



Autographs

ConStellation XXVI: Ophiuchus



12-14 October 2007

Holiday Inn Express
Huntsville, Alabama

Guest of Honor

Mike Shepherd Moscoe

Master of Ceremonies

Travis S. Taylor

Fan Guest of Honor

Pat McAdams

Also Expected to Attend

Lou Anders, Julie Cochran, William H. Drinkard

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Mike Shepherd Moscoe

by Sgt. Rory A. Miller

Mike doesn't know metric.

"Damn!" I looked up from the draft of one of the early Kris Longknife novels and shot Mike a look. "That chick is skinny! She could never have sex with a human—her elbows would go right through his skin."

"I don't know what you mean," Mike said in his very patient, reasonable Mike voice.

"According to this, Kris is six-six and under a hundred and ten pounds."

"No way. Are you serious?"

I slid the stack of paper over and portentously (maybe pretentiously) tapped the description which had Kris Longknife, indomitable space heroine and truly tough chick described as exactly two meters tall and a bit under fifty kilograms. "Damn metric system," Mike said.

Mike doesn't know metric, which is good, because he knows a bit about everything else.

Years (is it decades yet?) ago, my lovely wife introduced me to her critique group. She was an unpublished writer who had been taken under the collective wings of a profes-

sional group. There was Mary, the goat-raising homesteader and brilliant technician of the art of writing. Norm, the grand old man who had been fan and writer since the Golden Age when SF was called Sci-Fi. Kris, the new-age-pagan networking genius. He-Who-Remains-Nameless. And Mike.

I wasn't too sure about Mike Moscoe. His thoughtful look, where he lowers his chin and strokes his beard, looked like something he practiced in a mirror—but his advice was good.

Mike takes a while to get to know. Raised in a hard-core military family with all the fallout from that you can imagine he did the natural, logical thing and decided to become a priest. Then he dropped out of seminary school. He somehow wound up working for and retiring from a federal agency that deals with the management of federal land.

To understand Mike you just need to realize that he has the core values of the most extreme conservative and they have somehow led him to conclusions that he once

described as Democratic Socialist. Easy. But don't be fooled: he understands both sides and the middle ground and can be formidable to argue with. Yet he never takes it personally.

So he can come across like a soldier, an army brat, a priest, a manager, an ecologist. He understands them well. It shows in his writing. He's learned and lived with the tales of glory of combat and seen the price paid in uncontrolled anger, alcoholic rage and despair.

Over the years...

On a dark day when I pulled a body off a mountain (brain splatter, a fresh empty skull and the indignity of plumber's crack in death) and no one else seemed to understand, I called Mike.

When a tactical operation didn't go the way it should and I blew a hole in a man that your thumb would fit through I waited a couple of days, but I called Mike.

Whenever (and it has been many times) that I needed to scout the political mine fields between tactical operations and administration, I called Mike. And I listened.

You'll have the opportunity over the weekend to listen to Mike. It will be worth your time.

Sgt. Rory Miller is a veteran corrections officer and tactical team leader. His first book, *Meditations on Violence* will be available in 2008 from YMAA publishing.

U.S. Space & Rocket Center

Welcome Members of Con†Stellation XXVI:
Ophiuchus — Enjoy Your Stay and Come Play!

The Space and Rocket Center is open all weekend for your visiting pleasure. Please feel free to stop and take a look at all we have to offer.

Hours of Operation - 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Combination Admission – (Includes Museum, Rocket Park and one movie in our Spacedome IMAX Theater)

Adults - \$20.95 — Children (6-12) - \$15.95

Children under 6 admitted FREE!

<http://www.spacecamp.com/> for more information.

Con†Stellation XXVII: Cassiopeia

Mid-October 2008

For More Information:

Call 256-829-9195

between 6-9pm

No Collect Calls

www.con-stellation.org

PO Box 4857

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Pre-Register Sunday
For The Best Rate

Travis S. Taylor

by John Ringo

Once upon a time Jim Baen (may he rest in peace) sent me a very cool manuscript he was considering for publication called *Warp Speed*. Naif, a trifle rough in places, it nonetheless captured something I hadn't seen in a long time in SF: that sensawunda that was found only in the golden age stories. That sense that space was cool and all that us monkeys had to do to reach the stars was get a grip and go for it. All of that grafted to the most bleeding edge physics and cosmology. Doc Smith's allotropic iron became cassimer energy and fluebells. Wormholes and fluctuation fields and super-tornadoes, Oh, My! There was even a female, red-headed, hot-tempered, almost-assuredly-virginal, Air Force colonel who was a physicist and an astronaut. You can't get more Heinlein girl than that.

