

Southern Skies

Volume 26, Number 3

Journal of the Southeastern Planetarium Association

Summer 2006



**BACK
TO
THE FUTURE**
SEPA
CONFERENCE 2006

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President's Message

Patsy Wilson

Margaret C. Woodson Planetarium
Salisbury, NC

Greetings! As I write this column, I'm creating or reworking programs for my newly-upgraded facility. It is a daunting task and one I'm facing with some trepidation. We get so comfortable with one system or one way of production and change is difficult. But the possibilities are limitless and I have a clean slate to create, enhance and prepare to wow my audiences. It's very exciting. I'm also looking forward to my Space Explorer's camp for rising third and fourth graders that happens in mid-July. Many of you are also involved in the busy cycle of summer activities, new projects, new programs and hectic life at your facilities. Don't forget to take some time to relax, enjoy nature, actually get out in the daylight, fellowship with your family and friends and breathe deeply during this season of the year.

Our conference at the Astronaut Memorial Planetarium and Observatory was a fantastic, action-packed opportunity for networking, learning, laughing, eating and experiencing space. The staff, Mark, Chuck, Suzanne, Helen and Bernie, were cordial, helpful, and prepared. They were willing and eager to help make our time as productive and enjoyable as possible. They worked from dawn to dawn and kept smiling!! We experienced a gamut of great speakers: Mark Adler of Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Russell Romanella of ISS Processing at Kennedy Space Center and Phil Plait, aka The Bad Astronomer. The multimedia **Jimi Hendrix Experience** was a huge hit. We saw a launch and drove past *Discovery* on the launchpad ready for liftoff (still waiting as of this writing!) The food was wonderful and plentiful, and as always, there were lots of great

paper and workshop sessions as well as plenty of time to spend with the wonderful vendors who help to support the conference.

The next conference will be in Wheeling, West Virginia at Olgebay with Steve Mitch as host. The dates are October 9-13, 2007. This is a great opportunity to meet and share not only with other SEPA members, but also with members of GLPA and MAPS. Triple conjunctions don't happen often and are difficult to achieve, so we give thanks in advance to Steve for all his efforts. John Hare and I will be serving on the planning committee for this event, so feel free to contact either of us if you have questions or ideas.

At the annual business meeting, members voted to go to Lafayette, Louisiana for conference in July 2008. Dave Hostetter and staff will host us at the Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium. In addition, the group unanimously supported the possibility of a conjunction of all seven associations in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in late spring of 2009. Jon Elvert will be researching this idea and prepare a bid to be presented at the 2007 conference.

Congratulations to the following persons who were elected to serve as officers for the coming two-year period: President-elect, Jon Elvert, Secretary-Treasurer, Mickey Jo Sorrell and IPS Representative, John Hare. Mike Sandras will remain on council until the end of December when his term as Past

(Continued on page 14)



SEPA President Patsy Wilson with the Apollo Boiler Plate at Meteor Crater

IPS Report

John Hare
ASH Enterprises
Bradenton, FL

A new editor for the IPS Journal, *The Planetarian*, has been appointed. Effective with the summer 2006 issue, Sharon Shanks of Youngstown State University will assume the task. Sharon follows long-time editor, John Mosley who recently retired from the Griffith Observatory.

By the time you read this, the 2006 IPS Conference will be history. This year's conference is scheduled for Melbourne, Australia in late July. About 300 delegates are expected.

The 2008 IPS Conference will be hosted by Chicago's Adler Planetarium. The conference dates are in mid-June which is why SEPA has chosen July for the 2008 meeting. This will be the second time

Adler has hosted IPS, the first being in 1980.

The site for the 2010 IPS Conference will be voted upon at the 2007 IPS Council meeting. Competing venues will submit their proposals to the IPS Council at this year's meeting.

Watch for a summary of important IPS issues and the prospective 2010 conference sites in the fall issue of *Southern Skies*.



Editor's Message

James Sullivan
Buehler Planetarium & Observatory
Davie, FL

Oh, what a great conference. It was good to see you all. Please keep in mind interesting pictures for our cover. They need to be something that appeals to a general audience of planetaria. They need to be professionally appropriate.

Thanks to all you folks who send in contributions to News of the States. It remains my favorite part of the journal. Thanks to the state coordinators; I know it is not the easiest task to send stuff in.

Speaking of sending stuff in, please don't hesitate to send in pictures with your News from your planetarium. Space permitting, we will run them, too.

We can receive electronic files in most any format. Also, graphics can be received electronically or in hardcopy, including slides or photos, and will be converted to digital with sufficient resolution.

Submission deadlines: January 1 (Winter), April 1 (Spring), July 1 (Summer), October 1 (Fall).

Thanks to BCC and its wonderful printing department for assistance.



Paul Campbell Fellowship Award Nomination Form

Nominees must have been a member of SEPA for at least ten years, and they must display qualities in each of five areas, as represented by the five-pointed star shaped award: integrity, friendship, service, knowledge, and vision. Please submit this form to any SEPA Council member.

Nominee's Name: _____
Qualifications: _____

SEPA Membership Form

Please send your check for \$25 (or \$15 if outside the SEPA geographical region) to SEPA, c/o Mickey Jo Sorrell, Morehead Planetarium & Science Center, CB#3480 UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599.

Name _____
Organization _____
Planetarium _____
Address _____
City _____
State / Zip Code _____
Voice Phone _____
Fax Phone _____
Email Address _____
Staff Position _____
IPS Member? Yes _____ No _____
Contribution to Scholarship Award Account: \$ _____

Small Talk

Elizabeth Wasiluk
Hedgesville High School Planetarium
Hedgesville, WV

I stole the following idea from retired planetarian Jane Hastings. Isn't that what planetarium people do. They come to planetarium conferences in search of ideas that they can steal, ah, excuse me, take and make their own.

A while back, Jane Hastings suggested that in between planetarium conferences, we should create our own mini-conferences to visit other museums and planetaria and see what ideas we can make our own.

In order for it to be a true mini-conference, you need to have other people that you can share ideas with. With this in mind, friend, colleague, and fellow SEPA member, Conrad Jung, from Chabot Observatory and Science Center in Oakland, California, called and asked what I had planned for my Spring break from school. When I told him I had no plans, he asked if I would be interested in heading to see the travelling exhibit that Chabot Observatory had put together on Chinese Astronomy that was currently at the Virginia Science Museum in Richmond, VA. Since I had heard about this exhibit from both Conrad and Dave Hostetter and had not seen it before, I was game. Since we were going to be

in the Richmond, VA area, we had decided to go visit Jane and George Hastings and have dinner with them. So without any further hesitation, I e-mailed Jane, told her we would be in town

and promptly got invited to have dinner with them and to stay with them.

