

# Southern Skies

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**STS-131**

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# President's Message

## Jon Elvert

Irene W Pennington Planetarium  
Baton Rouge, LA

We all know how important audience feedback is when it comes to hearing how our planetarium programs are received. Here in Baton Rouge, we assess our shows by requesting written feedback on questionnaires given to teachers prior to their museum visit. Teachers are asked the obligatory questions of how grade appropriate the show was, how well their students liked the show, did they make use of the pre- post related activities, etc. For the most part, this feedback is read cursorily by staff and

although some feedback suggestions may be acted upon, most are simply filed away. The most useful feedback, however, is what's said spontaneously by students exiting the theater immediately following a show. Not necessarily a student's "wow that was cool" or a teacher's "best field-trip ever" remark, but those that imply material was actually learned or a spark of interest ignited, an "aha" moment revealed by an enthusiastic student expressing the pleasure of learning, whether by the presenter's demonstration or what visual they saw that made them say "I get it now!" Following a show, I've had students (and elementary grade teachers) tell me that they finally understood the moon phases better, or grasp the idea that it takes time for light to travel, or "getting it" when it comes to knowing that seasons are caused by the Earth's axial tilt and orbital location. I don't hear feedback like this regularly, but every time I do, it reaffirms the planetarium as an effective learning environment. My primary motivation in planetarium education is to engage and motivate audiences, not just with stunning digital manipulation of visuals, but by making connections to the real world around them, as well as making astronomy (science) learning more accessible and compelling.

I'm hoping you've already made plans to attend the Bays Mountain conference. Adam Thanz and his staff have done an exceptional job at putting this

*(Continued on page 11)*

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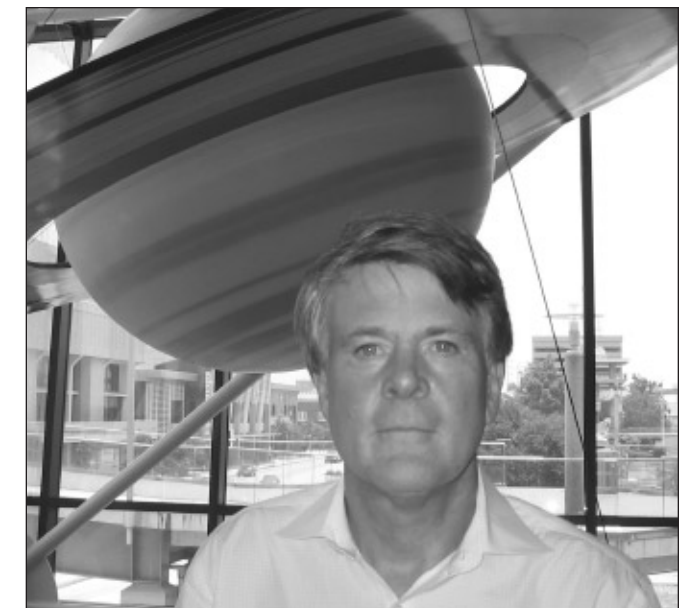
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Rates and submission formats for advertising space in SEPA's quarterly journal *Southern Skies* are:

Rates	Dimensions
\$100. high	Full-page 7" wide x 10" high
\$50. high	Half-page 7" wide x 4.5" high
\$25.	Quarter-page 3" wide x 4" high

These rates are per issue and in B&W copy. The entire back cover of our journal is also available either in B&W for \$125, or in color for \$150. A 10% discount to any size ad can be offered only with a year's (four issues) commitment of advertising. Ads accepted on a space available basis. Ads must be camera ready and conform to dimensions listed. Payment must accompany advertisement order, made payable to the Southeastern Planetarium Association (send payment to Secretary/Treasurer Mickey Jo Sorrell). The underlying mission of our advertisements is to promote resources, products, and services related to the planetarium profession. SEPA reserves the right to refuse advertisements.



SEPA President Jon Elvert



# IPS Report

**John Hare**  
**ASH Enterprises**  
**Bradenton, FL**

IPS 2010 will be held in Alexandria, Egypt June 26-30. The IPS Council will meet just prior to the conference on June 25 and 26. The IPS Council is comprised of 1 representative from each of the 22 affiliate organizations, plus the officers of IPS. The 2-day meetings are filled with committee reports, affiliate reports, officer reports, task force reports, presentations from future and prospective conference hosts, review of policies and by-laws, and other miscellaneous business of the Society. Jet-lagged delegates are always challenged to remain alert during the 2 long days of the meetings!

Preliminary conference invitations have been received for the 2014 IPS conference. So far Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Toulouse, France, and Athens, Greece have indicated they will submit formal bids. The deadline for receiving formal bids is June 25, 2010. If your site is interested in submitting an invi-

tation please contact me for bidding details. The selection of the 2014 IPS conference site will take place at the off-year Council meeting to be held sometime in the summer of 2011.

I will attend both the IPS conference and the Council meeting in Alexandria. Please contact me prior to June 23 if you have any items of business you wish me to bring before Council.

Don't forget, Baton Rouge will host the 2012 IPS conference. The dates are July 22 - 26.

On a related IPS-note, the APLF, the French speaking affiliate has developed a global list of worldwide planetariums. The site contains most planetariums and has pictures, contact and equipment data, and most importantly, an interactive Google map of the planetarium's location. They ask that you review your facility for correctness and to submit additional pictures. You can access the site by going to: <http://www.aplf-planetariums.info/index.php?onglet=planetariums&menu=world> Click on English (flag) unless you prefer French, then click on *Planetariums*. This will take you to a World map where you can click on the location of interest.

# Editor's Message

**James Sullivan**  
**Buehler Planetarium & Observatory**  
**Davie, FL**

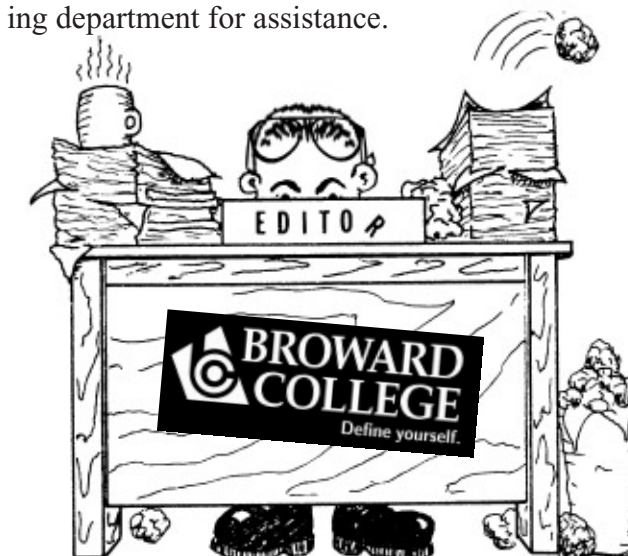
It's been a while since I told you how this journal really gets put together. It wouldn't happen if it weren't for the group effort: Sandy Barnard for proofing, Travis Wright and Cesar Varela for art/graphics, and Susan Barnett for computer layout skills. In addition, I am grateful for the playdates at Broward College's Printing Department, with Sam Perez, Vinnie Sica and Wanda Sims, with assists by Victor Flores, Otis Drummer, George Kidwell and Annatalia Haycinthe. Without them, the ink toner would not be on the page. It's all hands on deck for the envelope stuffing, sealing and labeling. And yes, the Mark I human tongue still gets the job done. I just wish the envelopes came in a nicer flavor.