I later met the author at LibertyCon and discovered that the whole damned thing was a Peggy Sue. Doc Travis is the main character and should be because Doc has all the requirements of a main character in a good-old-fashioned pot-boiler SF story. Multiple degrees, background in astronomy and other hard sciences, worked for various agencies

over the years, but mountain bikes, does karate, is a private pilot and SCUBA diver. Doc is a character from Golden Age SF. He's even done extensive professional research on FTL drive systems. He's Doc Savage with a drawl, Buckaroo Banzai but plays better rock-and-roll guitar.

I'll admit to have using him as a character myownself. Characters like that don't grow on trees, you know.

Since then Doc and I have collaborated on several novels. He's managed to get some aspects of quantum physics to almost stick in my head and I hope that I've managed to smooth out his writing. It's a testament to Jim's foresight and love of the genre that he perceived the central fact of Travis Taylor, Ph.D.: That he loves the stars and thus cannot fear the night.

Over the years Doc and I have become good friends and I cannot imagine a better Guest of Honor for Con†Stellation than a good-ole-boy from Huntsville who coon hunts and wears a ballcap yet has become a leading light in science fiction and in the space industry.

Next step: Warp Speed!



LibertyCon 21

The South's Friendliest Science Fiction Convention

JULY 12-13, 2008

Literary Guest of Honor:

Harry Turtledove

Artist Guest of Honor:

David Mattingly

Special Guest:

David B. Coe

Master of Ceremonies:

Eric Flint

<http://www.libertycon.org/>

Check the website for
the latest information.

Lady Liberty Artwork by Vincent Di Fate

Schedule of Events

Friday

12:00 p.m.	Registration Opens	Lobby II
	Con Suite Opens	Room 309
	Operations Opens	Lobby II
	Dealers Room Opens for Move-in	Apollo Room
	Art Show Opens for Move-in	Garden Spot
1:00 p.m.	Anime Room Opens	Room 310
2:00 p.m.	Art Show Opens	Garden Spot
	Dealers Room Opens	Apollo Room
6:30 p.m.	Opening Ceremony	Patriot Room
7:00 p.m.	Taylor Made — <i>Travis S. Taylor</i>	Patriot Room
	The Huntsville Science Fiction Writer's Group and Cake Appreciation Society Readings — 2 hours	Lobby II
8:00 p.m.	Audacious Words — <i>Mike Shepherd Moscoe</i>	Patriot Room
	Art Show Closes	
	Dealers Room Closes	
9:30 p.m.	Guest Reception — <i>All Guests</i> — 90 minutes	Patriot Room
10:00 p.m.	Registration Closes — See Signs for After-Hours Registration	
10:30 p.m.	Friday Night Dance: The Serpentine Salsa — <i>Pat McAdams</i>	Lobby II
1:00 a.m.	Anime Room Closes	

Saturday

9:00 a.m.	Registration Opens	Lobby II
10:00 a.m.	Art Show Opens	Garden Spot
	Dealers Room Opens	Apollo Room
	Anime Room Opens	Room 310
11:00 a.m.	Reading and Chat — <i>William H. Drinkard</i>	Patriot Room
	Cook with Fannish Flair — <i>Nancy Cucci</i>	ConSuite Prep Room
12:00 p.m.	Series Writing: Venomous or Not? — <i>Mike Shepherd Moscoe, Julie Cochrane, William H. Drinkard</i>	Patriot Room
	Flatland: The Movie — 2 hours	Lobby II
1:00 p.m.	Call of Cthulhu: LARP Setup — <i>Christi Newton</i>	Patriot Room
2:00 p.m.	SF Spelling Bee: Are You Smarter Than You Need To Be? — <i>Pat McAdams</i>	Patriot Room
	Make It and Take It — 2 hours — <i>The Crafty Ladies of ConfStellation</i>	Lobby II

