

## **Dr. James Arnold has asteroid named after him**

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It is not often that a working scientist can see his name placed in the heavens alongside those of the Greek and Roman gods.

But recently Dr. James Arnold, professor of chemistry at the University of California, San Diego, was accorded that honor when an eight-mile-wide asteroid was named after him.

Dr. Eleanor Helin and Dr. Eugene Shoemaker, both planetologists at the California Institute of Technology, discovered the asteroid September 26, 1973, and have now officially named it "2143 Jimarnold."

The discoverers decided to honor Arnold by naming the asteroid after him because "he's a fine friend and colleague whose work laid the groundwork for ours."

Arnold, who serves as director of the California Space Institute recently established at UC San Diego, studied meteorites during the 1960s and contributed to a now widely accepted theory which says these small particles are actually pieces of asteroids.

More recently, Arnold has devoted his research efforts to studying the chemistry of the lunar surface.

2143 Jimarnold is one of the millions of bits of rock which form the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and is known as a "shallow Mars crosser." This means its orbit occasionally carries it across the orbit of the Red Planet.

At a party in his honor, Helin and Shoemaker presented Arnold with a scrapbook containing data and correspondence about the asteroid along with a T-shirt with "2143 Jimarnold" inscribed across the chest.

"I've had quite a number of small scientific honors, but I've never had as much fun as I have over this one," Arnold said.

Although 2143 Jimarnold is "about the size of La Jolla," as Arnold points out, it hardly ranks as one of the giants. That honor, so far, belongs to Ceres, which is some 480 miles across.

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