The other critical people are everyone who contributes news, columns, and articles: thank you.

We can receive electronic files in most any format. We encourage you to include images, but please send them as individual files. 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 Broward College 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 to SEPA, c/o Mickey Jo Sorrell, Morehead Planetarium & Science Center, CB#3480 UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599.

\_\_\_\_ One Year, \$25 (\$15 outside SEPA geographical region)

\_\_\_\_ Two Years, \$40

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

As I write this, spring has definitely sprung and the weather is warm outside. The massive snow is all gone and here at Hedgesville, the last nine weeks grading period is well underway. Also are the end-of year field trips to the planetarium.

For the first time in 23 years, I was not set up for visitors when they arrived at the door on March 30, 2010. What was going on? Plenty, that was the problem. A teacher had asked me to do a Spectral Analysis of the Stars Program for their self-contained class. I developed this program originally for our chemistry teacher, Ms. Guepte's chemistry class. She asked if I could do something to talk about chemistry of the stars, so I developed this program. The funny thing about it was, I saved it to an old floppy 5 ¼ inch diskette that I run automation for a laser disk player. Yes, I still use a laser disk player and have a Laser Computer with JHE automation. Yes, I need to update my equipment; no I don't have any money to do it.

Anyway, on the floppy, I saw the program "Spectra Program" called it up and it refused to boot, so I had to totally rewrite the cues. I got it to work and did show it to Ms. Guepte's chemistry class. I did it in two parts, one part was to learn how to read traditional spectra,

to learn how to find out a star's composition and the other was to learn how to put together an H-R Diagram. I do one part in the classroom and another part in the planetarium



where I discuss and find what bright stars are currently in the sky and what spectral type they are. After hearing about the program, Mr. Thomas, the self contained teacher, wanted me to do a small portion of the program with his classes and chose a day we had block scheduling. I said fine, knowing I had a kindergarten class coming in for a couple programs on the 31st of March. While my astronomy students were taking a quiz on Women Astronomers for Women's History Month, I was going to set up the planetarium. They do a "Pass Around The Pointer" session in the planetarium. This is a program where we attach red laser pointers to long white sticks with plumbing clamps. (This makes it easier to see in the dark who is using the pointers, and necessary after my favorite laser pointer disappeared.) Then I pass it around a la "Constellation Shootout" style until students run out of things to point out. Then we move to another sky. Before we move to another sky in a different date and time, everyone must find something different, no repeats. If a student repeats something that was already found, then the student loses all extra credit points up until that time. Payoff is 3 points per constellation, 2 points for an asterism and one point for a star, planet or other sky object. Anyway, as I was setting up for the "Pass Around The Pointer" session, I heard the distinctive voices of kindergarten students outside my door. Oops, weren't they supposed to come tomorrow? Check the schedule, oh no, I booked that program back in September before they switched the school schedule to block scheduling to accommodate classes doing the writing assessment! I had glanced at the schedule several times earlier and for some reason, it kept registering as March 31st. rather than March 30th. Ms. Samantha Thomas to the rescue. She covered my astronomy students while I did a program for the kindergarten classes. Except for flip flopping the two programs they were to see, everything went off without a hitch. (Luckily for me, they went to lunch at Burger King in between programs and I got a chance to reset projectors from my "Current Sky" program to my "Sun, Moon and Stars" program. That's what I get for doing 17 different programs and not checking the schedule more carefully. Being a small planetarium, I do all the scheduling myself and I request it in writing, since, because I teach as well, I may not get a chance to get to the telephone in time to book a program. When I get 90 or so mes-

(Continued on page 13)

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# SEPA Candidates

**Candidate for President-Elect**  
**Kelly Herbst**  
**Virginia Living Museum**  
**Planetarium**  
**Newport News, VA**

It is an honor and a privilege to be asked to serve as President of the Southeastern Planetarium Association. It's also quite exciting! As planetarians, we have a unique opportunity to inspire, educate, and expand the minds of those who visit our domes. As members of the SEPA community, we have the opportunity to do the same for one another. SEPA and its members hold a special place in my heart, for all that you have done for me, and all that you have taught me.

Born and raised in New York City, my first planetarium was the classic Hayden in the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. I say it was mine, because I practically lived there, spending long days in not only the theater but the magical Hall of Astronomy next to it. I got to work in my first planetarium while earning my undergraduate degree in physics at Wagner College in New York. I began working at what is now the Abbitt planetarium as a volunteer while earning my Ph.D. in theoretical nuclear physics from the College of William and Mary. I am now the Astronomy Curator for the Virginia Living Museum,



**Candidate for President-Elect**  
**David Dundee**  
**Tellus Science Museum**  
**Planetarium**  
**Cartersville, GA**

It's an honor to be nominated for president of SEPA. I have been in the planetarium field for 35 years. My career began in Tucson, Arizona at the Flandrau Planetarium, as night manager and presenting a variety of programs. At the Hayden Planetarium in New York, I was intern astronomer for the next two years. I spent my next 30 years at Fernbank Science Center's planetarium serving as astronomer and planetarium chairman. It was at Fernbank I had the pleasure of hosting two SEPA conferences. For the past two years I have had the exciting challenge of establishing a new digital planetarium and new observatory at the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. Planetariums and igniting people's interest in the beauty of the starry sky have always been a passion of mine.

In these tight economic times SEPA becomes an even more vital organization as a lifeline of



**Candidate for IPS Representative**  
**John Hare**  
**Ash Enterprises**  
**Bradenton, FL**

I have been involved in the planetarium profession since 1963. I was on staff at Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University when we played a key role in the formation of GLPA and was an integral part of the team that helped organize the founding meeting of IPS, the CAPE conference, held at Michigan State University in October 1970. My career led me to Bishop Planetarium in Bradenton in 1979 where I hosted two SEPA conferences, 1984 and 1993. I served as president of SEPA in 1985-86. Since leaving my position as director of the Bishop Planetarium in 1996, I have continued to play an active role in the business and professional aspects of a large number of planetarium organizations, and the planetarium field in general. I present talks, workshops and papers that deal with a variety of topics of interest to the planetarium community, and attend many regional planetarium conferences in North America and elsewhere.

I have been a participant in all SEPA Conferences since 1979 and all IPS Conferences since



**Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Patsy Wilson**  
**Horizons Unlimited**  
**Margaret C. Woodson Planetarium**  
**Salisbury, NC**

Greetings! I'm Patsy Wilson, a candidate for SEPA Secretary-Treasurer.

Currently, I'm a staff of one at the Margaret C. Woodson Planetarium at Horizons Unlimited in Salisbury, NC. Our facility is a hands-on science and nature enrichment center that is owned and operated by the Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

I've been employed as a science specialist there for eighteen years, fourteen of those in the planetarium. Before that, I spent seven years as a classroom teacher working with 4th, 5th and 6th grade students.