We tackled the Science Museum first and the weather cooperated by giving us great museum weather - rain. During our tour of the exhibit, we ran into Eric Melenbrink, not only with the Virginia Museum of Science, but also Ash Enterprises. He was on his way out for Ash to install stuff in Oklahoma for a few days.

The exhibit was fabulous and very unique. It was especially nice having Conrad along who had a hand putting the thing together and he could give me some info on getting the exhibit ready for traveling. This was the first time he had seen the exhibit outside of Chabot, except for Dave Hostetter's powerpoint at last year's SEPA meeting. We did find that the labelling department for the exhibit misnamed a picture that Conrad took of comet Hale-Bopp, misnaming it Halley's comet. Hey, fix that label!

Jane and George gave us the 30 minute tour of Richmond and we saw the infamous Arthur Ashe statue and more importantly the school where Jane's little planetarium at the edge of the universe sits, where Leslie Bochinski now calls home. Jane and George still keep active in the planetarium field, leaving us to our own devices while they practiced a monthly skytour show they are doing at the Universe planetarium within the Richmond Museum of Science.

Afterwards we headed to Alexandria, Virginia to look in on how former Jacksonville, FL planetarium director Patrick McQuillan is doing at his new job working for the Challenger Center there. He gave us a tour and the surroundings are most impressive. Patrick was currently working on choosing the paint and fabric for a new Challenger Center in another part of the country and designing the activities for a new program on travelling to Mars. He had a room full of scientific toys and gizmos to pick from for the program that he was having fun playing with. He seemed to really like his new job and surroundings except for getting used to the higher cost of living and having his wife Jennifer and the kids still in Florida trying to sell their home.

Here in Berkeley County Planetarium, I told you

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Astro Video Review

Priscilla Bernardo
Orlando Science Center Planetarium
Orlando, FL

Magic School Bus - Space Adventures

Maybe I just held Ms. Frizzle to a higher standard but when I ordered *The Magic School Bus Space Adventures* I thought I knew what I was getting into. I mean, who wouldn't have loved to have a wacky teacher like her, going on field trips to every nook and cranny of our known universe. As an addition to a growing library of kid friendly space related videos, I thought this was perfect.

For \$5.99 on Amazon.com I received a DVD with three episodes, an interactive component and DVD-ROM features as well, all covering the Solar System, asteroids, comets, and basic flight.

In the first episode the trip to the local planetarium goes awry when they arrive to find the planetarium closed. The Magic School Bus does its stuff and soon we are blasting off into space for a tour of the Solar System. (As a side note - the producers should have kept closer to the book version called "Lost in the Solar System" when making this episode. The book is excellent)

The first stop after a brief spin about the Earth is the Sun where everyone onboard dons his or her special sunglasses to take a look at the Sun. I am cringing as I now have a death grip on my remote. How many times have we all had to tell folks do not look

directly at the Sun even with sunglasses on? I wait to hear that caveat mentioned before we leave the Sun but without a word we are off to Mercury. (The book makes it very clear you should never look directly at the Sun.)

On Mercury we learn that the "giant footprints" are actually impacts from meteorites. As the class goes bouncing along one kid says, "What do you call a meteorite that doesn't hit the planet? A meteor-wrong!" Ok...it was a joke and it was funny but at no point did they offer the correct term. It was just off for a stroll on Venus.

I will say that at least spacesuits were in use and they didn't go landing on any of the gas planets but the final trip to Pluto was interesting since we have yet to know what the surface of Pluto looks like. The trip around the Solar System was conducted in a straight line from one planet to the next and gravity, or the lack thereof, on The Magic School Bus appeared to be optional. Once at Pluto, the student who had been collecting samples from all the other planets they visited has to leave all of her collection behind so the bus can make it home. Not that we humans haven't already put a lot of litter into space but we do try to take great care to not contaminate other planets with debris.

The first episode begins to come to an end and just when I am about to shake my head in disbelief the phone rings at Magic School Bus central and the

(Continued on page 11)



Call For Proposals

Kathryn Guimond
SERCH Program Manager/Education Specialist
Lowcountry Hall of Science & Math

PLATO: Planetarium Learning & Teaching Opportunity

The Southeast Regional Clearinghouse (SERCH), an initiative with NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD), invites southeastern planetariums to promote astronomy/space science education through our Planetarium Learning and Teaching Opportunity (PLATO) grants. **Seven awards of up to one thousand dollars each** will be available to Southeastern Planetarium Association (SEPA) members and persons affiliated with SEPA member institutions for projects that enhance the public's appreciation and understanding of astronomy and space science.

Modeled after our "sister" NASA SMD Broker/Facilitator, the DePaul Space Science Center for Education and Outreach, the PLATO grants are intended to benefit astronomy educators and the planetarium community within the SERCH region. Successful projects will increase the awareness and understanding of Earth-Sun system science, solar system research, universe exploration and will strengthen Earth/space science education through out SEPA. SERCH is particularly interested in proposals for education and outreach efforts that support NASA's vision and mission, NASA's Vision for Education, NASA's SMD goals and the Support Network Forums. Furthermore, SERCH is interested in proposals for education and outreach efforts

that support the Broker/Facilitator operating principles, which include:

- Establishing strong and lasting partnerships between the Earth/space science and education communities.
- Highly leveraged programs/projects, relying upon a multiplier effect to reach as many communities, educators and students as possible.
- Being inclusive of the broadest possible audience. Activities that foster the meaningful participation of underserved/underrepresented groups are encouraged.

SERCH OVERVIEW

Fourteen Space Grant Consortia have joined together to form SERCH. Our purpose is to promote Earth and space science awareness and enhance interest in science, math, and technology through the use of NASA's SMD mission data, information, and educational products. SERCH serves as a broker and facilitator of services between the region's educational community and researchers involved in SMD missions. The SERCH office is located in Charleston, SC at the College of Charleston - Lowcountry Hall of Science and Math. To learn more about our program please visit our website at <http://serch.cofc.edu/>.