Schedule of Events

- 3:00 p.m. Registration Closes — See Signs for After-Hours Registration
Classic SF TV Name That Tune — *Mike Kennedy* Patriot Room
- 4:00 p.m. Guest of Honor Ceremony — *All Guests* Lobby II
- 5:00 p.m. Pyr Books Cover Art Slide Show — *Lou Anders* Patriot Room
Flatland: The Movie — 2 Hours Lobby II
- 6:00 p.m. Art Show Closes
Dealers Room Closes
Tastes Like Chicken: Self-Sufficiency in Space Patriot Room
— *Les Johnson, Travis Taylor*
- 7:00 p.m. Art Auction — “*Uncle Timmy*” *Bolgeo* Lobby II
History Made Real — *Karl Ryan* Patriot Room
- 8:00 p.m. Charming The Reader — *Julie Cochrane* Patriot Room
- 8:15 p.m. Masquerade Pre-Judging Lobby II
- 9:00 p.m. Masquerade Lobby II
- 10:00 p.m. Misty & Larry Memorial Pajama Party & Reading Patriot Room
— *Julie Cochrane, William Drinkard, et al.* (PJs encouraged)
- 11:00 p.m. Saturday Night Dance: **The Reptilian Cotillion** — *Pat McAdams* Lobby II
- 2:00 a.m. Anime Room Closes

Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Art Show Opens Garden Spot
Dealers Room Opens Apollo Room
Anime Room Opens Room 310
- 11:00 a.m. Roundtable: *Oroborous* — 2 hours Lobby II
Will the Snake Eat More Than His Tail?
— *Travis Taylor, Mike Shepherd Moscoe, et al.*
- 12:00 p.m. Anime Trivia for Treats Patriot Room
— *Jennifer Leach, Michelle Breitbach*
- 1:00 p.m. Autographs — *All Guests* Lobby II
Slinging the Web Fantastic: The Year in Movies Patriot Room
— *Pat McAdams*
- 2:00 p.m. Art Show Closes
Dealers Room Closes
Anime Room Closes
- 4:00 p.m. Con Suite Closes
- 6:00 p.m. Molting Snakes Party: Shed Your Skin Lobby II

Pat McAdams

by Manda Freeman

What is a “fan”? Wikipedia’s definition is ... “A fan, aficionado, or supporter is someone who has an intense, occasionally overwhelming liking of a sporting club, person, group of persons, company, product, work of art, idea, or trend. Fans of a particular thing constitute its fanbase or fandom. They may start a fan club, hold fan conventions, create fanzines, write fan mail, or engage in similar activities.” We have all that and more in this year’s Fan Guest of Honor, Pat McAdams.

Pat currently resides in Tallahassee, Florida but has family roots in Huntsville and has been a fan since 1989 working behind the scenes and in front of the crowd at Con†Stellation for the past 10 years.

Before I start to mention where and what Pat has done, I’ll readily admit that you will have stories of your own that either I’m not aware of or I just cannot find the space herein to write about.

Over the years, most of Con†Stellation’s attendees have had a “Pat experience”: The musical stylings of Toxic Spleen’s live performance in 1999, the car convoy — on I-

565, off I-565 and back on again with the note from a secret admirer retrieved and safely in hand, and “Princess Leia’s famous honeybun to the groin shot” — one we’d all like to see every year. All these and more are shadows to some and pale in comparison to the establishment of the Church of Pat’s Ass (COPA) and Professional Admirers of Pat’s Ass (PAPA) — founded by our 2001 Camelopardalis’ Guest of Honor, John Ringo, the founding father who wrote “Who is your PAPA”.

Need to know more? If you have the time off from the job and can stay around late on Sunday, there is a section of the Dead Dog devoted to puns which hashes and rehashes all things gluteal. Grab a fan wearing a “COPA” button or talking about Pat’s Ass and you are bound to hear a good story or a bad pun. How many people do you know that can embrace a running gag for 6 years and still laugh about it?

Specific to Pat’s contribution to this year’s Con†Stellation, he can be found in many places during the convention. You can see him Saturday evening lending his talents to the Masquerade and the half-time show

where he is featured in Fannish Mad Libs. He coordinates the LARP and chairs a panel on Sci-Fi/Fantasy Adventure movies. If you can't catch a panel or the Masquerade, come by the dance Friday or Saturday night and Pat will be hosting the "Reptilian Cotillion" mixing songs you can dance to, featuring top hits, film favorites and "adult swim".

Most conventions are organized by volunteers who work all year putting together an experience they can host and share with you one weekend a year. What to do for next year's convention starts well before the last member leaves this year. Between gaming, playing cards, enjoying the fannish food pyramid, attending panels or just hanging out—you can find a reason to be a fan by spending time with our Fan Guest of Honor, Pat McAdams.