I've been a member of SEPA since 1995. During that time, I have attended numerous conferences and presented several papers. I currently serve as reporter of NC news to the Southern Skies and am on the Committee to secure bids for conference hosts. In 2004, I became the President-elect for one year. I served as President for the next two years and



which involves everything from producing my own shows to introducing three-year-olds to the wonders of the night sky. I am a member of IPS, the NASA Museum Alliance, a Patricia Roberts Harris Fellow, and 3-time winner of the "Best TA" award at William and Mary (as chosen by students!). I'm especially proud of that one, for although it carries no great prize or national recognition, it means I touched the lives of many college students during my years as a teaching assistant.

We live in an age when technology has become commonplace. Even the youngest child these days can operate a cell phone, surf the internet, and use a computer. But for all our technological savvy, our science is suffering. Ask any tech-immersed teenager how their cell phone works, and you'll be hard pressed to get a coherent answer. We are losing touch with the science that allowed us to develop this marvelous technology which now permeates our daily lives. As planetarians, we have the tools to bring students of all ages to an understanding of the science behind the gadgetry...whatever the gadgetry may be. Technology with no understanding of the science behind it is dark wizardry. A knowledge of the science that makes the technology possible is magic of a different kind - the magic of understanding how your universe works. As President of SEPA, it would be my goal to assist all of our members in bringing their guests to the amazing realization that science is something they can understand...something they can do.

In addition to life under the dome, I have a wonderful husband of 13 years and we are the proud parents of the cutest 6-year-old girl ever to come out of China. I enjoy singing, reading, acting, and am still an avid gamer. In short, I'm a girl geek, and loving it. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve a community I love so greatly!

information to help all survive and hopefully thrive in planetariums throughout the Southeast. As president I would seek to strengthen ways to communicate to our membership through our journal and web site. I would like to investigate a way to establish a mentoring system for new planetarians to excel in their new profession. Also to continue to maintain the high standards of our conferences so that SEPA can continue to help members in our region.

their founding. I am planning to attend this year's IPS conference in Alexandria, Egypt.

*Professional affiliations:*

- International Planetarium Society (IPS), member since 1971
- IPS Historian, 1990 to present
- Southeastern Planetarium Association (SEPA), member since 1979
- President 1985-86
- Conference host 1984 and 1993
- IPS Council Representative 1984-86, 1993 to present
- Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society (MAPS), member since 1996
- Great Lakes Planetarium Association (GLPA), member since 1996
- Great Plains Planetarium Association (GPPA), member since 1996
- Rocky Mountain Planetarium Association (RMPA), member since 1997
- Pacific Planetarium Association (PPA), member since 1998
- Southwestern Planetarium Association (SWAP), member since 2002

*Professional recognitions:*

- IPS Fellow, 1986-present
- IPS Service Award, 2000
- SEPA Paul Campbell Fellowship Award, 2001
- GLPA Armand Spitz Lecturer, 1996
- GLPA Fellow, 2003-present

My experience, interests, and widespread travel combine to offer a strong voice in deal-

ings with IPS on behalf of SEPA. I would be honored to continue in my role as IPS Council representative.

Thank you for your support!

Past-President for two additional years.

I hold membership in IPS and CAPE (Carolinas Association of Planetarium Educators). I am affiliated with the Museum Alliance and Solar System Ambassadors program.

I have been secretary-treasurer of numerous organizations including PTA, Junior Woman's Club, Church Women's and Youth groups. My five years on council have given me a greater understanding of the inner workings of SEPA and the skills necessary to keep accurate and detailed records for the organization. If elected, I will serve SEPA with diligence and care.

conference together and making it financially feasible for all. For last minute updates and information, go to: [www.sepadomes.org](http://www.sepadomes.org). At the conference, we'll be electing officers to serve on Council. As of this writing, David Dundee (Tellus Museum in Cartersville, GA) and Kelly Herbst (Virginia Living Museum in Newport News, VA) are running for SEPA president. Patsy Wilson (Margaret C. Woodson Planetarium) is running for SEPA Secretary/Treasurer, and John Hare of Ash Enterprises is up for re-election as our IPS Council Representative. I thank David, Kelly, Patsy and John for considering these positions. If anyone else would like to put their names in for one of these positions, please contact someone on Council. You have until the pre-business meeting at the conference in Bays Mountain. I also want to express my appreciation to Mickey Jo Sorrell for having served as our Secretary/Treasurer for the past three years (and will continue to do so through this year). Mickey has done an exemplary job and SEPA has become a better organization with her help.

I would also like to thank Adam Thanz for heading up the search for election candidates, as well as April Whitt for heading up a 2012 SEPA conference host search committee. Having had to contact numerous sites for our 2011 conference, I know how frustrating and hard it can be sometimes to get commitments from willing people and places. April will give us an update on her committee's results at Bays Mountain.

Let me return to my opening remarks about planetariums as a source of student learning and motivation. I recently was reminded that both large and small planetariums continue to be in peril of closing their doors, whether due to funding (lack of), reduction in staff (RIF), loss of political will, or a school superintendent making the absurd assumption that "students who want to study the stars can do so on the Internet." This statement recently came from the Arlington, VA school district superintendent who intends to close the David M. Brown Planetarium. This superintendent also assumed it would take half-a-million dollars to upgrade the existing optical/mechanical instrument to a digital system. Why did he think the planetarium needed a digital system? For many school planetarium educators or directors, it's a daunting task to defend their planetarium in face of closure - whether real or perceived. However, it's easier today to get letters of support from colleagues across the country, or getting guidance from planetarians who have successfully gone through a closure challenge before. Having a track record of positive audience feedback, good promotion of your planetarium, and community advocacy/support groups are the best remedies in making sure the planetarium doors stay open.

Recently, a parent and her son came out of a public show and told me they had visited relatives in Nashville, TN where they attended a planetarium show at the Adventure Science Center. This family had previously never been to a planetarium and when they returned to Baton Rouge, they made a point to come to the planetarium here. The parent told me they would visit planetariums in other cities on future vacations.

*Correction: In my previous winter president's message, I incorrectly listed Drew Gilmore's last name.*



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*Small Talk (Continued from page 6)*

sages in a day and being only one person without a secretary, keeping them coming in writing, helps keep me sane. ) Are you in a small planetarium? Do you have any stories to relate to share about how you schedule planetarium programs? Any snafus occur along the way? Send them along and I would love to share them.

Evening and weekend planetarium programs I do out of the kindness of my heart when I have a free evening or weekend. Recently I did some Girl Scout programs for the local Girl Scout chapter and there were all sorts of brownies, daises, etc. mixed together. I made a comment to a colleague who worked in a museum mentioning that with volunteering my time, the girl scouts, who were working on merit badges, were very rude, even with scout leaders accompanying them. One girl came up to me at the end of the program and said, "Well, I am glad, it is over." Geeze, I didn't think it was that bad. And you do get a merit badge out of it for your effort. What is the deal? The colleague remarked that, "Girl Scouts are the worst. For some reason, Boy Scouts do what you tell them and follow the schedule you set for them. When you get a group of Girl Scouts, she says, they want special favors at the last minute without paying for them, or request last minute scheduling changes." Girl Scout stories, anyone? C'mon, I am sure, not all Girl Scouts create havoc in the planetarium or museum. Send me a story about a great experience to prove this idea incorrect.

