

# Swiss Society for Astrophysics and Astronomy (SSAA/SGAA)



<http://obswww.unige.ch/ssaa/>

# Structure



## Board members:

Daniel Schaerer, *president*

Michael Meyer, *vice-president*

Georges Meynet (outgoing: Thomas Schildknecht), *secretary*

Yann Alibert (outgoing: Werner Schmutz), *treasurer*

## Member society of:

- Swiss Academy of Sciences
- Platform Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics (MAP)
  - main funding source – project-driven
- **11 institutes from 6 cities** (Basel, Bern, Davos, Geneva, Lausanne, Zurich)
- **~250 individual members**

sc | nat 

Swiss Academy of Sciences  
Akademie der Naturwissenschaften  
Accademia di scienze naturali  
Académie des sciences naturelles

# Main connections



- Swiss Academy of Sciences
- Platform Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics (MAP)
  
- Swiss Amateur Societies (central and local societies)
- *Also:* Swiss Physical Society (SPS), Austrian Society for Astrophysics and Astronomy

Other actors/structures in Switzerland:

- Commission for astronomy (e.g. link with IAU)
- Commission for space research

sc | nat 

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### **Official goals:**

- Promote studies of research in astrophysics and astronomy
- Contribute to training of researchers
- Develop mutual information and collaborations in CH
- Inform the concerned public on the goals and needs of astronomical research
- Develop relations with foreign institutes

### **Other objectives :**

- Contact with amateurs
- Outreach activities, contact with teachers



## Regular activities:

- SSAA e-news, announcements
- Maintain website (<http://obswww.unige.ch/SSAA/>)
- Distribution of travel grants
- Coordination/funding of Saas-Fee course
- Funding of Swiss contribution to A&A
- Organisation of general assembly

## Recent/new activities:

- Contact with A&A societies of our neighbours (F, A) ...
- Contact with amateur astronomers (SAG)
- Joint meeting SPS/ÖPG/SSAA/ÖGAA, june 2011, Lausanne
- Funding of outreach projects since 2010
- New *astronomyevents.ch* webpage (SSAA+SAG)
- « Astronomy education/outreach » working group



38<sup>TH</sup> SAAS-FEE ADVANCED COURSE OF  
THE SWISS SOCIETY FOR ASTROPHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

# MILLIMETER ASTRONOMY

MARCH 3-8, 2008  
LES DIABLERETS • SWITZERLAND



LECTURERS:

PIERRE COX  
STÉPHANE GUILLOTEAU  
THOMAS L. WILSON

ORGANIZERS: M. DESSAUGES-ZAVADSKY - D. PFENNIGER  
GENEVA OBSERVATORY - <http://obswww.unige.ch/saas-fee2008>

39<sup>TH</sup> SAAS-FEE ADVANCED COURSE  
OF THE SWISS SOCIETY FOR ASTROPHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

# Magnetic Fields of Stars from the Sun to Compact Objects

MARCH 23-28 2009  
LES DIABLERETS - SWITZERLAND

LECTURERS:

PAUL CHARBONNEAU  
SAMI K. SOLANKI  
CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON



ORGANISERS:

S. BERDYUGINA - R. HIRSCHI - M. LIEBENDÖRFER  
G. MEYNET - O. STEINER - F. - K. THIELEMANN

<http://www.physik.unibas.ch/saasfee39>



40<sup>th</sup> Saas-Fee Post-Advanced Course

# Astrophysics at Very-High Energies

15-20 March 2010, Les Diablerets, Switzerland

Lecturers:  
 Prof. Ralf Knaack  
 Prof. Lars Bergström  
 Dr. Charles Gammie

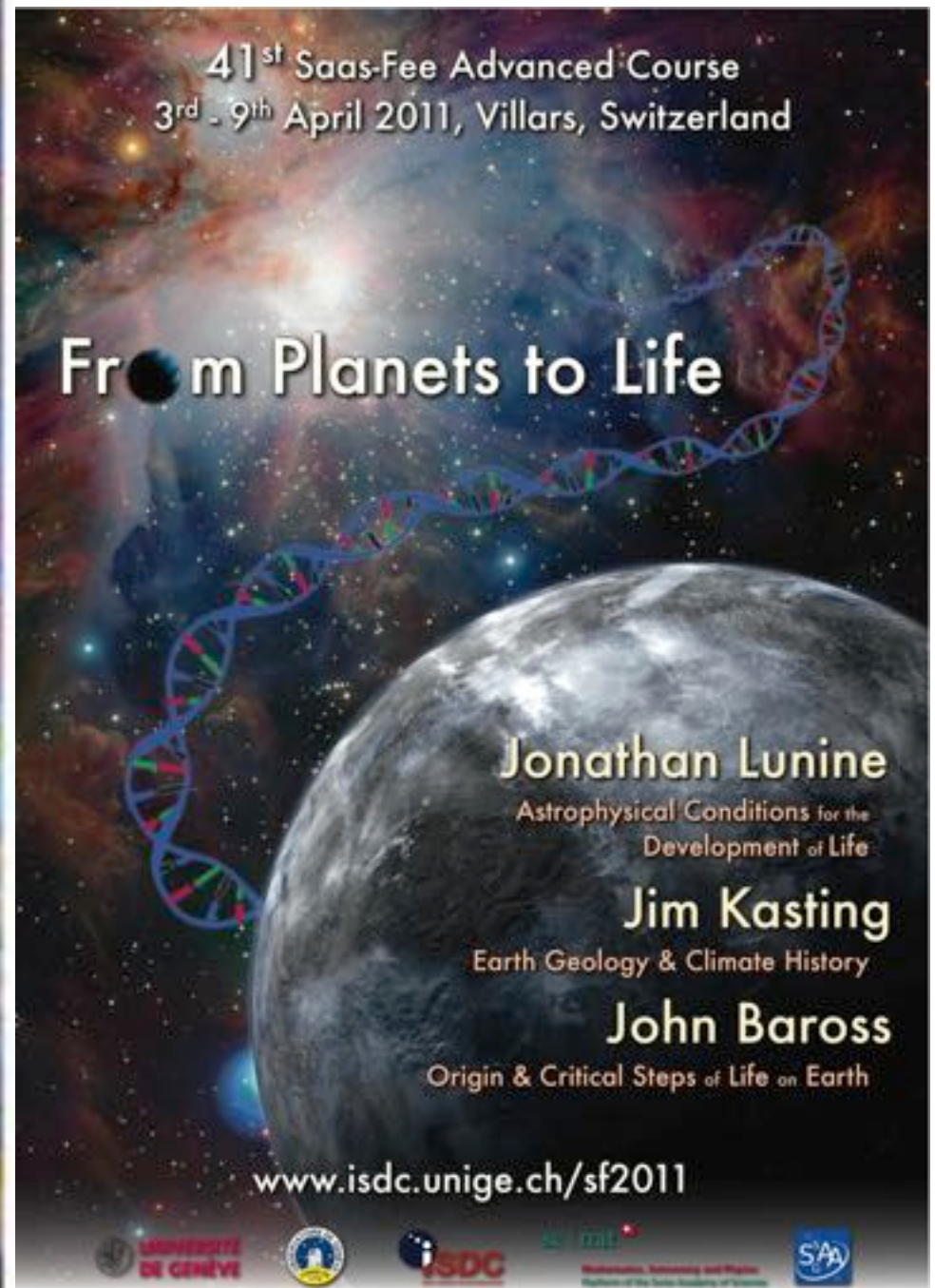



www.isdc.unige.ch/sf2010



41<sup>st</sup> Saas-Fee Advanced Course  
 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Villars, Switzerland

# From Planets to Life




**Jonathan Lunine**  
 Astrophysical Conditions for the  
 Development of Life

**Jim Kasting**  
 Earth Geology & Climate History

**John Baross**  
 Origin & Critical Steps of Life on Earth

[www.isdc.unige.ch/sf2011](http://www.isdc.unige.ch/sf2011)



# SaaS-Fee courses

New: multimedia coverage

41<sup>st</sup> SaaS-Fee Advanced Course  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Villars, Switzerland