NASA SPACE GRANT CONNECTION/SERCH GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

There are 13 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, within the SERCH region, which have, or are affiliated with, Space Grant Offices and a statewide network of scientists and educators. The 15 Space Grant/SERCH members are as follows [italicized states are shared with Broker/Facilitators MARSSB (DC, KY, MD, and VA) <http://www2.cet.edu/ossbroker/main.html> and SCORE (LA) <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/score/>]:

Alabama	<i>Maryland</i>
Arkansas	Mississippi
<i>District of Columbia</i>	North Carolina
Florida	Puerto Rico
Georgia	South Carolina / Virgin Islands
<i>Kentucky</i>	Tennessee
<i>Louisiana</i>	<i>Virginia</i>



SERCH region: DC, KY, MD and VA [shared with Broker/Facilitators], LA [Score], and AL, AK, FL, GA, MS, NC, PR, SC/VI, TN

SPECIFIC PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

Each proposal must include the following:

- Cover Sheet:* To be submitted with proposal including the project title, a half-page project summary, contact information for the principle investigator (PI) and co-investigator (Co-I), as well as, signatures from the PI, Co-I and an authorized institution official. The cover sheet will be available at the SERCH website.
- Proposal:* The main body of the proposal shall be a detailed statement of the work to be undertaken. The body of the proposal should describe the **project procedures and timeline**; the **project objectives and intended outcome**; the **intended audience** and the **key staff/collaborators**; the **project evaluation** plan; and the **intended return to other astronomy educators**. (Maximum of 3 double-spaced pages). The proposal should also include the following sections:
 - *Personnel:* A short one-page biographical sketch of the principal investigator, an abbreviated list of principal publications and any exceptional qualifications should be included. Give similar biographical information on other senior professional personnel who will be directly associated with the project. (Omit social security number and other personal items, which do not merit consideration in evaluation of the proposal).
 - *Proposed Costs:* **Limited up to \$1K per proposal.** Include a short budget justification and

timetable. As applicable, include separate cost estimates for salaries and wages; fringe benefits; expendable materials and supplies; services; domestic travel; publication page charges; consultants; other identifiable costs. List salaries and wages in appropriate categories (e.g., principal investigator, other scientific professionals, graduate students, student assistants, etc.). A suggested budget sheet will be available in at the SERCH website.

- *Certifications:* Normal government certification forms such as Debarment, Suspension and other Responsibility Matters; Certification Regarding Lobbying; and Compliance with NASA Regulations Pursuant to Non-discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs must be submitted along with your proposal. Certificates are available at the SERCH website.

EVALUATION FACTORS

All proposals will be evaluated by an external team of reviewers based on the following factors:

- Quality, Scope, and Realism
- Capability/Commitment
- Underserved/Underrepresented
- Greater Impact Capacity
- Budget
- Evaluation

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

To apply for a PLATO grant, submit one original and four copies of the proposal postmarked by September 1, 2006 to:

Southeast Regional Clearinghouse (SERCH)
 College of Charleston
 ATTN: Kathryn Guimond
 81 St. Phillip Street, Bell Bldg. 202 B
 Charleston, SC 29424

Notification of grants will be made around the autumnal equinox. A two-page final report of how the money was spent (project/budget summary of one page, evaluation summary of one page) and pictures documenting your effort are expected **NO LATER THAN June 1, 2007.**

about the loss of using the holding classroom outside of my planetarium to the art room and how I have to travel to teach my astronomy class. During the school year, I am often flinging open the door of the planetarium to get to my storage cabinet and running into a kid with paint in their hands and stuff goes splat everywhere. This is not a good set up at all, yet I cannot get my principal to fix this for me. In addition, the art teacher ruined the lock on the door and it had to be replaced and now I don't have a key to get into the planetarium and have to ask a custodian to let me in.

The state only will recognize certain science classes to receive state credit and after twenty years of teaching astronomy, I had to do a waiver to have the state grant me permission to teach the course so my students could get a science credit for it.

The only good thing that happened was I received a couple of grants to purchase a Personal Solar Telescope to view the sun in Hydrogen Alpha. I hope that I will get it in time to view the upcoming Transit of Mercury in November. Hats off and thanks to Ecolab www.ecolab.com for delivering me the check in person at a lovely reception at their headquarters in Martinsburg, WV on June 9th. Ecolab also gave me samples of their products that are industrial strength cleaners for institutions.

Just before you saw me at the SEPA meeting in Cocoa, I had the great pleasure of getting to see a lecture by the one and only Neil Armstrong at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. Tickets were free, but limited and became available on May 1st. I ended up in overflow, first in the planetarium and later in seats next to the Apollo 11 command module. I watched the lecture on a video screen, but Mr. Armstrong and John Glenn, who the lecture that was being delivered was named for, came out to say hello. Actually, there was much advantage for being seated in the National Air & Space Museum's "Milestones of Flight" gallery, since the lecture was about the early days of rocketry flight and many of the planes that Mr. Armstrong had personally flown were hanging overhead. During the lecture, I could just look up at them. I was especially enthralled at the role Bell Aerospace played in those early days. My grandmother had worked there during World War II in a "Rosie the

Riveter" capacity.

I actually made two trips to the National Air and Space Museum that week. I went again with Conrad Jung to see his pictures hung in the astronomy gallery since he had been named their "Featured Amateur Astronomer". Multi-talented guy, not only beating me out of the constellation shoot out for first place.

Ahh, what can be said about the SEPA conference in Cocoa, FL except that if you were not there, then you missed a great time. Hats off to Mark Howard and his staff for showing us such a great time. Where else can you watch a launch from the roof of the planetarium and get within 1500 feet of the space shuttle that was about to be launched.

There were many great talks given by people who were in what could be considered to be "small planetaria". If you weren't there, then you will definitely relish the disk that president-elect Adam Thantz puts together. Be on the look out for the papers given by John Elvert from Baton Rouge, LA on ways to get free publicity for your dome and Patsy Wilson's dome renovation in Salisbury, NC. Also go spinning in space with Lesile Buchinski from Richmond, VA at her workshop.

There was a close race between Lafayette, LA and Tampa, FL for SEPA '08 and a surprising development in the presidential election at the business meeting.

You also missed a historical performance of a combination laser/multi media show where effects were so well blended that I didn't even notice there was no all sky video. If you didn't catch Joe Tuccarone's talk about how **The Jimi Hendrix Experience** was done, you missed a great workshop. Now I want to know how many people will be using "Poser" software to create characters for their star shows.

I didn't even mention the "woodchuck" tribute created by SEPA drinkers.

Everyone have a great rest of the summer and may those gate receipts be huge.

