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## Stillwater's Own Science Café

On Tuesday September 2 at 6:30 PM Dr. Jeffrey Byrnes, a volcanologist, will speak with adults and children in the Hardback Café in Hastings Books Music & Video in Stillwater about how volcanoes shape the land on Venus, Mars, and Earth. The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Jeffrey Byrnes has travelled the world, studying volcanoes in locations such as Hawaii, Peru, New Zealand, and most recently, Iceland. He has used his observations on Earth to better understand volcanic activity on Venus and Mars. Byrnes received his Ph.D. in Geology at the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. He began teaching at OSU in 2007.

Byrnes's talk will be the first of four this Fall in a series titled the "Born to Do Science" café. Science cafés are spreading throughout the U.S. as a grassroots movement. These events allow the public to speak to working scientists in informal settings such as pubs, bars, or coffee shops. Stillwater's science café, the first in Oklahoma, is organized and hosted by local children's musician, Monty Harper.

Harper's approach is unique in that he is promoting his café to families with children in second grade and up. He has three goals for his youngest audience members, beyond having fun talking science. One is that they get to interact with real scientists who are passionate about their work. Two is that they feel like they can understand the science at least on some level. Three is that they can picture themselves able to do similar work, asking good questions and pursuing the answers.

"We'll be talking about the actual research these scientists are currently engaged in," says Harper. "In some cases that's pretty technical stuff. But as host, it's my job to help the speaker and the audience connect and have a conversation. I don't want to water down the science. I want the kids and adults in attendance to come away feeling smart because they were able to get a handle on a complicated topic."

Four "Born to Do Science" cafés are currently scheduled. If these are successful, Harper plans to extend the series into the Spring semester and beyond. The complete schedule is below and more information can be found online at: [www.BornToDoScience.com](http://www.BornToDoScience.com)

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## “Born to Do Science” Café Schedule, Fall 2008

### Volcanoes of Venus!

#### *How Volcanism Shapes the Planets*

Talk with Dr. Jeffrey Byrnes, Volcanologist, about his research into the formation of volcanic land forms on Venus, Mars, and Earth.

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 6:30 PM, hastings coffee shop, Stillwater, OK

### The Molecular Eye!

#### *How Bacteria See and React to Light*

Talk with Dr. Wouter Hoff, Microbiologist, about his research into how life interacts with light through shape-changing proteins.

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6:30 PM, hastings coffee shop, Stillwater, OK

### The Microbe Hunter!

#### *How to Identify New Life Forms on Earth*

Talk with Dr. Mostafa Elshahed, Microbiologist, about his research into finding and identifying previously unknown types of microbes.

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6:30 PM, hastings coffee shop, Stillwater, OK

### Stop Stressing Me Out!

#### *How Your Friendships May Cause Stress*

Talk with Dr. Jennifer Byrd-Craven, Developmental Psychologist, about her research on the social stress hormone cortisol and why it stresses us out.

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6:30 PM, hastings coffee shop, Stillwater, OK