



VIEW FROM ABOVE WITH NASA ASTRONAUT TERRY VIRTS

APR 30 / Cobb Great Hall

Col. Terry Virts
NASA Astronaut and
former International Space Station commander

Bob Hoffman
Moderator

This presentation will run approximately 70 minutes,
with a Q & A directly afterward.

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VIEW FROM ABOVE

Sometimes, a little distance is all you need to see things in a brand-new way. For astronaut Terry Virts, his newfound perspective was from the International Space Station (ISS), where he installed the Cupola module, granting an unprecedented 360-degree view from the station. When he later became the commander of the ISS, he made good use of the Cupola, taking more photographs than any astronaut who came before him. Many of those images were later used in the National Geographic book *View From Above* and IMAX film *A Beautiful Planet*, but to hear Virts tell it, no photo can capture the perfect shade of blue from a sunrise viewed from outer space.

BIOS

TERRY VIRTS

Colonel (ret) Terry Virts served in the US Air Force as a fighter pilot, test pilot, and NASA astronaut. In February 2010, he made his first spaceflight as pilot of the Space Shuttle Endeavor during mission STS-130. His next launch was on board the Russian Soyuz TMA-15M in November 2014 from Baikonur, Kazakhstan. Most recently, Virts served as commander of the International Space Station during 200 consecutive days in space—one of the longest continuous space missions of any NASA astronaut. He recently directed his first film, *One More Orbit*—a full-length documentary chronicling the 2019 mission in

which he broke the world record for any aircraft circumnavigating the planet over the North and South poles. Virts also appeared in the 2016 IMAX film *A Beautiful Planet*, a breathtaking portrait of Earth from space that features stunning footage—much of it shot by Virts while aboard (and outside) the International Space Station—of our magnificent blue planet, and humanity's impact on it.

Virts has taken more photos from space than any other astronaut. His photography, which provides incredible aerial views of Earth and the vast space that surrounds it, is featured in the National Geographic book *View From Above*, released in October 2017. His following book, *How to Astronaut*, was released in 2020.

Virts is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Harvard Business School. As one of only four astronauts to have piloted a Space Shuttle, flown a Russian Soyuz spacecraft, performed space walks, and commanded the ISS, he has a unique perspective to share.

BOB HOFFMAN

Bob Hoffman is a familiar face around mid-Michigan. He is the Public Relations Manager at Wharton Center, a position he's held for the last 22 years. He is the co-host of WSYM FOX 47's *Morning Blend*, which airs weekday mornings. He also hosts the weekly feel-good segment,

Good Neighbors, which airs Fridays at 7pm and 10pm on FOX 47.

In 2009 Bob developed a community-based ***Pass It Forward*** initiative called ePIFanynow™ which empowers people to transform their lives through random acts of kindness (www.epifanynow.com). Bob spends his free time as a motivational speaker and travels throughout Michigan with his interactive goal development and leadership workshops.

Bob was recognized by the Lansing Community College Alumni Association as Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2014. It's one of the many awards he has received over the years, including recognitions from the U.S. House of Representatives and several from the State of Michigan for his service to others.

Bob believes strongly in service to others. He volunteers his time to serve on the board of directors for several organizations, including Athena International, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan, McClaren Greater Lansing Foundation, and the Michigan Animal Health Foundation Board.