"producer" answers. On the line is an alien (who happens to be on Pluto complaining about the litter) asking about most of the mistakes in the presentation, to which the producer either responds with the correct information or claims poetic license. I know it is a cartoon. I know this is intended for children but this is the exact reason why one should strive to get the right information into their heads from the start, not as an addendum to the show. One could make the argument that the idea is for the kids (target audience 6 to 9 yrs old) to find the mistakes in the show but I don't find that plausible.

In the next episode, "Out of this World", we are on a mission in a "Star Trek" looking version of Magic School Bus (with Ms. Frizzle in a Princess Leia hairdo) to stop a killer asteroid from hitting Earth. There are not as many items to fuss over, but those that exist, are once again clarified by the "producer" at the end of the show.

By the third episode, "Taking Flight", I am jaded. The class is subjected to a shrinking ray gun so they can fly around in a remote controlled airplane. Though this episode does a good job of explaining flight and needs very little help from the "producer" at the end of the show, I find myself hoping that the eagle they captured to help them get airborne again would eat these mouse-sized kids for lunch. Admittedly that would be traumatizing to a 6 year old but at least I could have gotten some revenge for being put through this ordeal. (My husband thought they should all get arrested for harassing an endangered species.)

Without hesitation I dive into the interactive portion of the DVD hoping for some relief. In this section you simply take a field trip around the Solar System. Not very exciting but at least the information is correct.

After taking a break, I load up into the computer to explore the DVD-ROM section. The "Visit Website" section takes you to the Magic School Bus website and an extensive array of options. I took the Solar System tour and was shocked to find that on the website Jupiter still has only 16 moons. (The book mentions 16 moons with a copyright of 1990.) Other than that, most of the tour was fun and entertaining. The WB Kids link takes you to the WB



Kids home page where you can access all kinds of cartoons and shows offered by WB for Kids. The "Special Events" link takes your child off to warnerbros.com where they can watch trailers from all sorts of movies including those rated R. Not exactly what I would call "6 to 9 year old" material.

There is also a section that features games, mazes, directions and materials for building both a model airplane and a solar system mobile. All are pretty cool and the mobile offers some interesting planet facts that inquisitive minds could chase down in more detail with an online search.

In all, one cannot argue the slick production, the entertaining storylines and the quality of the animation and character development. To just sit back and watch these episodes is fun. But fun at the expense of being correct from the start isn't acceptable; especially in today's media driven environment. Making corrections after the fact do little to change the initial impressions of a child's mind. For me, I'll skip the video and stick with the book.

Visions of SEPA 2006

Thanks to John Hare.



President officially ends and mine begins.

Also, congratulations to Phil Groce, the newest recipient of the Paul Campbell Fellowship Award. Phil has made such an impact on SEPA serving in many capacities. He is creative, innovative, and not afraid to make waves if necessary. We applaud his devotion to and love of planetaria and the work they do to promote space and astronomy education.

Once again, Dave Maness did a great job with the silent auction. A large variety of interesting objects were offered for bid. In some cases the bidding was aggressive—the NASA books published in the 60s and 70s!! Carole Holmberg's gorgeous quilt brought quite an impressive sum. Thanks to everyone who brought items for sale and for all those who bid and/or bought the items in support of the Scholarship Fund.

Leslie Bochenski has now received some documents and can begin her job of archiving and preserving the history of SEPA. Please go through your "stuff" and pull out any conference proceedings, old journals, policy statements, reports, minutes, etc. for her use. She can scan and then return them to you so you won't be losing your copy. We've come a long way over the thirty plus years of our existence and we don't want to lose sight of the journey. Please encourage any retired persons you know to look through their files with Leslie's project in mind.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Drew Gilmore, our webmaster, and James Sullivan, the *Southern Skies* editor, for their hours of service to the organization. They are willing to make changes, additions and improvements to both the journal and our website. All you have to do is supply the information or make suggestions and they will take it from there. Please contribute your ideas.

Have a great summer.

News From SEPA States

FLORIDA

contact: George Fleenor
GeoGraphics Imaging and
Consulting, Bradenton, FL
Jetson1959@aol.com



Florida Planetarium Association (FLORPLAN)

Contact George Fleenor for details.

Buehler Planetarium Broward Community College Davie, FL

Susan Barnett reports: The Buehler Planetarium & Observatory is running public shows four days a week. The weekend shows and monthly specials include *Magic Sky*, *The Explorers*, *New Cosmos*, and *Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico*.

We continue to rotate shows on Wednesdays, and these shows include *The People*, *To Worlds Unknown*, *2061: Secrets of Mars*, *Egyptian Skylore*, *Endless Horizon* and *The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket*.

The Buehler Observatory has viewing four times a week. It has free public observing Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. In addition, we observe the Sun on Wednesday afternoons. We usually have one telescope set up to view sunspots, and watch flares through a Hydrogen-Alpha filter on another.

Dr. Phillips CineDome Orlando Science Center Orlando, FL

Paul Trembly reports: While we are undergoing some reorganization, planetarium production is kicking into high gear. Between now and September we will be producing three new shows. *Sky Pirates*, *The Skies over Mr. Rodgers Neighborhood*, and *Song of the Skies*. We expect to be replacing several of our older shows that are out of date during the rest of the year. Add to that the LF film *Roving Mars* and all the Mars related programming that you would expect to go along with it and we are in for a busy summer and fall. We will be opening the films *Dinosaurs* and *Hurricane on the Bayou* in winter and spring. The observatory program will be starting to expand beyond weekend public observing as we incorporate it more into our weekday education program and school field trips.

KENTUCKY



Land Between the Lakes Golden Pond Planetarium and Observatory National Recreation Area Golden Pond, KY

Crystal Powell reports: Free from the glow of city lights, LBL offers one of the best views of the night sky in the region. If you're not a night owl, however, the Golden Pond Planetarium staff invites you to experience the beauty of the celestial landscape in the dome theatre.

Golden Pond Planetarium offers the latest in digital imaging technology to present breathtaking, full-dome view of the night skies and celestial events. The Planetarium is located inside the Golden Pond Visitor Center. It is fully equipped, 81-seat, 40-foot

diameter dome planetarium designed for multi-image projection of video, slides, and simulated night skies. The Planetarium is open seven days a week throughout the summer. Weekdays shows are offered at 10 & 11am and 1, 2, & 3 pm. Weekend shows are offered at 11 am, 1, 2, 3, & 4 pm.

