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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER STAFF ASTRONOMER CONRAD JUNG HAS BEEN AWARDED THE 2019 G. BRUCE BLAIR MEDAL FROM THE WESTERN AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS.

Oakland, CA, September 10, 2019— Chabot astronomer Conrad Jung is the recipient of the Western Amateur Astronomers 2019 G. Bruce Blair Medal.

The G. Bruce Blair Medal is the highest honor which the WAA can bestow. Named in honor of one of the founders of WAA, it is the "Nobel Prize" of amateur astronomy and is awarded to someone who has made an important contribution to amateur astronomy.

"We are very hard pressed to think of an amateur astronomer in the San Francisco bay area who has a higher accomplishment-and-service to self-promotion ratio than he," stated on the WAA G. Bruce Blair Medal site.

Chabot's longest-serving employee has more than 30 years of work in the maintenance and operation of Chabot's three historic telescopes. Jung originally oversaw the transportation of the telescopes to their current location on the Skyline campus.

Since then, he has been a leader in Chabot's astronomical programming, including viewing nights and school programs. Jung has seen more than 150,000 students pass through his astronomy classes at Chabot. Playing a key role in helping the Center provide free, weekly telescope viewings to the public, his efforts have given hundreds of thousands of people the opportunity to look through the research-class telescopes.

Aside from providing training and programming, the astrophotographer has captured hundreds of images from the night sky by marrying camera and telescope in a variety of creative ways. Three of Jung's photographs – of the Trifid Nebula, the Pleiades star cluster, and a total lunar eclipse sequence – were featured in a three-month Smithsonian Institute exhibition. His Smithsonian exhibition was praised by that institution's curator of Space History for its ingenious rigging – a Canon 20Da digital SLR camera mounted on a rare 7-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope.

Jung's other accomplishments include the Eastbay Astronomical Society's Helen Pillans award, the WAA Goodricke award and awards from the AANC. He was also the first recipient of the AANC Messier award.

ABOUT CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Chabot Space & Science Center is open Wed.- Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with First Fridays the first Friday of every month 5-9 p.m. Admission is Adults: \$18 • children 3-12 \$14 (under 3 free) • Students/Seniors \$15 • Memberships available.

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