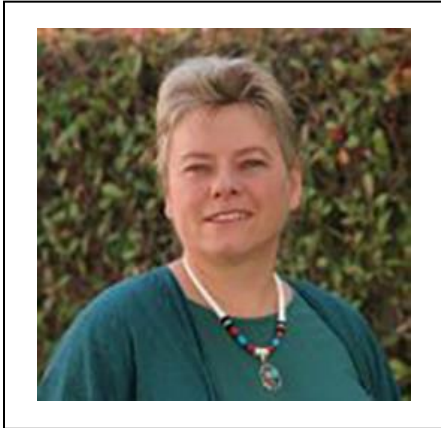


The Observatory



**By Dr. Lynn Bootes,
ACVA Dean of Students & Registrar**

The planetary war (occultation) of Mars and Jupiter is just past on August 14 at 22 degrees Taurus, which has seemingly been related to major shifts in plans and campaigns at all levels from individual to society to the Earth as a whole. The results of changes will become more evident with time, especially as this was an event in the fixed sign of Taurus. Through rulership, exaltation, debilitation and special aspects, the Mars/Jupiter combination casts influences on all the rashis or zodiac signs.

Enjoy the Guru Purnima Full Moon August 19. Read Juliana Swanson's article and consider this is an ideal time to begin study under a guru.

Mercury continues retrograde until August 28, and goes back into Gemini briefly August 27- September 5, when it returns to Leo. Some popular astrologers exaggerate the influence of Mercury retrograde, while ignoring the Lunar cycles. Nonetheless, it plays a significant role in timing events in our digital world.

Sun, Moon, Mercury and Venus will all come under the influence of the outer planet Neptune at 4-5 degrees Pisces as they pass through these degrees of Virgo and Pisces.

The New Moon and partial Lunar Eclipse takes place September 18. Those who follow the weather realize that the Equinoxes are often stormy and more so when Rahu and Ketu intensify a New Moon at that time. This is a wonderful time for meditation and spiritual work while keeping an eye out for the weather.

August 2024

August 17, Sun enters Leo/Magha

August 19, Full Moon 2:25 pm EDT, 02deg47 Aquarius

August 21, Mars makes $\frac{1}{4}$ aspect to Venus (Taurus/Leo)

August 21, Jupiter enters Mrgashira

August 22, Venus enters Uttara Phalguni

August 23, Mercury moves retrograde back into Cancer/Ashlesha

August 25, Venus enters Virgo

August 27, Mars enters Gemini

August 28, Mercury stations direct at 27deg16 Cancer

Aug 30, Sun enters Purva Phalguni

September 2024

September 2, New Moon 09:55 pm EDT, 16deg25 Leo

September 2, Venus enters Hasta

September 5, Mercury moving direct enters Leo/Magha

September 7, Mars enters Ardra

September 13, Venus enters Chitra

September 13, Sun enters Uttara Phalguni

September 14, Mercury enters Purva Phalguni

September 17, Sun enters Virgo

September 18, New Moon and Partial Lunar Eclipse, 10:34 pm at 01deg07 Pisces will be visible over Europe, much of Asia, Africa, North America, South America, the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the Arctic and Antarctica.

September 18, Saturn at 21deg Aquarius makes 1/7 aspect to Mercury at 21deg Leo

September 19, Venus enters Libra

September 19, Mars enters Punarvasu

September 21, Jupiter at 26deg Taurus makes 1/5 aspect to Mercury at 26deg Virgo

September 22, 8:44 am EDT, Autumn Equinox Northern Hemisphere, Spring Equinox Southern