The planetarium is also home to the Western Kentucky Amateur Astronomers (WKAA), a group which meets here each month for stargazing sessions and discussions. The public is invited to attend these meetings at no charge. Please call the Golden Pond Planetarium at 1-800-455-5897 for more information.

Mon-Fri, 12 noon and Sat-Sun, 10 am and 2 pm
Blown Away: The Wild World of Weather

This show is a virtual adventure produced by the New Detroit Science Center. You will see an incredible view of the many forms of our earth's weather through spectacular footage, projected on our 40 foot dome. *Blown Away* features a journey into space to explore the sun's effect on weather conditions and on-screen appearances by news meteorologists to further uncover the science of our planet's climate. \$2/\$3

Mon-Fri, 2pm and Sat-Sun, 3pm *Ring World*
Follow the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft as it passes Venus, Earth, and Jupiter on its way to Saturn. See it fly across the 40-foot Sky Dome of the Planetarium and witness it land on Titan, the only moon in the solar system with its own atmosphere. Take the timely journey through space with the probes which left Earth more than six years ago. \$2/\$3

Sat-Sun, 11 am *Stars to Starfish*
Just as the stars, planets, and outer space have held a certain fascination for us, we are just as curious about the vastness of the oceans and their depths. Explore the diversity of life in the ocean, from one-celled plants to 150-ton whales! \$2/\$3

Sat-Sun, 1 pm *Kentucky Skies*
Get a sneak preview of tonight's sky! How? Through the magic of our 40-foot dome, plus the expertise of our Planetarium staff, learn the constellations, the lore of the night sky, and some celestial events you can see for yourself. \$2/\$3

Summer Nights

Join us each Saturday night during the summer (begins May 27) for a special indoor/outdoor show! First, come inside our 40-foot diameter dome planetarium for a show (see show titles and dates listed below.) Then, weather permitting, venture outside to the observatory for a look at the real thing.

Summer Nights Show Saturday Schedule

Kentucky Skies - 6/10, 7/1, 7/29, 8/19

Ring World - 6/3, 6/24, 7/22, 8/12, 9/2

Blown Away - 5/27, 6/17, 7/8, 8/5, 8/26

321 Blast Off - 7/15

Show times are 8 pm, Saturday nights only. Doors open at 7:30 pm and close at 8 pm sharp, so be sure to arrive early!

NEW! Friday *Summer Night* Program 8 pm, June and July only. Call 270-924-2233 for more information.

How to Use Your Telescope Sessions will be offered on Saturday, July 8 and August 5 by the West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers volunteers during the *Summer Nights* program at the Golden Pond Planetarium and Observatory. Visitors are encouraged to bring home telescopes and the volunteers will answer questions about how to use their telescopes.

For more information about Land Between The Lakes or Golden Pond Planetarium and Observatory visit www.lbl.org.

Gheens Science Hall and Rauch Planetarium Louisville, KY

Scott Miller reports: This summer we have been pretty busy doing shows for day camps and day cares which have many of the students that visited us this past school year from their respective schools. Not a week goes by without someone recognizing our show staff from programs they saw earlier when they visited with their school. Each seems to have as much fun on this visit as they expressed that they did with their school's visit. And, even though they are not in an educational setting in terms of the group they are with now, they still seem interested in stars, planets, black holes, and other such topics, based on the questions they continue to ask.

Scott Miller, our program coordinator, just returned from this year's SEPA conference. One item recalled was that this conference kept pretty close to the schedule that was set. The one exception seems to be the dinner Wednesday night, delayed because the delegates opted to see a rocket launch - no one seemed to be complaining about that particular break in the schedule! The trip to the Kennedy Space Center was also wonderful. And then there was the hospitality suite. A tip of the hat to John Hare and others for organizing that fun, end-of-the-day (and late into the night!) activity again.

We are in the middle of a transition within the university. The planetarium has been under the Information Technology department for the last 16-17 years. By the time this issue is distributed to the membership, we will be under the College of Education. There is a lot of potential good in this move, the least of which would be our ability to be exposed to up and coming teachers to show them how we might help them prepare their students on a variety of Earth science and astronomy topics, and do that in a way that their students will have fun with. It will also tie us in better to those involved in the implementation of state education standards, allowing us to better tailor our shows to those particular requirements. It should be an interesting time.

Finally, if any of the membership are in the Louisville area during the summer on vacation or on business, feel free to contact the staff here to see what we are doing. We always strive to offer some southern hospitality, even though we are quite a way north in this region.



Irene W. Pennington Planetarium La. Art & Science Museum Baton Rouge, LA

Jon Elvert reports: The Irene W. Pennington Plan-

etarium premiered *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity* in June, which will run through November. For its premier we had the show's director, Thomas Lucas, and its scientific director, Andrew Hamilton, speak to a full house about the production of this fulldome digital show. The premier's evening reception included a black hole martini (Blavod vodka, vermouth, and a cherry). The *Black Holes* show includes an in-house production of the seasonal night sky. Our summer large format film is *Adrenaline Rush* and we continue with *Earth's Wild Ride* as our family show. Our Saturday nights' line up is *SonicVision* and *Pink Floyd: The Wall*, both playing to larger than expected crowds.

The parish school system sent more school children this past year than in 2004 - 05 resulting in a sixteen percent increase in our overall attendance from the previous year, which pleasantly surprised us considering this is our third year of operation. This summer we offered an astronomy camp and a variety of camp group related programs to chose from. We're also offering our annual live presentation about the Perseid Meteor Shower.

Later this summer or early fall we'll be replacing our current cove lighting system with a RGB, LED system that will give us greater flexibility in creating effects in nearly all our shows.

Lafayette Planetarium Lafayette Natural History Museum Lafayette, LA

Dave Hostetter reports: By the end of the school year and early summer, school and public attendance at the Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium was beginning to recover from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Although the Lafayette area escaped both storms, the social havoc they left knocked our attendance down to less than a quarter of the norm for many months. We are looking forward to more normal operations in the next 12 months.

The Planetarium staff is experimenting during the summer with daytime sidewalk astronomy. Each clear Wednesday at lunch, we put out a telescope on the sidewalk near the Museum's front door for

safe viewing of the Sun, Venus, or the Moon. So far we are getting a good reception from Museum visitors and passing businesspeople, averaging about 45 people looking through the telescope per hour. This also gives us an opportunity to remind them of the Museum and pass out little cards with our summer schedule on them. Another summer experiment is to join with our Education Curator and the Children's Museum next door for a series of Cub Scout Programs called a "Looparama." On four Saturdays up to 100 Cub Scouts will visit the two museums and attend hour-long programs qualifying them to win Belt Loops in various topics, including astronomy. We have other outreach programs planned at local libraries and book stores, in addition to our public planetarium programs: *Bear Tales*, *The Sky Tonight*, and *Night Lights*. The staff of the Lafayette Natural History Museum & Planetarium is pleased to have been selected as the host of the 2008 SEPA conference. As always, the last conference set a high standard to match, but we will do our best.