Quick Facts from the Glutanomicon (or, the Ass Files)

The Ass first appeared to admirers in August of 19XX.

The first Ass smacker was Dr. Henry Anderson.

Theology:

- The Truth is In There
- You Will Be Assimilated
- One Ass to Rule Them All
- It's just a rump to the left, then a rump to the riiighttt!

Dealer Dan — Used & Refurbished Ships

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Con-Etiquette...

Weapons Policy

Con†Stellation XXVI has a strict no weapons policy, with only two exceptions. First, dealers may sell legal weapons, but these must be securely wrapped before leaving the Dealers Room and not opened in any public area of the hotel. Second, legal weapons may be used in the Masquerade, if approved in advance by the Masquerade Staff. Any violation of this policy will result in confiscation of the weapon or ejection from the convention, at the sole discretion of the con committee. If it looks like a weapon, or is intended to suggest a weapon, this policy covers it.

Drinking Age

Alabama's drinking age is 21. Our badges will not differentiate by age, therefore those sponsoring room parties are strongly encouraged to card everyone before serving alcohol. Which brings us to: DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE! Con†Stellation would not exist without your attendance, and we want you back next year.

Now The Fun Part

Having said all the stuff above that you did not want to hear, let's get on to the fun stuff.

Gaming

Game sign-up will be in the Gaming Room. Check in the Gaming Room for all game schedules. Gaming will be located in the Galaxy Room, and open gaming will begin at 2:00 p.m. Friday. Look in Gaming for a schedule of games to be played.

Card Tournaments

Look near Registration for sign-up sheets for the Killer-Cutthroat Spades Tournament. Could you be the Spades Champion of the Lesser-Known Universe? Uncle Timmy is running the Tournament again this year, so be prepared!

LARP: Call of Cthulhu

Register in LARP Headquarters; find out where this is at Convention Registration. Be sure to attend the organizational meeting Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in the Patriot Room.

Anime Room

The Anime Room is being run again this year by Huntsville Alabama Anime Society (HAAS). The Anime Room is located in Room 310 and opens Friday at 1:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Look for the separate schedule to see what's running.

Autographs

An autograph session is scheduled at 1:00 p.m. in Lobby II on Sunday. Please be considerate with your requests.

Art Show And Auction

Please help us protect the artwork by not bringing food, drinks, or cameras into the Art Show. A check-in table will be provided for these items plus your purses and bags. The Art Auction will be at 7:00 p.m. Saturday in Lobby II. The Art Show opens at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Masquerade

Our Masquerade is run this year by Manda Freeman and Jeff Freeman. Check in the area near Convention Registration for the rules, entry deadline, entry forms and entry box.

Con†Stellounge

The Con Suite, the *Con†Stellounge Fish Head Café*, is located in Room 309. Various portions of the *Con†Stellounge* are subject to being closed in the wee hours for cleaning, but part of the *Con†Stellounge* will always be open.

Dances

Con†Stellation XXVI dances will occur on both Friday and Saturday nights. Both dances will feature a wide variety of music from the 50's through today. Our DJ for both dances is Pat McAdams; meet him in Lobby II for lots of fun.

Dealers Room

Can't find what you want in and around where you live? The Dealers Room opens at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Come by and spend some of your hard-earned money on nice things.

Area Guide

A guide to local restaurants, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other area businesses is included with your Pocket Program.



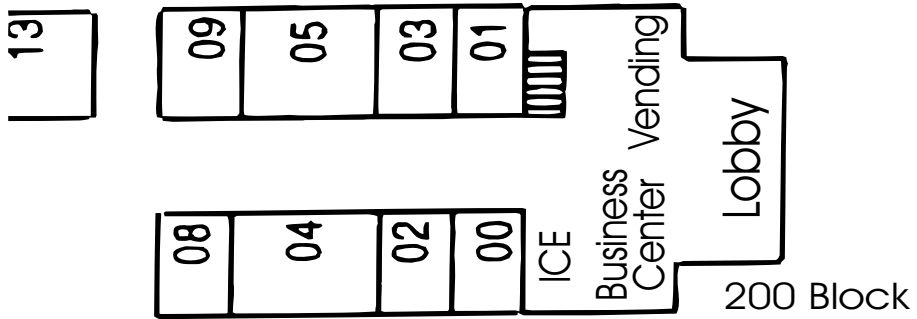
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Con♣Stellation XXVI: Ophiuchus