Recently, I did a simple spring sky program with the general public. There was an overwhelming response to it, even though I did not have much time to promote it. Why is it that when I do great promotion about a program, no one shows and when I do little, I get a big crowd? Could it be that I picked a day when there wasn't much else going on in town? Do you have any thoughts on promoting your planetarium in hard recessionary times? Send them along, especially if you are a small planetarium, in either size or staff or budget. (I qualify on all three accounts!)

I think I have shared with you that the high school astronomy students that I teach, are working with scientists from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and data from the Robert C. Byrd

Radio Telescope in Green Bank, West Virginia. They are analyzing plots of folded data that may contain newly discovered pulsars. So far two students in the program have found objects in the data. Lucas Bolyard, a sophomore at South Harrison High School in Clarksburg, WV, and Shay Bloxton of Nicolas County in Summersville, WV discovered objects. Shay discovered a pulsar and Lucas a RRAT, which is a "Rotating Radio Transient" a new kind of celestial object that gives off periodic pulsar-like radiation on an irregular basis. Astronomers think this is some sort of transient object that pulsars might evolve into when they get old. We don't know much about them. Lucas got to go to the star party on the White House lawn last October. Some of you might have read about that event in The Planetarian if you are an International Planetarium Society Member. Anyway, links to learn more about our discoveries can be found at:

<http://www.nrao.edu/pr/2009/pulsarstudent/>  
<http://www.pulsarsearchcollaboratory.com/>

Just a brief plug for my students participating in the program. During the two pulsar search marathons, where all the high school teams are competing to look at the most data during a given time, my students won. Both for the three day marathon in January and the weeklong Marathon in March, (called, what else, "March Madness") my student team won. Hedgesville High School beat out 11 other high schools in five states in January and three students scored in the top ten individual scores with two coming in first and third place. In March, students beat out 17 other high schools in five states for first place once again, and three again made the top ten,



*Josh Dudenhofer shows off the new bookbag he won for his team coming in first during the Pulsar Search Marathon.*





*April Liska, our pulsar team leader found three good looking potential pulsar plots to warrant 30 minutes of time on the Robert C. Byrd Radio Telescope April 3rd. At \$50.00 a minute to run, that is one expensive observing run for a high school student.*



*"Eagle Eye Observers" take a stretch break during the Pulsar search marathon in March, dubbed "March Madness. Believe me, it really was!"*

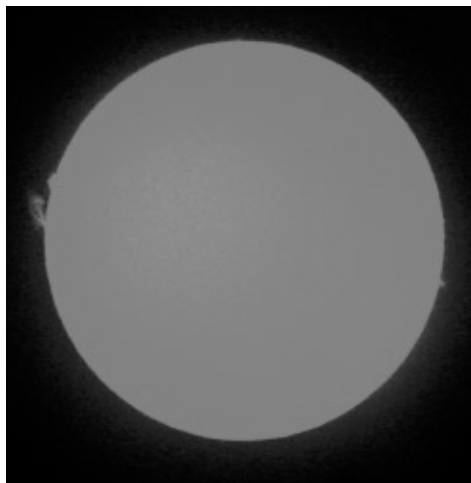


*Larry Alphin smiles for the camera after checking out another potential pulsar plot.*

although none came in the top three this time. Go read about us at the above links. In January, the team received very nice NRAO book bags. In March we are gathering up t-shirt sizes to get t-shirts as prizes. Now on to the Capstone event of the teams at West Virginia

University in May.

Those days when you set up a telescope outside the planetarium to view the sun and it looks like a big blank quiet disk are coming to an end. Dave Hostetter of the planetarium in Lafayette, LA, Conrad Jung, of Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, CA and I were sharing our views of a very persistent prominence visible on the limb of the sun a few weeks ago in hydrogen alpha.



*Photograph taken by Conrad Jung, March 18, 2010. The camera was a Canon SX110IS point-and-shoot camera attached to a 60mm Lunt H-alpha solar telescope. The camera settings were 1/250sec @ f/4 with the ISO setting at 200.*

Thanks to internet, all of us were able to share our views from three different parts of the country. So dust off the solar scopes, here comes solar max, we hope. What's that, you don't have a solar scope or someone to safely view

the sun? Then get your local amateur club to scan the skies for you or barring that, listen to the sun. That's right, I said listen to the sun. Check out this link of a radio emission from a sun spot on space weather.com for March 20, 2010: <http://www.spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=30&month=03&year=2010> This recording comes from Thomas Ascraft's radio telescope. Nice thing to play for people who are looking at sunspots, to show that they make some radio noise as well.

Finally, because of severe snow days, we had in February, we have extended the school year which means school is not out for me when SEPA starts. So I probably will not see you in person, but I would love to have your reflections on what happens there with regard to small planetaria. Feel free to drop me a line and I can open up the dialog.



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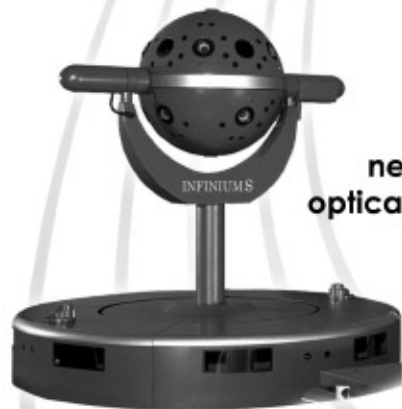
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# News From SEPA States

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Troop 48 Girl Scouts hold rocket cars.

## ALABAMA

contact: Mitzi Adams  
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## FLORIDA

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**Planetarium**  
University of North Alabama  
Florence, AL

Mel Blake reports: The University of North Alabama (Florence) Planetarium continues its regular programs and is developing a good relationship with Scouts in the area. This term, the planetarium had over 50 Scouts visit, who were working on badges and knots. A favorite activity is the Rocket Car, which uses a balloon-powered rocket to illustrate the physics of rockets. In March we added a regular afternoon program to our weekly schedule, in addition to the Tuesday night programs. The Tuesday programs involve a constellation discussion, a video, and observing outside, if weather allows. Our Thursday programs involve a constellation show using our star projector and either solar observing or a video depending upon the weather. The afternoon program seems to be as popular as the evening shows, which surprised me. We added it in response to requests for programs for younger children who could not stay up until 9 p.m. when the evening program concluded. We are now looking forward to Earth Day to discuss light pollution with the Shoals astronomy club. We are also look-

**Buehler Planetarium**  
Broward College  
Davie, FL

Susan J. Barnett reports: The Buehler Planetarium & Observatory is running public shows four days a week. The weekend shows and monthly specials include *In My Backyard*, *The Endless Horizon*, *Four Thousand Years and Home*, *Japan: Reflections in Time* and *Celestial Navigation*.

We continue to rotate shows on Wednesdays, and these shows include *The People, 2061: Secrets of Mars*, *The Dawn of Astronomy*, *Astrology: Fact or Fiction*, *To Worlds Unknown* and *A Dozen Universe*.

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.

**Astronaut Memorial Planetarium  
and Observatory  
Brevard Community College  
Cocoa, FL**

Mark Howard reports: The final installment of our spring lecture series is *Space, What's in it for Me?* on May 14. The featured speaker will be Frank DiBello, President of Space Florida who will be addressing the impact of the space program on the local economy and space related industries. Our Astronomy Lecture Series is hosted by Dr. Fiorella Terenzi in the planetarium theater the 2nd Friday of each month during the academic year.