St. Charles Parish Library Planetarium Luling, LA

Gary Meibaum reports: The St. Charles Parish Library Planetarium has been running the Clark Planetarium's *Black Holes* to way above average crowds. Our MEDIAGLOBE projector was up to the task of projecting this very graphically intensive show. Although it was the most expensive show we have ever purchased for our 20-foot theater, we feel it was worth the price in increased attendance and attention from the public. We continue to work on show conversion of traditional image based programs. Using Adobe's Photoshop and After Effects, we are able to breathe new animated life into these older shows. I highly recommend you explore the possibility of doing some animated sequences in your shows whether they are fulldome or via video projection. Barring any devastating hurricanes, our schedule for the fall include an animation of *Wilbear's Adventure* from Youngstown State University and a revisiting of our production of *Loch Ness' Season of Light*.

NORTH CAROLINA

contact: Patsy Wilson
Woodson Planetarium, Salisbury, NC
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Carolina Association of Planetarium Educators (CAPE)

The second annual meeting of North and South Carolina educators was held at the Ingram Planetarium in Sunset Beach on May 8th and 9th. This facility was built in 2001 and houses 85 guests under a 40-foot dome. Mark Jankowski and Dr. Saavik Ford were hosts for the event with around 15 planetariums and speakers attending.

Morehead Planetarium and Science Center Chapel Hill, NC

Mickey Jo Sorrell reports: Busy days at Morehead. We are in the midst of summer camps: a total of 1200 campers over nine weeks, with camp titles like *Astronomical Wonders*, *Night Owls*, *Eyes to the Skies*, *Light & Shadow*, and *Moon, Mars, and Beyond*. Our camps serve grades pre-K to 8. Curriculum writers and camp staff are all students at the University of North Carolina, where we are located.

Star Theater Director, Richard McColman, is deep into production of our newest planetarium show, *Destination: Space*, scheduled to open in late September. This quick tour of space travel past, present, and future is narrated by Walter Cronkite, and features interviews with Buzz Aldrin, Charlie Duke, William Thornton, Katherine Thornton, and Bruce Murray.

This summer also brings MPSC a new Science Center Director. Todd Boyette, a North Carolina native, science educator, and former director of two other NC science museums, will take the reins here in mid-July. We all hope that, with our director in place, we will move smoothly forward into our long-past-due renovations of theater and building.

Richard and Mickey enjoyed their time in Florida at the SEPA conference visiting with many of you. If you are passing through NC please come visit us.

Robeson Planetarium and Science Center Public Schools of Robeson County Lumberton, NC

Ken Brandt reports: We were very busy running public school shows throughout the spring. In addition we also celebrated the safe return of our SEPA region astronaut, Bill McArthur of Robeson County. During the summer I have a bit of time for reflection about the school year and the programs I conduct. It never ceases to amaze me that simply dousing the coves and bringing up the night sky can cause so many "oohs and ahhs"! What a great profession we are in!

We will be running summer programs and doing special shows for a multitude of day care groups and summer camps.

PARI StarLab Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute Rosman, NC

Bob Hayward reports: PARI is pleased to announce that Christi Whitworth has joined the staff as a full-time Science Educator. She will assume responsibilities as the primary STARLAB educator at PARI among many other ongoing and planned educational programs. Christi has worked with the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, TX as their STARLAB outreach educator. We will certainly get her involved in SEPA. Bob Hayward will remain on staff part-time in a support capacity along with other responsibilities.

Summer programs are in full swing at PARI. The Duke TIP (Talent Identification Program) has just finished. This program involved twenty high school students in residence on the PARI campus for two weeks. Later in the summer we will have a new program called SSL (Space Science Lab). This program will host thirty at-risk students each summer from three county school systems in the area. These

students will be on campus at PARI for a week during the summer and then will have follow-up sessions throughout the school year. The program is funded by the Burroughs-Wellcome Foundation for three years.

PARI will also be hosting the Morehead Planetarium's OBSERVE program for teachers twice this summer. We will also work with the local Pisgah Forest Institute in their environmental science education program for teachers.

The multimedia and physics students from UNC-Asheville and Furman University in Greenville, SC gave a presentation on their development of a radio sky STARLAB cylinder at a recent meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Washington, DC.

A volunteer has made good headway in cataloging the historical astronomical plates coming to PARI for archiving and digitizing. Eventually PARI hopes to do this with plates from all over the world in order to preserve this valuable resource.

Margaret C. Woodson Planetarium Horizons Unlimited, Rowan-Salisbury Schools Salisbury, NC

Patsy Wilson reports: The ASH Enterprises upgrade to her facility is complete. Nearly all slide projectors have been replaced by three video projectors. The automation systems has been switched to East Coast Control Systems equipment. This project, funded by grants, has created program opportunities for sharing the latest images of current missions, using many new DVDs, and enhancing the visitor's experience. For the first time, the planetarium is networked for internet access and a new PowerBook G4 has been purchased for exclusive use in planetarium programming. A new mixer and rewiring of the cove lighting system were last minute additions to the project that have made an incredible difference in the quality of the planetarium environment. I am now in the process of writing and reprogramming current shows to work with the new equipment.

At this writing, we are busy preparing for the

summer Space Explorer's camp. For five years, this camp has been offered to rising third and fourth graders who do a variety of interactive, hands-on activities. This year, we are focusing on the current space missions to Mars, Saturn, Mercury and Pluto. We are also offering public shows on a limited basis to the community and children's groups.

SOUTH CAROLINA

contact: Glenn Dantzler
Settlemyre Planetarium, Rock Hill, SC
dantzler@chmuseums.org



DuPont Planetarium Ruth Patrick Science Ed. Ctr., USC Aiken, SC

News from the DuPont Planetarium: The Dupont Planetarium at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (RPSEC) on the campus of the University of South Carolina Aiken in conjunction with the Astronomy Club of Augusta sponsored a very successful "Earth and Sky Night" on National Astronomy Day, May 6, 2006. Our featured speaker, Bobby Thompson, presented a wonderful talk on dark sky observing and how to save the night sky. A number of members of the Astronomy Club of Augusta set up their telescopes on the lawn to provide great views of the night sky to our visitors. The Bechtel Telescope in the RPSEC Observatory was also available for the guests.

