

Southern Skies

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Spring 2014



SEPA 2014
WISH UPON A STAR

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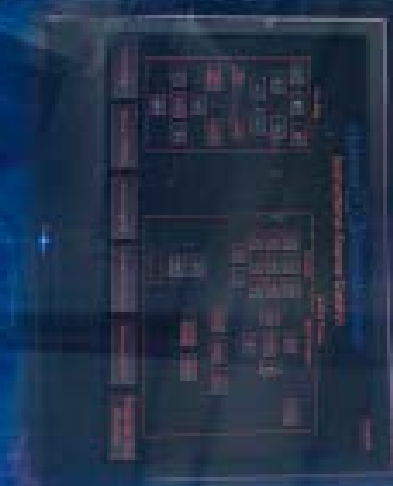
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David Dundee
Tellus Science Museum
Cartersville, GA

I had a new experience in my professional life. For the first time in my almost 40 years in the planetarium profession, I had the privilege of specifying and ordering a new planetarium projector in my theater. In the past five-and-a-half years, we had worn out our Media Globe 2. This year we will see our half-

millionth visitor through the planetarium (not bad for a humble 40-foot dome and 120-seat theater).

Our new Media Globe 3 has been such a joy to play with, I mean, to work with. No, it really is too much fun to call it work. To see the joy of this new, improved technology as I trained my staff was like Christmas morning over and over. The higher resolution and brightness for movies is great, but the true action occurs during our live shows. There is so much to offer audiences now, from a beautiful star field to animated constellations that dance across the sky, clouds, thunderstorms and aurora. Traveling out through the galaxy past our local group, through clusters and super clusters of galaxies has struck our audiences with awe. There have been many instances of my staff losing track of time while playing in the universe, and forgetting to open the door for the next show.



There are two other novelties about our new system:

(Continued on page 12)

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

Rates	Dimensions
\$100.	Full-page 7" wide x 10" high
\$50.	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 back cover, inside back cover or inside front 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 Patsy Wilson). 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.

IPS REPORT

John Hare
ASH Enterprises
Bradenton, FL

IPS will hold their biennial conference in Beijing, China, June 22 to June 27. I will represent SEPA at the IPS Council meeting which will take place on June 21 and 22. We will hear a detailed report on the 2016 IPS conference to be held in Warsaw, Poland.

Council will also accept bids for the 2018 IPS conference. The site for 2018 will be determined at the 2015 off-year Council meeting. IPS requires that conference invitations be received at least four years before the proposed conference. The IPS Council selects future conference sites three years before the proposed conference so invitations will be voted on in 2015.

Interested? ...your invitation should include information on your facility, your ability to host large numbers of people (500 or more), nearby astronomical attractions, attractions for the family, information on the host city, transportation options, and accommodation information. The invitation should highlight specific reasons that make your site particularly suitable and attractive for the international community of planetarians. If you must limit the size of the conference, this must be indicated in your invitation proposal. If you would like a copy of a more detailed set of conference guidelines before submitting an invitation, please visit the IPS Website.

As always, I urge you to join and actively participate in IPS. Dues are \$65 for a 1-year membership and \$100 for 2-years. You can obtain membership forms from IPS Treasurer, Shawn Laatsch slaatsch@imiloahawaii.org, myself at johnhare@earthlink.net, or at the IPS Website, www.ips-planetarium.org