We successfully hosted our first regional Science Bowl competition in March with 12 teams represented from the Southeast Region. Many of these same teams will also race in the Solar Car competition in April. Both activities are coordinated by the Department of Energy and open to middle school and high school students.

**Planetarium  
Riverview High School  
Sarasota, FL**

George Fleenor reports: The Riverview High School Planetarium has existed since 1969 within the walls of Riverview High School. The first projector was a Goto "Venus". In 1990 the Planetarium was upgraded and a refurbished Spitz A4, along with a control system, numerous auxiliary projectors and video capabilities were added. The system, nestled in a 30 ft dome served the school and surrounding area well for many years.

In the last couple of years, a new Riverview High School has been built and the possibility of the planetarium moving was not looking good. Estimated costs were too high for a "dedicated classroom that served only as an instructional facility for astronomy." Enter the digital age, an enlightened administration and an outcry from the community. After the School Superintendent, along with numerous VIPs, teachers and other administrators saw the capabilities of a new digital system, the only thing to stop the possibility of a new facility being built was funding. The group was very energized after

their initial demonstration.

The local Sarasota County School System, the Riverview Foundation and numerous contributors have all helped make a new facility possible. The new planetarium (Science Center - since it will be used for many subjects) will exist in its own free-standing building located in front of the new high school. This will give the facility an opportunity to better serve the community, offering programs in off-hours and on weekends. The facility will feature a 40ft Astro Tec tilted (4-5 degree) dome and a Konica Minolta Mediaglobe II projector with approximately 114 seats. The building is erect; the dome is installed and painted. As of this writing the Mediaglobe is to be installed in the next week or so. The whole system will be open for the fall of 2010, however, several soft opening events will occur long before that. Forward thinking also installed full-cut-off light fixtures around the new school and parking lot areas. The Science Center also has control of the lights in the parking lot so darker skies for observing can be derived with the flick of a switch. The local astronomy club already has 3 sidewalk astronomy observing dates scheduled for next season starting in September. The future of the Riverview High School planetarium (Science Center) looks very bright and the city of Sarasota is in for a real treat with their state of the art theater that will compliment the already rich cultural environment.



**Fernbank Science Center Planetarium  
Atlanta, GA**

April Whitt reports: Fernbank Science Center has been busy with school groups, public planetarium programs and special events.

During February the general public enjoyed a revamped version of South Africa planetarium's program *Beyond the Pyramids*, while families shared the in-house production of *Lion's Tales*.

Loch Ness' *Cowboy Astronomer* runs through the end of May this year, along with a fact-filled new family program *The Amazing Space Race*, written and produced by Dr. Angela Sarrazine.

NASA's Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) began a new semester, this year with a recycling component. TerraCycle offers schools and other groups the opportunity to recycle snack and drink packaging. Schools receive a small dividend for each package. The program is win-win: packaging stays out of landfills and schools reap a monetary reward. You can check out details at <http://www.terracycle.net/>

Astronaut Tom Marshburn visited Fernbank Science Center and spoke with the public on February 19th. Marshburn spent several days in the area, visiting his old elementary and middle schools, and speaking with students.

Climate specialist Dr. Richard Somerville extended his stay in Atlanta to work with students in the Science Tools and Techniques (STT) program and speak to the public in mid-January. Students are always interested in, "How did you get your job?"

The astronomy department has been traveling with Star Lab and giving presentations in nearby counties. It's been a busy winter, and we're all looking forward to Astronomy Day (a LaserFest exhibit from Georgia Tech and nanotechnology activities) and to Girl Scout workshops at the beginning of May.

**Planetarium  
Tellus NW GA Science Museum  
Cartersville, GA**

David Dundee reports: We have continued to be busy at Tellus; over 40,000 students have visited our gallery programs this school year so far. We are instituting early school bookings in May for the last 2 weeks of August and September to help accom-

modate the demand. So far since January 1 we have seen over 50,000 through the museum (ahead of last year) and almost 25,000 through the planetarium. We are running "Big" and "Origins of Life" in addition to our daily live tours of the sky and "Molecularium."

We have hosted two astronomy works in our observatory limiting attendance to 120 each night, both sold out in less than two days after registration opened. The weather even cooperated! We also hosted a family science night which attracted over 1,500 parents and children.

Our new 5 meter dish is up joining our 11 meter dish. The 5 meter dish is being used to receive HD programming from NASA. The 11 meter dish will become the Tellus radio telescope.

We are gearing for spring break week, which last year brought the museum over 10,000 visitors. We are also gearing up for another exciting Earth Day and of course Astronomy Day.

**Georgia Southern Planetarium  
Georgia Southern University  
Statesboro, GA**

Becky Lowder reports: Astronomy and Space Day 2010 was a blast in March with the public attending! The NASA lunar disc was on display with samples brought back from the Apollo 15, 16, and 17 missions. Our university lab students were able to use microscopes to examine them in more detail to learn more about our moon. The visiting school groups for a two week period while we have the samples on loan from NASA are getting to hold and examine the samples as well.

We are continuing with teaching university students astronomy labs nightly, the planetarium internship daily with school groups attending, and a public event each month.

We'll explore Saturn with a presentation on the Cassini Mission in April for the public.

Clear skies!



## LOUISIANA

contact: Jon Elvert  
Pennington Planetarium  
Baton Rouge, LA  
jelvert@lasm.org



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

Jon Elvert reports: Although I miss the hype and numerous events associated with the 2009IYA, we've continuing with some of the events we stated last year, such as star parties on the Mississippi River levee. We recently premiered a large format digital movie (*Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs*), which is a departure from previous 8/70 large format **film**. As the film industry moves more toward digital, we suspect our film projector will become a relic. *We Are Astronomers* is our featured spring public show along with our ever popular trip through the universe show: *Digital Universe* (after Sky-Skan's DU plug-in). Our summer public show is *In Search of Our Cosmic Origins* that will run through November. In-house productions of seasonal sky shows (includes new digital volumetric fly-through of our galaxy) and school shows continue to make our jobs fun.

One of this year's show highlights is *Space Park 360*, a relatively new and revolutionary approach to fulldome entertainment. The show takes on a musical amusement park atmosphere with amusement park rides on the planets and moons of our solar system. Produced by Dome 3D LLC and music by Loch Ness Productions, this whimsical, fast paced show lets you hang upside down (while locked into your rollercoaster car) as you hurdle through the rings of Uranus, float above the clouds of Jupiter, or zip down through a crater on Mercury. The show is designed in "ride" modules, so you can select what solar system rides you want to show. This visual music theme is in keeping with our Saturday night visual musical entertainment line-up, which is when we offer it. *Space Park 360* is making its North America debut here.

In our effort to be mindful of art and science connections, we've offered and participated in two teacher workshops focusing on these not so obvious connections in our state curriculum standards. And like many planetariums/museums, we're seeing a decline in school and public attendance. Not surprising, however, is an increase in our portable planetarium attendance. We're now planning to expand our outreach program to include science and art activities.

By the time this is printed, we'll have had our National Astronomy Day event, which included a day of astronomy exhibits, solar viewing, special shows, and family oriented activities. Our summer astronomy camp will be taking place right about the time you read this as well.

