

# Space Frontiers Lecture Series



## Fall '11 – Spring '12 Schedule

**September 14, 2011**

*The Greatest Obstacle to the Human Space Program*

Norman R. Augustine, M. S. E., Chair of the Review of United States Human Space Flight Plans Committee

**October 27, 2011**

*Heavens Above: Space Exploration and the Religious Imagination*

Jeff Kripal, Ph.D., Department of Religious Studies, Rice University

**November 9, 2011**

*Title TBD*

Shannon Walker, NASA Astronaut

**February 16, 2012**

*Extrasolar Planets: The Discoveries of the Kepler Mission*

Natalie Batalha, Ph.D., San Jose State University and NASA Ames Research Center

**March 22, 2012**

*Space: The Private Enterprise*

David Valentine, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota

<http://spacefrontiers.rice.edu>



## The Greatest Obstacle to Human Space Travel

### Norman R. Augustine

Chairman of the Review of United States Human Space Flight Plans Committee  
Retired Chairman and CEO of the Lockheed Martin Corporation  
Former Professor, Princeton University

### ABSTRACT

America's human spaceflight program is in many respects at a crossroads. The initial competitive force driving that program was the Soviet space effort. Today, in contrast, Russia provides the only means America will have to put astronauts in space for the next half-dozen years. The competition within the U.S. between robotic discovery and human exploration continues—as does the danger of setting goals substantially greater than the means available to achieve them.



Several major independent studies have been conducted over the years seeking to point the way forward. It was the author's privilege to participate in two of these reviews sponsored by the White House, including the most recent one. Some alternative futures for the U.S. space program will be postulated...and the greatest obstacle identified.