



November 2023

Aloha,

On behalf of the staff members and community of astronomers at the W. M. Keck Observatory, I want to take this opportunity to wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and to thank you for your past support of the observatory's mission.

The past 12 months have been a time of change and great progress at Keck. Our long-time Observatory Director, Hilton Lewis, stepped into a well-earned retirement in May, handing the interim leadership role to Rich Matsuda. The observatory's board of trustees commenced a search for our next permanent director that is underway. We anticipate the Keck board will announce the selection of a director in early 2024.

The Keck Planet Finder (KPF), our newest workhorse instrument for exoplanet research, which was delivered in late 2022, was commissioned and commenced science operations this year with first published science results expected in early 2024. The Keck Cosmic Reionization Mapper (KCRM) was delivered this year, joined with its partner instrument the Keck Cosmic Web Imager (KCWI), and is now being commissioned for science operations beginning in 2024.

As many as a half dozen new instruments are currently in various stages of design and development at our partner instrument labs. In the meantime, we are completing upgrades to existing instruments such as NIRSPEC and DEIMOS that will strengthen their science capabilities. The pace of new instrument development has never been this frenetic in the observatory's history - and with that furious pace the prospect grows for vast increases in published papers and scientific discoveries driven by Keck Observatory research in the coming decade. The Data Service Initiative simultaneously is making the flow of data from the observatory more immediate and impactful to our research community. We are indeed in the midst of a new genesis of science at Keck.

None of this would be possible without you. Your gifts equate to continued cutting-edge scientific discovery and international leadership. To those of you who have made a recent year end gift to Keck, we offer our thanks. To those of you considering a gift, please make your gift online at <https://www.keckobservatory.org/donate/>

Thank you again for supporting our mission of discovery. I hope to see you in person in the coming year or on one of our Zoom Astronomy talks!

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O'Meara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. John O'Meara
Deputy Director and Chief Scientist