Although it's two years away, we begun a lot of committee work in preparation for the International Planetarium Society's 2012 conference. This is already consuming much of our time, but we're very much looking forward to being the host site

### Sawyer SPACE DOME Planetarium Sci-Port: LOUISIANA's Science Center Shreveport, LA

Greg Andrews reports: The past few months have been busy with all the school groups that have come through the SPACE DOME. It's amazing when we look at all the youth that have been introduced to space and astronomy via the planetarium. It is my hope that we've been able to inspire someone to take up a career in astronomy.

During the week of Spring Break, nearly all of our shows were filled to the max! For those unaware, we have an open seating arrangement, although there are a few bleachers. Once the bleachers are full, visitors often lie down and stretch out on the floor but we do have portable chairs that visitors can sit in. It was a joy to see the entire floor space was occupied by visitors.

Sci-Port hosted the Mad Scientist Ball (MSB), which is our biennial fundraising event, on March 20. We raised \$120,000! The SPACE DOME was used as a dining area. We displayed a starry back-

drop intermixed with images from the Hubble and other space missions.

Our last several star parties have seen record attendances! We used to average 30 to 50 attendees but we are now averaging well over 100+! We're seeing a great deal of both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in attendance and an increasing number of families. Our recent star party on March 26 produced many "Ooo's!" and "Ahh's!" as people were enthralled at beholding the Moon, the Orion Nebula and not one, not two, but THREE planets - Mars, Venus, and Saturn. (Of course, Saturn received the most attention.) We tried for a record 4th planet but Mercury was blocked by our downtown buildings. :( I'm hoping our run of clear skies and nice weather continues to hold for our May 21 star party.

Sci-Port is involved in a grant sponsored by Museums and Community Collaboration Abroad (MCCA). Over the past several months, we've teamed up with a group of students from Louisiana School of Math, Science and Art (LSMSA). Respectively, the Infinto Planetarium in Torino, Italy teamed up with students from Vallauri, a high school similar to LSMSA. Together, we have collaborated to produce a planetarium show. We are in the final stages. What's amazing is the students involved were responsible for EVERYTHING! The planetarium staff helped introduce the youth to programming concepts, and other aspects of what goes into making a planetarium show, but the youth had to brainstorm, develop an outline/storyboard, etc. I'm very impressed by their effort. In addition to the development of a show, the youth were also encouraged to provide cultural exchanges and are scheduled to visit one another. In the later part of April, the Italians will come to Shreveport and in late May the Americans will visit Torino. This is going to be an exciting time for us and them! We will premiere the show on April 24 at Sci-Port. If you'd like to learn more, check out our blog and be sure to follow us: <http://notjustanotherbrickinthewall-mcca.blogspot.com/>. (We're also on Facebook too. You can become a friend of our page via the blog).

In addition to all this, we are training staff and gathering resources for two major events coming up in May. In addition to the star party, May also hosts Sci-Port Space Day on May 15 and National

Astronomy Week May 19 - 23. We will have special presentations taking place during both events.

### Lafayette Planetarium Lafayette Science Museum Lafayette, LA

Dave Hostetter reports: The Lafayette Science Museum Planetarium is running *Journey to the Edge of Space and Time* as its featured program through the end of April, with *Rusty Rocket's Last Blast* opening as a children's program at the beginning of that month. Planning is in progress for the summer featured program, *The Sky (Map) Tonight*, a live presentation showing visitors how to use basic star maps under the planetarium sky and later at their own homes.

Planetarium Curator Dave Hostetter is working with local TV station KDCG to produce 3 to 5 minute astronomy segments that run during some of their "Acadiana Today" programs.

During the recent opposition of Mars, planetarium staff put out a telescope at a downtown park near the Museum so a Mardi Gras crowd could see the red planet as they waited for the night's parade. It was a good sidewalk astronomy event; although (to no one's surprise) some of the adults had trouble seeing Mars...or the telescope for that matter.

LSM is pleased to announce that Lafayette Consolidated Government has funded the planetarium to install a full dome system within the next two years.

## WANTED

NEWS FROM:

KENTUCKY  
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WEST VIRGINIA  
CONTACT

AANDERSO@ACCESS.K12.WV.US

## MISSISSIPPI

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Rainwater Observatory & Planetarium

French Camp, MS

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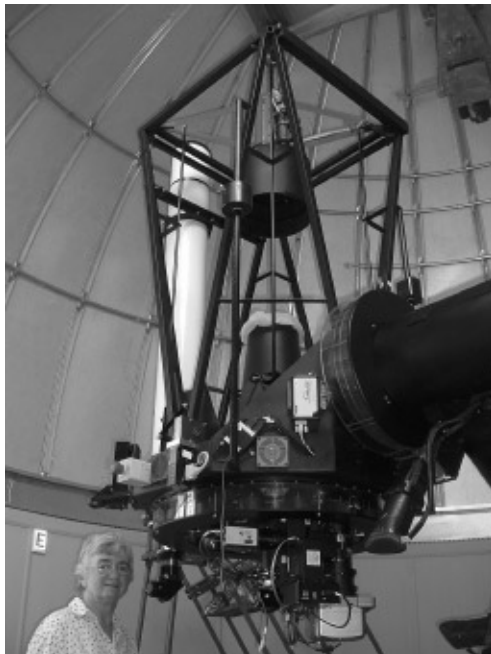


### Rainwater Observatory & Planetarium French Camp, MS

James Hill reports: The .65 m Sangre telescope has had its optics recoated and is being put back into operation after several months off line. We are also in the process of upgrading our 32" Dob with ServoCAT and Argo Navis to turn it into a go-to scope. Thanks to the Chisholm Foundation for the funds to do these projects as well as upgrading some computers and projector equipment.

On the education front we have been put into the Mississippi Space Grant budget for \$10,000 for next year to promote astronomy education in the state. We will be contacting educators around the area to set up hands-on astronomy activities workshops at several sites, enhance our summer "Astronomy for Teachers" college credit class, conduct an astronomy adventure summer camp, and present public "Backyard Astronomy" programs. We have also invited Dr. Larry Krumenaker to present a fall weekend workshop to discuss introducing and

enhancing astronomy classes in regional high schools. Contact us if you are interested in participating.



The .65 m Sangre telescope with Helen

## NORTH CAROLINA

contact: Patsy Wilson

Woodson Planetarium, Salisbury, NC

[wilsonpk@rss.k12.nc.us](mailto:wilsonpk@rss.k12.nc.us)



### Morehead Planetarium and Science Center Chapel Hill, NC

Mickey Jo Sorrell reports: The Morehead Planetarium and Science Center received a significant gift from GlaxoSmithKline supporting the conversion of our Star Theater from analog to fulldome digital video technology. In recognition of the gift, the theater has been renamed the GlaxoSmithKline Full-dome Theater. The conversion was completed by early February, and we opened with our own digital production of "Earth, Moon and Sun." The summer schedule will include our next digital show: "Magic Treehouse: Space Mission."

Other great successes during late winter included Lego-Palooza and our special Valentine sky shows. The spring schedule includes a six-week "Beginning Skywatching" class and a Steampunk Family Science Day. Summer camp registration is near capacity.

