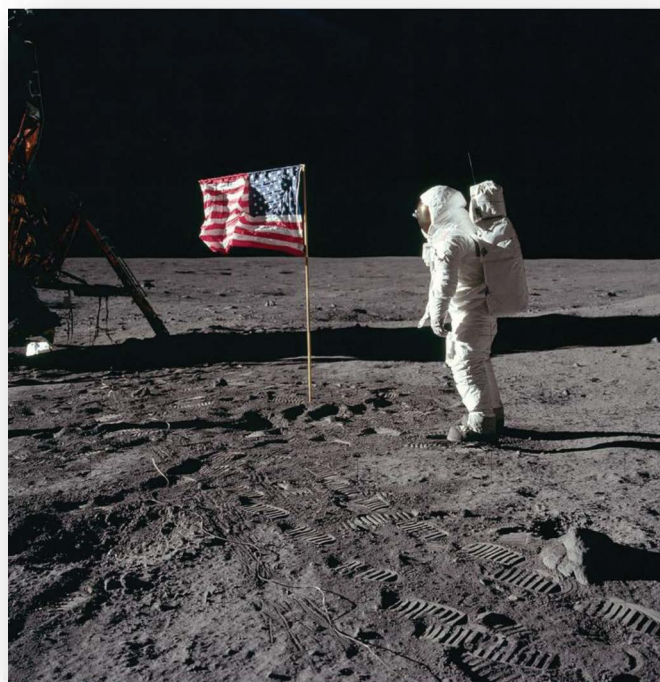


Why Go to the Moon? Apollo, the Space Race, and the Many Faces of Lunar Exploration

Roger Launius, NASA, Chief Historian

What is it about the moon that captures the fancy of humankind? A silvery disk hanging in the night sky, it conjures up images of romance and magic. It has been counted upon to foreshadow important events, both of good and ill, and its phases for eons served humanity as its most accurate measure of time. This presentation by retired NASA Chief Historian Roger Launius discusses the moon as a target for human exploration and eventual settlement. It explores the more than 50-year efforts to reach the moon, succeeding with space probes and humans in Project Apollo in the 1960s and early 1970s, as well as the space race with the Soviet Union. It will then also discuss the rationales for spaceflight, and ideas for returning to the moon in the twenty-first century.



This talk is presented as part of the IAS's yearlong 1968-1969 presentation and discussion series, copresented by Northrop and the University Honors Program. Cosponsored by the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the MN Space Grant Consortium, the MN Institute for Astrophysics, and the Departments of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics, Philosophy, History, and Anthropology.

Thursday, February 21, 3:30 pm

Best Buy Theater, Northrop, 84 Church Street SE
Free and open to the public

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