On the topic of the telescope, it has been having some difficulty lately. The Bechtel Telescope is a 16" Meade, LX-200 and has had a recurrence of the "run-away drive" problem. The same problem occurred three years earlier, which resulted in sending the telescope back to Meade for repair. Discussions on how to rectify the situation are in progress.

In June, the planetarium presented *In My Backyard* from the Calgary Science Centre and *Digistar Virtual Journey*, which is a local production. In July *Blown Away: The Wild World of Weather* by The

New Detroit Science Center and *Digistar "Laser" Fantasy* were shown to the public. In August, the planetarium will present *The Explorers of Mauna Kea* produced by the Bishop Planetarium in Hawaii and have an encore presentation of *Digistar Virtual Journey*.

During the summer months, the planetarium and the RPSEC offer programs for student groups. Most of the patrons for these shows are local agencies that have summer camps for children. They choose to bring the students to the planetarium and RPSEC for a variety of hands-on programs and planetarium shows. This is very much like having school groups, except that the children are bit more lively since it is their summer break. The same shows listed above are available for these groups with the addition of a few other shows that can be presented easily without having to switch slide trays.

**Settlemyre Planetarium
Museum of York County
Rock Hill, SC**

Glenn Dantzler reports: Our Spring season was very successful one with busses of kids arriving daily. It was a hectic but rewarding time both from the stand point of numbers as well as personal satisfaction of introducing children to the wonders of the universe.

We here at the Settlemyre are enjoying a productive summer as well. We are offering two shows on Thursday and Friday as well as weekend programming. Our plans for the fall quarter weekend programming is to offer *Ring World II*, *The Space Bus*, and two presentations of *Carolina Skies*. This seems to work best for us on weekends. We also had a successful star party on the lake in June. About 125 people viewed Saturn, Jupiter, and the first quarter moon. All in all a good start to summer!

Any planetariums in South Carolina wishing to submit an article, please send me your email addresses and I will send you a reminder when your article is due. I know you are out there - I have talked to you!

That's it from South Carolina and have a great summer.

TENNESSEE
contact: Kris McCall
Sudekum Planetarium
Nashville, TN
krismccall@adventuresci.com



**Bays Mountain Planetarium
Kingsport, TN**

Adam Thanz reports: Wow! The 2006 SEPA conference that was held in Cocoa, Florida has been quite an experience! Kudos to those involved that made the event so successful. A reminder to all those who attended; if you haven't already done so, please send me your photos on a CD so I can include them with the archive. If you gave a presentation, I will be contacting you to get your materials if I haven't already done so. Many thanks to all those who already have!

Our Summer show, *Sky Tellers*, runs through August. It has been well-received by audience members of all ages. We are currently working on a new show for the Fall. It is untitled at this time as I am still writing it. It will cover such topics as the moon and its phases as well as constellations, but in a fun, crazy way.

During the summer months, I have been lucky to be able to hire a high-school intern to do most of the public planetarium shows. She is also helping with our Park's day camp experience by leading a film canister rocket activity. Her name is Amanda Greer and she's doing really well. Related to hiring, we are hoping to have someone hired for the planetarium educational interpreter position by July/August 2006. By the next journal, I should let you know who that person is.

Our Astronomy Day events for 2006 went great. Over a dozen of our astronomy club members helped out. There was the premier of the planetarium show, *Sky Tellers* (which sold out for both shows), five special presentations were given by our members, there was solar and nighttime viewing, and we had a storyteller! Our astronomy club is now getting ready to host its annual regional star

party called StarFest. It will be held Oct. 14-15, 2006 and is lots of fun. One of our artists, Deborah Mann, is working on an original T-shirt design of Andromeda and it looks really good. Registrations go out in early August. If you want to attend, send me your address and maybe we'll see you here at the peak of the autumn colors in beautiful East Tennessee!

**Sudekum Planetarium
Adventure Science Center
Nashville, TN**

Kris McCall and Drew Gilmore report: Their new solar system program, *Nine Planets and Counting*, premiered June 1, 2006. This completely original production explores that nagging dilemma in astronomy today, just how many planets are there in our solar system? It includes a tour of the solar system, information about new discoveries beyond Pluto, writing that won't be outdated next week, and a completely digital visual set so that images can be easily updated. The show has been very well received by our summer audiences of families and groups. The script was also developed to meet curriculum requirements for grades three and up. There are layers of information in the show so that different viewers can take away different content based on their age and experience.

Of course, the show is available for sale to other planetariums. The show kit with digital image and mask files can be yours for just \$600. If you want us to handle the output to film, add \$750. And we can even arrange to have the approximately 400 slides mounted in glass mounts. Just call Kris for all the details.

As for the status of our expansion project, work continues. We begin preparation of Construction Documents this summer. The big public announcement will not take place until October when the Mayor kicks off the city's 200th anniversary. At the same time we are working on drawings for the new building, there is still a FULL schedule of programs to be presented; not to mention packing or disposing of every stitch of equipment and material that has accumulated within the walls of the Sudekum Planetarium over the last 32 years. Some of that stuff

will be made available to other facilities - as soon as we have an inventory list to share with you.

VIRGINIA
contact: Dave Maness
Virginia Living Museum
Newport News, VA
david.maness@valivingmuseum



**Alexandria Challenger Center
Alexandria, VA**

Patrick McQuillan reports that the move from Jacksonville, Florida to northern Virginia went as well as can be expected. He is now enjoying having a floor below ground (a basement) and the flooding worries that can generate. He can be reached at the address and phone number below.
pmcquillan@challenger.org
Phone - 703-683-9740 ext. 353

**Chesapeake Planetarium
Chesapeake Public Schools
Chesapeake, VA**

Dr. Robert Hitt reports: Not much news from the Chesapeake Planetarium. We hope to get new carpet in the planetarium this summer. We are working hard to get all the 2nd and 1st graders in the planetarium before the school term ends in June. We have around 6,000 students in those two grade levels. We will also see almost 2000 students in 6th grade level during the month of April.

Personally, I will be off on March 17th to see the total solar eclipse off the coast of Egypt on March 29th. I hope to produce an educational DVD video of the eclipse suitable for showing in the planetarium. A time lapse movie of the eclipse day activities is also planned that will hopefully show the moon's shadow passing over the crowd.