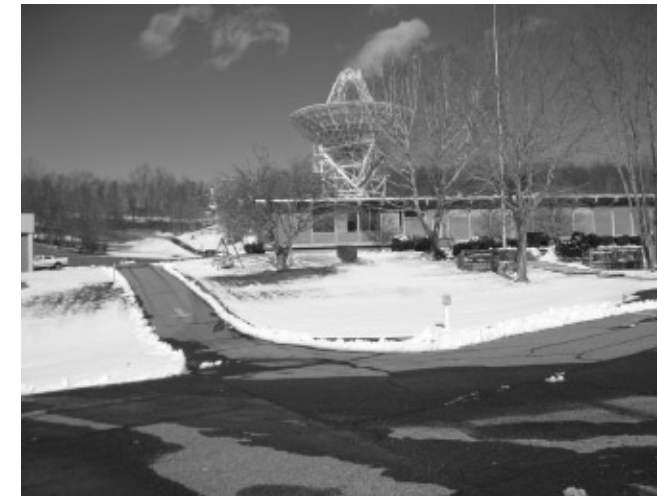
Planetarians in the Carolinas and throughout the region should mark their calendars for August 30-31. The 5th gathering of CAPE (Carolina Association of Planetarium Educators) is scheduled at the Natural Science Center of Greensboro. For more information, contact, Roger Joyner at [rjoyner@natsci.org](mailto:rjoyner@natsci.org).

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

Ken Brandt reports: Starting in April, the Robeson Planetarium will be showing off a new install of the Mirrordome, all-dome projection system, and Ken will be learning how to make it go. Stay tuned for more information about our progress.

### PARI StarLab Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute Rosman, NC

Christi Whitworth reports: Lots of snow has kept PARI off limits to folks the past few months. (see photo) Now that the thaw has started, PARI is gearing up for Homeschool Day (April 30), Space Day (May 1), a weather workshop for undergraduates by NCSU, and Summer program enrollments, including a new homeschool student high school summer program in climate observation in August.



Recent events included a spring Star Party in early March and several professional development workshops for teachers in Asheville and Greensboro. StarLab has been traveling all over Western North Carolina in recent days, and will be settling down for the summer schedule to stay on campus.

Currently there is a lot of work going on in APDA to re-commission the GAMMA II scanner for its future work. PARI staff Bob Hayward and Christi Whitworth, are looking forward to SEPA in June in Kingsport, TN.

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

Patsy Wilson reports: We've finally finished Science Fair competitions. We host the county and regional fair and work on the state level as well. This requires about six intensive weeks of paperwork, time and energy. This year one of our local

students did an interesting project comparing home-made and purchased astrolabes to electronic indicators of star position. He was awarded the PARI Award at the North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair in Raleigh in late March. We are hosting a summer camp, "Kids Are Scientists, Too!" for rising 5th and 6th graders. The purpose of this camp is to learn and follow the scientific method, to develop skills in experimental design and to practice using lab equipment properly.

We also have a summer camp for astronomy, "Rockets and Stars and Kids." This is a combination of the discovering the principles of rocketry - including a rocket launch at the end- and an introduction to the night sky with lots of constellation games, activities and stories.

Our spring is full of "Rocket Science" classes for 5th grade. This is a force and motion class in the planetarium that uses problem-based learning inquiry with students competing to build the most efficient balloon rocket. We are also serving 6th grade students with "Solar System Journey," an interactive trip through the solar system.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

contact: Gary Senn

DuPont Planetarium, Aiken, SC

[SennG@sc.edu](mailto:SennG@sc.edu)



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

Gary Senn reports: The DuPont Planetarium at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (RPSEC) on the campus of the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA) still looks forward to a new observatory telescope. In the last issue of Southern Skies, we reported that the new telescope would be here soon. It should be real soon, now. Our 16" Meade LX200 was damaged in a lightning storm last June. We have been using an 8" LX200 in place of our



observatory telescope. However, the drive motor in the 8" will no longer operate. Because of the age of the telescope, Meade has stated that it is beyond repair. Anyone who knows of a replacement motor for a model 2080, please contact us.

We are in preparation for National Astronomy Day on April 24. On that day, we host what we call, "Earth & Sky Night." Since National Astronomy Day is usually close to Earth Day, we combine the two into one celebration, although the astronomy side is certainly the highlight and driving force behind the event. A variety of hands-on activities will be available from 7:00 - 9:30 to help people understand the wonders of earth and space science. Many activities will have materials that visitors can take home with them, and live animals such as snakes, turtles, alligators, and owls will be on display. Telescopes operated by members of the Astronomy Club of Augusta will be set up on the lawn outside of the RPSEC. We are hoping that the Bechtel Telescope will also be available, if it gets delivered on time. We will take a hiatus from our normal shows and present the local production, *To the Moon and Beyond* in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Apollo 13.

In May, we will be replacing the carpet and refurbishing the chairs in the planetarium. After 15 years of steady use, this will be a very welcome improvement over the current condition of these items.

In February we showed *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, based on the program by the New Jersey State Museum Planetarium and the Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium. We updated the script somewhat to make it a little longer and to include some more astronomy. We also address some of the concerns that others have expressed about the accuracy of the facts in the show surrounding the song and the Underground Railroad. In March we showed *Mission to Mars* and *Digistar Virtual Journey*. Both of these programs are local productions. Throughout the month of April we showed *In My Backyard* from the Calgary Science Centre and Lochness Productions' *The Voyager Encounters*.

In May, we will begin our summer hours in the planetarium by opening an hour later to accommodate the use of the observatory during the darkness,

which comes much later at this time of the year. We will be showing *More than Meets the Eye* by Lochness Productions and the local production, *Digistar Virtual Journey*. In June, we will be showing *Larry Cat in Space* by Lochness Productions and the local production, *To the Moon and Beyond*.

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

Glenn Dantzler reports: Things here at the Settlemyre are going fine. We are still getting school groups but I am concerned about next year. I have been assigned to work all weekends and really don't mind at all.

Our summer weekday programs will run four days per week and two programs per day. As I am retired and work only three days per week I do not have the authority to make decisions about all of the programming choices.

I received another budget cut, and it was drastic, but I can operate through June if no major fault occurs in the planetarium.

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



**Sharpe Planetarium  
Memphis Pink Palace Museum  
Memphis, TN**

Dave Maness reports: Even though it is traditionally a slow period, winter attendance was good. The spring is also proving to be a big time of the year for school programs. We are getting a big bump in attendance from the general public too, during the rolling spring break periods.

Renovation plans are proceeding nicely. A local architect Askew Nixon Fergusson was chosen to lead the way. Their planetarium consultant is Philip Groce. Early in March Phil was here to help us out with our fund raising effort by providing a demonstration of full dome digital technology to some potential donors and other interested parties. He arranged for the SuperMediaGlobe 2 to be shipped to Memphis and set up in our theater again. See the photo below. This is actually a picture from a demo held a year ago. I was so busy I forgot to take any photos this year.



The demo was a great success. People seemed to be excited to help make it a reality in Memphis, whatever system we decide to install.

