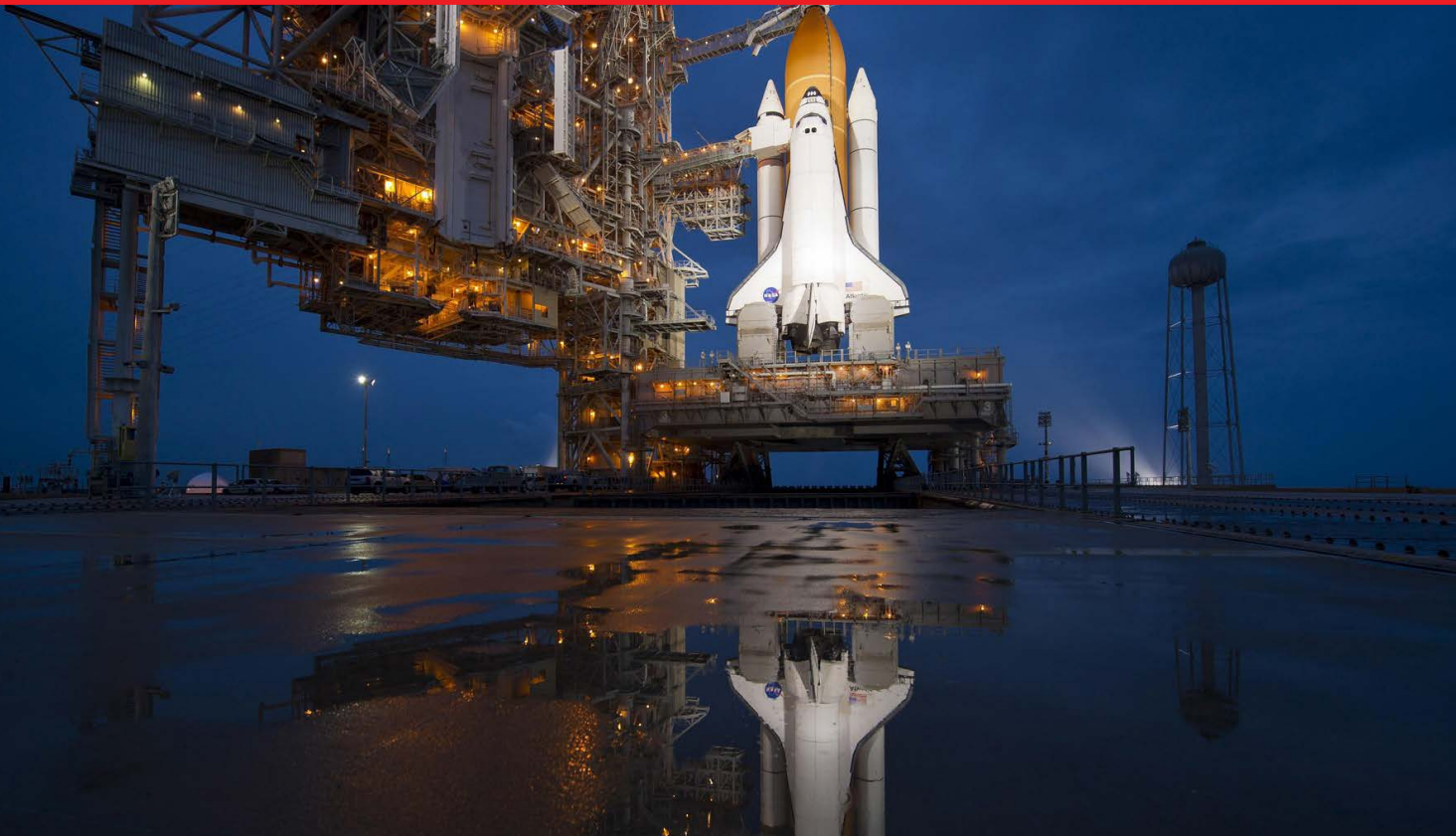


# Public Talk & Sky Viewing Evening



**The Astrophysics and Cosmology Research Unit (ACRU)**  
School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science

cordially invites you to attend a talk entitled

## From Challenger to Columbia

by Dr Moumita Aich

**DATE: 19 November 2013**      **TIME: 6.00 for 6.30 pm**

**VENUE: Science and Technology Education Centre, Building H1, Westville Campus**

*The talk will be followed by a night sky viewing, weather permitting*

**ABSTRACT:** On 1 February 2003, the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated in flames over Texas a few minutes before its scheduled landing in Florida after its 16 day mission in space. This flight, called STS-107, was the Space shuttle program's 113th flight and Columbia's 28th.

The NASA Space shuttle program initiated in 1981, had Columbia as its first shuttle orbit flight on 12 April, 1981. The disaster 22 years later was the second devastating accident in the history of the flight of the Space shuttle, first accident was the explosion of the Challenger shuttle, which exploded just 73 seconds into its launch on 28 January 1986.

The losses of the space shuttles Challenger in 1986 and Columbia in 2003 dramatically illustrated the risks involved in the human exploration of space, and provide starkly instructive case studies in the ethics of science and technology.

**Biography:** Moumita was born in Calcutta, India. She obtained her Bachelors in Physics from Presidency College, Kolkata and her Masters from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India. She pursued a PhD in Cosmology with Prof. Tarun Souradeep at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) at Pune, India. Currently she is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Astrophysics and Cosmology Research Unit, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

**ENQUIRIES :** Prashina Budree on 031-260 8077 or e-mail [budreep@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:budreep@ukzn.ac.za) Website : <http://www.acru.ukzn.ac.za/>



**INSPIRING GREATNESS**