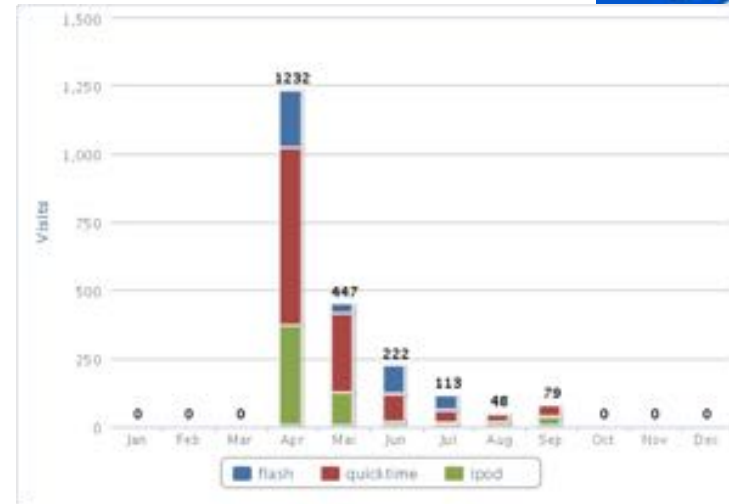
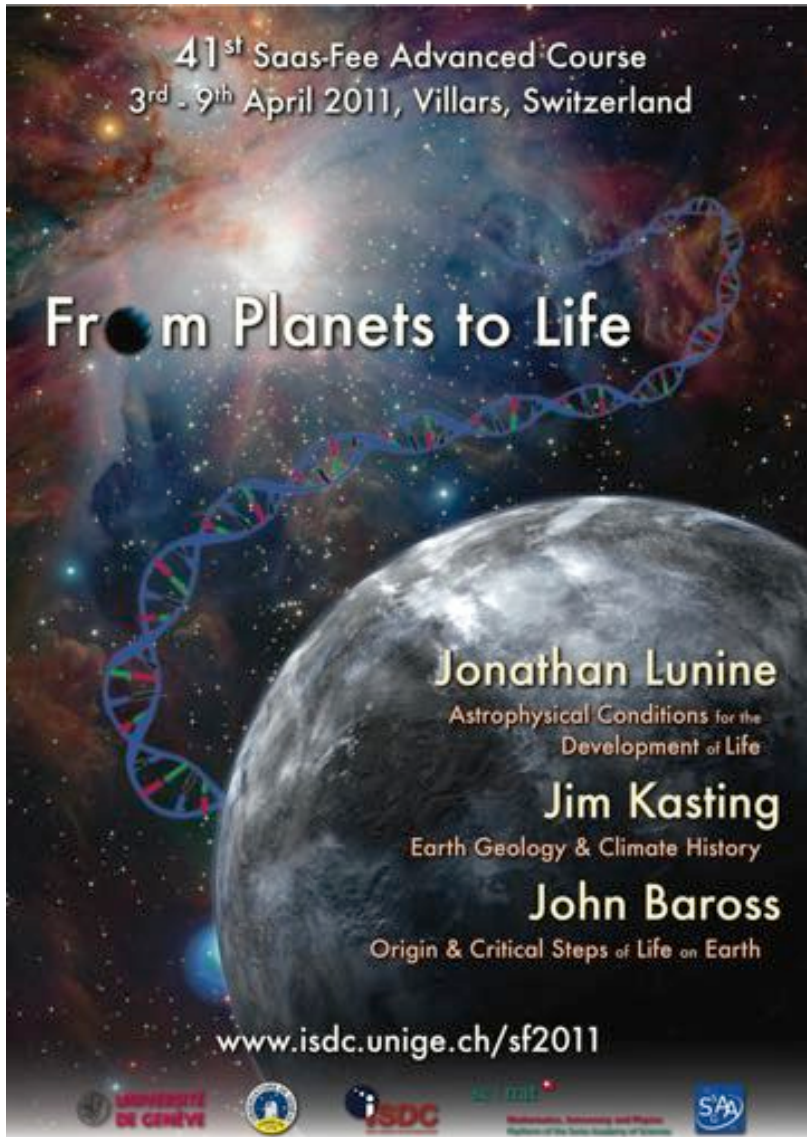
## From Planets to Life

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[www.isdc.unige.ch/sf2011](http://www.isdc.unige.ch/sf2011)



--> Video available online!

SWITCH > cast

Channel «From Planets to Life»

	<b>Astrophysical Conditions</b> Lecture 1: Interstellar Matter and Chemistry Jonathan Lunine Villars, 04.04.2011 08:31 Duration: 56:58	 Flash  QuickTime  iPod
	<b>Earth Geology and Climate History</b> Lecture 1 James Kasting Villars, 04.04.2011 09:30 Duration: 46:36	 Flash  QuickTime  iPod
	<b>Origin and Critical Steps of Life</b>	 Flash



# Dynamics of Young Star Clusters & Associations

March 25– 31, 2012, Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland

**Prof. Cathie Clarke**  
University of Cambridge

**Prof. Robert Mathieu**  
University of Wisconsin - Madison

**Dr. I. Neill Reid**  
Space Telescope Science Institute

Sponsors:



Swiss Society for Astrophysics and Astronomy (SSAA)

SC | FNAL

Swiss Academy of Sciences  
Académie des Sciences et Lettres  
Accademia di Scienze e Lettere  
Academia de Ciencias e Letras

ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich  
Institute for Astronomy of ETH Zurich

42nd  
Saras-fee  
Course



2013: “Star formation in galaxy evolution: connecting numerical models to reality”

(Mayer, Teyssier, Revaz, Jablonka)

# SSAA outreach and contact with amateurs



- New webpage astronomyevents.ch for professionals and amateur societies
- List of talks and speakers for the general public made available to amateurs

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the website 'Evénements astronomiques en Suisse | Astro events'. The browser's address bar shows 'http://astronomyevents.ch/'. The website's main heading is 'Evénements astronomiques en Suisse'. Below the heading is a large image of a galaxy. The page content includes an 'Accueil' section with a welcome message and a list of events for the month of September 2011. The first event is 'Observation publique (Observation)' on September 5, 2011, at the 'Observatoire astronomique de l'Université de Genève'. The second event is 'Voyage en 3D (Projection)' on September 7, 2011, also at the 'Observatoire astronomique de l'Université de Genève'. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Calendrier' (calendar) for September 2011, a 'Recherche' (search) box, and a 'Météo' (weather) section with links to 'Climat', 'Plus 100 des articles', 'RSS des actualités', and 'WorldPress.org'. The website footer includes the SSAA logo and the 'UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE' logo.

# SSAA outreach projects



- Started in 2010
- Funding by MAP: ~9000 CHF/yr
- Distributed through competitive call
- 5 projects supported so far, e.g.
  - HELIOBOX
  - Starmus Exhibition 2011
  - Féerie d'une Nuit 2011
  - e-Callisto network



## Some recent projects



Working group astronomy in schools:

- Contact with teachers (from primary to gymnasium)
- Understand needs and possibilities to use astronomy in science teaching
- Material/content/training which can be provided by astronomers

Some European coordination or exchanges (for same language regions) ?!