If any SEPA members want to follow along you can click on the planetarium's web site button found at www.cpschools.com. You can also see some of the photos from the last two solar eclipse trips on our

web site. Let's hope the skies are clear!

Summer update: Robert is running *The Summer Stars* highlighting the wonders of the summer sky through August and then *The Unknown Universe* opens in September.

**John C. Wells Planetarium
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA**

Dr. Jon Staib reports: The John C. Wells Planetarium is not in operation at the present time. In May of last year, the physics department at James Madison University moved to a new building housing the physics and chemistry departments. We now have new hi-tech classrooms, new faculty offices, and wonderful new laboratories and equipment supporting our undergraduate research efforts in nuclear physics, material science, astrophysics, and computational sciences. JMU is one of the national leaders in undergraduate science research.

Unfortunately no planetarium was included in this new facility. Our old science building, Miller Hall, will undergo renovation for the next 2 years. This means that everything within is shut down - including the John C. Wells Planetarium. The planetarium will undergo the typical asbestos removal and sprinkler system upgrades, but there does not seem to be a budget for bringing the planetarium itself into the 21st century. So for the time being the future of our facility is in some doubt. I hope to relay better news in the future.

Many thanks go to Jane Hastings for reporting on the passing of John Wells in the last issue. John was a long time faculty member and department head in the JMU physics department. He was a true gentleman and valued friend and colleague. He was respected throughout the campus as a leader and innovator in science education.

**Virginia Living Museum Planetarium
Newport News, VA**

Dave Maness reports: Winter was slow for school programs due to our change (increase) in pricing

for school contracts. The increase was primarily due to the State failing to live up to its prior commitment to us. On top of that, the fuel price increase made it very costly for schools to secure transportation for fieldtrips.

The planetarium program was *Deep Impact* but by the time you read this we will be running a daily live guided tour through the night sky. On weekends we will alternate this offering with a family laser program from AVI on the SkyLase system.

Speaking of lasers, we are testing the market by reviving rock and roll programs on the weekends with a couple of variety shows along with *Pink Floyd*, *Metallica*, and *Led Zeppelin*. Surveying our summer audiences for preferences indicates that they are more interested in entertainment than education at that time of year. So we plan to alternate daytime showings of *Cowboy Astronomer* from Loch Ness productions and a laser program. Don't get me wrong, *Cowboy Astronomer* is a fine program and by no means devoid of educational value. It was simply chosen in order to tie in with our new changing exhibit called *The Scoop on Poop*.

As an aside note, I am curious if anyone out there has attended as many county fairs as I have and is familiar with a country game of chance called "Bossie Bingo". Picture a small rectangular penned area with a grid pattern on the ground. Add one cow and plenty of feed and wait. Get the picture? Funny, I couldn't get administration interested in repeating this for our grand opening of the exhibit. Anyway this new touring exhibit deals with everything scatological and "drops" in on us for the summer in June. We are the first venue on the tour schedule. For more information contact Clyde Peeling's Reptiland <http://www.reptiland.com/exhibit.html>.

In September we plan to open a program that includes sections from *Skytellers*, a great program of Native American stories. We will feature *Tales of Coyote* at that time.

Our *Wild and Starry Nights* are continuing and have been quite successful with night sky observing, planetarium programs, and talks by NASA and other nature, science, and technology experts. July will feature a scientist from the SOHO project and

August will include a talk by a NASA scientist about Stardust. Sponsorship has been steady, so admission for these evening events continues to be free.

Any Virginia Planetarian with news to share with SEPA should contact Dave Maness at david.maness@valivingmuseum.org or 757-595-1900 ext.231

**Planetarium
Children's Museum of Virginia
Portsmouth, VA**

Dan Borick reports: Well spring is officially here, but where is the warm weather? I have been rather busy hosting Portsmouth Public Schools grades 3 - 6 this year. I am just finishing up with our sixth graders. The shows were SOL driven and all of our students in those grades funnel through the planetarium. Now as we get into April, we get many outside schools from pre k - middle school. Now is also the time I revamp older shows with graphics displayed on our video projector from the Spitz Emedia machine. Emedia is really a great substitute for slews, making titles and updating images from NASA sources. Spring is also a time when I put finishing touches on new shows. Our two newest show packages are *WSKY* and *Planet Patrol 2 Star Stealers*.

The scheduled shows for the spring and summer are:

April - *Mystery of the Missing Seasons*

May - *Lifestyles of the Stars*

June 1 - July 20 *WSKY*

July 21 - August 20 *Sky Quest*

August 21 - Oct. 1 *Planet Patrol 2 Star Stealers*

I will also be field testing a show for the Lawrence Hall of Science entitled *Our Very Own Star*.

On a personal note I am going to Alaska this summer to work on the NASA sponsored AIM project using GLOBE protocols to study the mesospheric noctilucent clouds associated with global warming. August is my 25 wedding anniversary, so two weeks after going to Alaska, I will be going back on a cruise with my wife.

**Thomas Jefferson HS Planetarium
Richmond, VA**

Leslie Bochenski reports: Not much news to report since the Planetarium is closed for repairs (AGAIN!) The plaster that lines the roof over the dome is falling off in golfball-size chunks, and the school board says that repairs cannot begin until summer vacation. All the plastic covers on the equipment are covered in plaster dust, as are the chairs and new carpet.

In the meantime, I am taking the show on the road. I've been performing the 3rd and 4th grade programs at the elementary schools. So despite the closure of the dome, we're still looking at *The Moon's Changing Face* and we're still *Spinning in Space*, just not under the stars.

Speaking of *Spinning in Space*, I'll be presenting a workshop on this program (which is from "Kinesthetic Astronomy") at the conference!

Leslie is the SEPA Historian. So if you are a past officer, have old journals or other information that should be included in the archive, please contact me at Bochenski@verizon.net.

**Itinerant Planetarians
Jane and George Hastings
Richmond, VA**

While George was enjoying some family time with his son on the new boat, Jane was partaking in the proceedings and camaraderie of the 2006 SEPA conference in Cocoa, Florida. She and George continue to lecture at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond.

**Ethyl Corporation IMAX®DOME
& Planetarium
Science Museum of Virginia
Richmond, VA**

Ken Wilson reports: He observed and photographed the March 29 total solar eclipse from the cruise ship *Ocean Monarch*. One of his photographs appears in the July issue of Astronomy magazine.