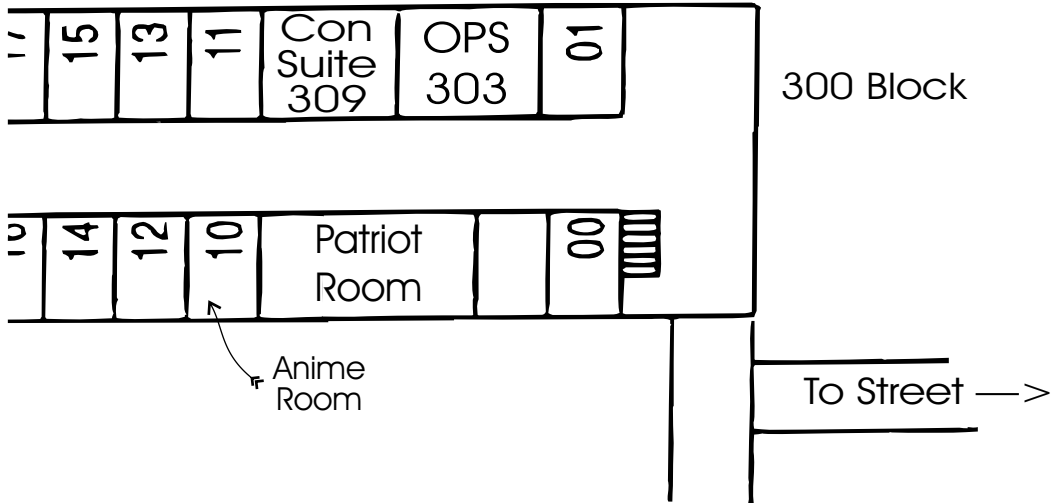
Convention Committee

Chair	Marie McCormack
Treasurer	Sam Smith
Art Show	Randy Cleary
Masquerade	Manda Freeman
Dealers Room	Sue Thorn
Game Room	Jeff Freeman
Spades Tournament	Uncle Timmy
Minister of Entertainment, Dance DJ & LARP	Pat McAdams
Specialities	Mike Kennedy
Con Suite	Judy Breitbach
Publications	Mike Cothran, Marie McCormack
Programming	Robin Ray
Guest Liaison	Doug Lampert
Operations	Kevin "KO" Omel
Hotel Liaison	Tim O'Neil
Registration	Mary Ortwerth Lampert
Anime Room	Huntsville Alabama Anime Society (HAAS)
Webhead	Sam Smith
T-Shirt Maven	Anita Eisenberg
T-Shirt Design	David O. Miller
Cover Art	David O. Miller
Interior Program Book, Pocket Program & Badge Art	Randy Cleary

Special Thanks to Amy Newsom, Jim Kennedy, Tracey Kennedy, Bill Savage, Leana Justice, Wolf Freeman, Steve Sloan, Michael Hurley, Jennifer Leach, Michelle Breitbach, Michael Breitbach, Marvin Ortwerth, Maria Grim, Karen Omel, Ron Lajoie, HAL5, The Science Fiction Writers Group and Cake Appreciation Society, and the U. S. Space & Rocket Center.

