate school choice _____. Please list attendees names below. We would like to renew our annual membership in The Roy Chapman Andrews Society at the following level:

___\$5/student, ___\$30/individual, ___\$50/family, ___\$100/Patron Sponsor. We would like to support the Society's student programs at \$ _____. In addition, we would like to support the Roy Chapman Andrews Society with a tax-deductible gift of ___ \$25, ___\$50, ___\$100,

___ Other. As a member, reserve ___seats at the acceptance lecture. Please be there by 4 p.m. Seats will be held until 4:15 p.m. The Roy Chapman Andrews Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. To comply with the IRS requirements regarding charitable donations for contributions/donations in excess of any value of property or services, your payment is considered a tax-deductible donation. Please copy this form for your tax records. Total amount enclosed including dinner reservations, memberships, student sponsorships, and donations \$_____.

Attendee(s) name(s): _____

Menu selections: Served with veg du chef, assorted roll basket, salad selection, Chef's seasonal dessert selection, coffee and tea service.

___ 8oz New York Strip drizzled with red wine jus and served with mashed potatoes

___ 6 oz. Chicken Picatta served with garlic mashed potatoes and a creamy caper sauce (GF)

___ Gemelli pasta with asparagus and summer squash tossed in a sun-dried tomato Alfredo sauce and topped with Parmesan cheese (V)

Please seat us at dinner with: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ St.: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: _____ Email: _____

Reservations & Payment **MUST** be received by **March 31st ABSOLUTE** with mailed checks made payable to:

Roy Chapman Andrews Society, P.O. Box 273, Beloit, WI 53512-0273

Reservations, memberships & donations can be made online at www.roychapmanandrewssociety.org