I have been helping a group of high school students working with the local National Space Society chapter. They are hoping to send an entry into an international rocket competition. I showed them how to make a simple rocket from scratch using gummed tape wrapped around wooden rods for the body tubes. When the nosecones, support tubes, fins, launch lugs, and streamer recovery systems are added, the rockets will be ready to launch. With my work schedule, I can only work with them on occasion. I hear that they are already way beyond the simple rockets we were building and are ready to test fire a larger one with an egg payload.

Soon we will again be heading 90 miles east to the Coon Creek Science Center that we operate near Adamsville, TN. This is for our annual Member's Day event, to be held this year on May 8. This site is on top of one of the most important fossil sites in the country.

This was a sandbar some 73 million years ago, under a shallow sea that covered what are now some of the southern and central states of the U.S. The unique qualities of the soil here actually preserved the original shells and prevented replacement with

minerals. Last year one lucky visitor dug up a clam shell with a pearl attached. I and a few other museum staff members go over the night before to set up. I bring a telescope and filter for safe solar observations along with a portable scale model solar system walk that I created last year. We bring sleeping bags and spend the night before in some of the cabins there. I brought my guitar along last year and we had a nice little sing-a-long. I have already been asked if I am going to do it again this year.



Speaking of sing-a-longs, **Bear Tales and Other Grizzly Stories** will be running in the Sharpe Planetarium by the time you read this. **Cowboy Astronomer** will return for a summer run starting in June. As always every program we present includes a live component, usually at the end when visitors' eyes are best adapted to the darkness but I also offer **Starlit Nights Live** in the summer for a more extended and detailed tour through the night sky. I am interested in any suggestions readers may have for fairly recent traditional programs (or ones that can be easily converted) to run in the fall and winter of 2011.

**VIRGINIA**  
contact: Kelly Herbst  
Virginia Living Museum  
Newport News, VA  
Kelly.Herbst@thevlm.org



**Abbitt Planetarium  
Virginia Living Museum  
Newport News**

Kelly Herbst reports: Spring has sprung, and boy are we glad! This winter was a rough one for Newport News, with more snow than we've had in many a year. School programs are on the rise, although the woeful state of the budget - both at the state

level and the local - has seen many schools in our area canceling their schedule field trips in order to save money. We're happy to see the public still coming out in good numbers, visiting us for *The Friendly Stars*, *The Art of Hubble*, and of course, *Virginia Skies*. Our homemade Hubble production has been well-received, with many people fascinated by our discussion of how the amazing images from the space telescope are created. We're hoping for a boost from local Spring Breaks, coming up in April.

Before long however, summer will be upon us, and with it, the return of dinosaurs to our changing exhibit gallery! *Dinosaurs and More!* - an incredible display of animatronic dinosaurs and ice age creatures, is sure to be a big hit with kids and parents alike. In the planetarium, we'll be featuring HMNS' *Dinosaur Prophecy*, a fabulous full-dome look at four different dinosaur dig sites around the world. Preschoolers will once again have the opportunity to sing the Kaboobie Ruby song along with *The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather*. And of course, summer also brings the return of daily laser shows to the theater. We always have a ton of fun entertaining audiences with great music and laser lights.

Speaking of laser shows, we just premiered our newest show, *Laser Country*, to a sold-out crowd during our most recent Star Party/Laser Light Night! Yee-haw! The show is great fun (even for those of us not all that fond of country music!), and we're looking forward to showcasing it during summer afternoons in June! I'm also looking forward to seeing everyone at Bays Mountain for this year's SEPA conference! Go Woodchucks!

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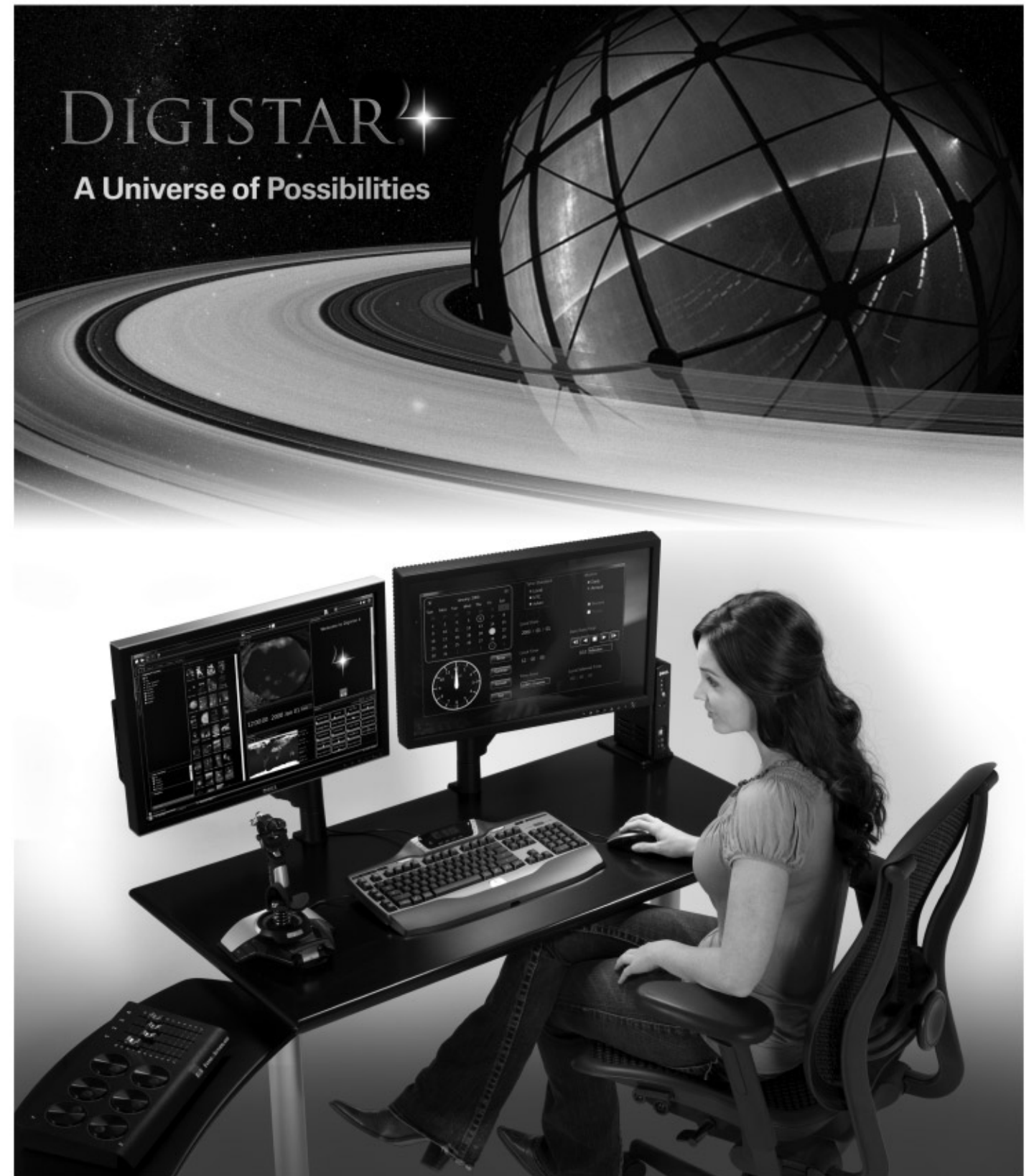
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