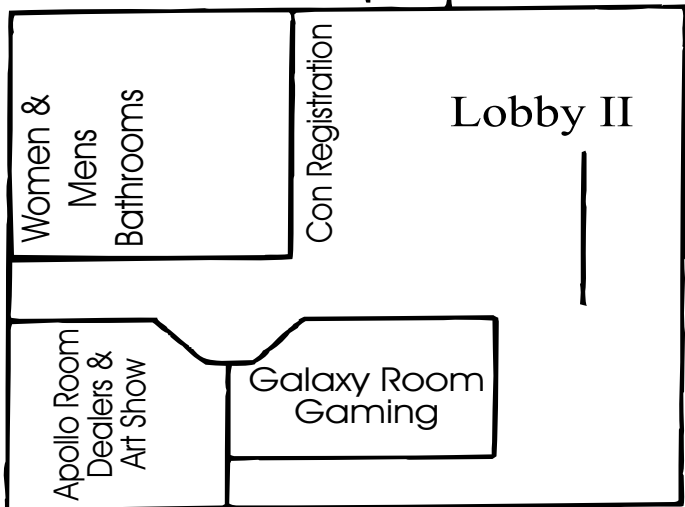


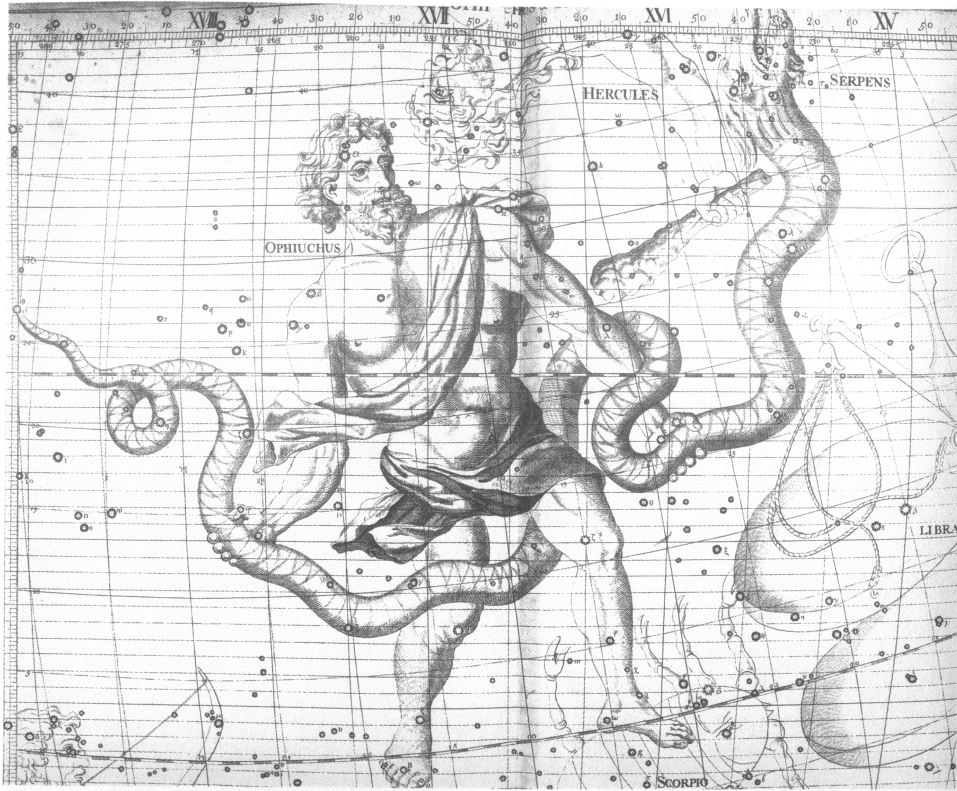
<- Rear of building to Ice Machines



Map Is Not To Scale

Room	Function
Galaxy	Gaming
Garden	Art Show & Print Shop
Apollo	Dealers Room
Patriot	Programming (Main)
Lobby II	Programming
Lobby II	Schmoozing
Lobby II	Registration
Lobby II	T-Shirts
Suite 309	Con Suite
Room 310	Anime Room





Ophiuchus, or the serpent holder, represents the Greek god of medicine, Asclepius, and is seen in the night sky holding the constellation Serpens (the serpent).

Asclepius, the offspring of Apollo and Coronis (or possibly Arsinoe), was raised as his own son by Chiron, the wise centaur, following the death of his mother. Apollo killed Coronis for being unfaithful, but could not stand to see their unborn child perish with her, and so snatched the unborn child from the flames of her funeral pyre and placed the child with Chiron. From Chiron he learned hunting and the healing arts, becoming so skilled that he could, in addition to saving lives, raise the dead.

Once Glaucus, the son of King Minos of Crete, fell into a vat of honey and drowned. As Asclepius pondered the body, a snake approached the body. Asclepius used his staff to kill the snake, but a second snake approached, with an herb in its mouth. It placed the herb on the body of the dead snake, and the snake revived. Asclepius, observing this, took the herb and placed it on the body of Glaucus, and the revivifying effect was repeated.

Asclepius also resurrected Hippolytus, son of Theseus, who was killed in a fall from his chariot. Asclepius touched the boy's chest three times, holding his healing herbs and uttering healing words.

Hades, god of the underworld, realized that the numbers of the dead entering his realm were decreasing and knew that Asclepius must be stopped. He complained to his brother Zeus, who struck down Asclepius with a thunderbolt. In retaliation for his son's death, Apollo killed the three Cyclopes who forged the thunderbolts of Zeus. To appease Apollo, Zeus made Asclepius immortal and set him among the stars as the constellation Ophiuchus.