

## Ashton Observatory Public Nights

The Des Moines Astronomical Society invites you to visit the Ashton Observatory Saturdays, 8:00 p.m., April through October.

Most Saturdays include a classroom presentation, followed by stargazing as sky conditions allow.

Meet one of our presenters this season:

### Tomas Gonzales-Torres

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Currently a faculty member at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, Tomas Gonzalez-Torres was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. He earned a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University in 1998. Gonzalez-Torres was named the 82nd Flight Director at NASA in 2011. He served as Flight Director for four years, earning the prestigious NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal for his exceptional performance as head of an International Space Station Expedition.

A veteran spacewalk flight controller, Gonzalez-Torres was the group lead for the Extravehicular Activities (EVA) Systems Group from 2008-2011, as well as acting chief of the EVA Operations Branch. He joined NASA in 1994 and worked as a spacewalk task and systems instructor.

Gonzalez-Torres became an EVA officer in 2005, working 17 shuttle flights including lead for the STS-121 assembly mission, which included tests of shuttle heat shield inspection and repair techniques. He served as the lead spacewalk officer for the final Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission, STS-125, and four space station expedition spacewalks.