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: _____

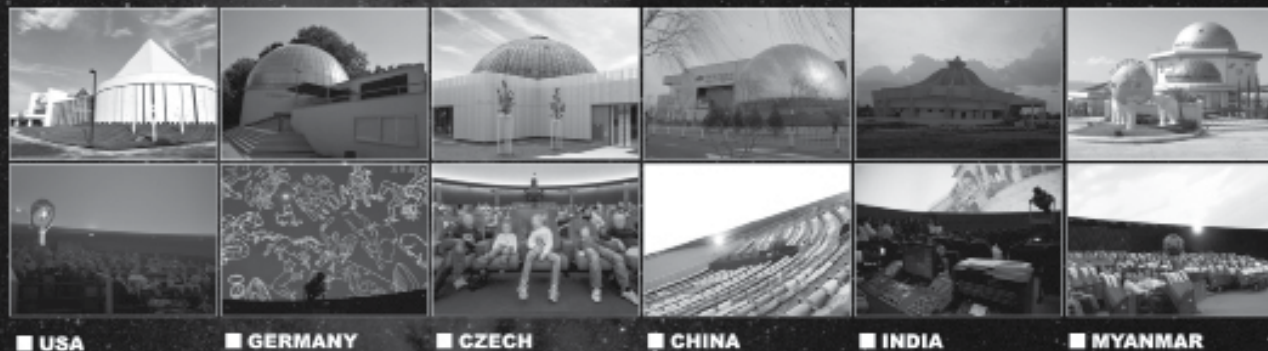
Qualifications: _____

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Editor's Message

Thanks to Broward College and its wonderful printing department for assistance.

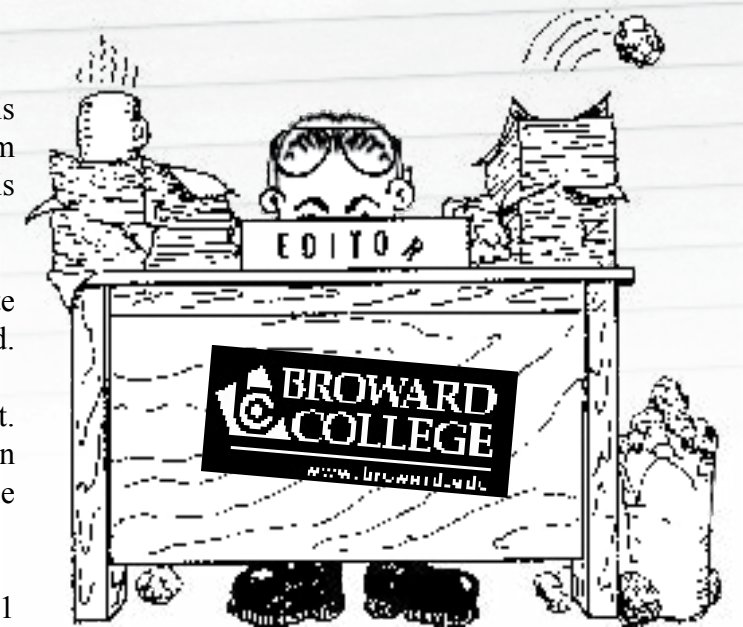
James Sullivan
Buehler Planetarium & Observatory
Davie, FL

I'd like to thank Woodrow Grizzle III for all his years of coordinating the news submissions from North Carolina. I look forward to hearing about his new endeavors.

Meanwhile ... North Carolina needs a new state coordinator! Please contact me if you are interested.

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).



SEPA Membership Form

Please send your check to SEPA, c/o Patsy Wilson, 140 Lyn Road, Salisbury, NC 28147

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

___ Two Years, \$40

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IPS Member? Yes _____ No _____

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Small Talk

Elizabeth Wasiluk
Berkeley County Planetarium
Hedgesville, WV

It is past the equinox, but you would not realize it with some huge piles of snow on the ground. We just had our fourteenth snow day this school year. This year we will be making up snow days until June 9th. Next year we make it up hour by hour, so we can be in school a good chunk of the summer. I just watched a prediction about winter weather returning next week. Doesn't winter realize we are past the equinox? Did the winter weather affect the number of programs you did this last year and this year? Was your facility closed at any time this winter? Drop a note to let me know how your "small in any way" facility suffered the cold and snow.

A huge non-event was the long anticipated occultation of star Regulus by asteroid Erigone in the wee hours of March 20, 2014. It was to be broadcast live by Slooh, but the weather forecasts along the shadow was so socked in with clouds, search as I might, no one seemed to get any images. Bob Berman, Astronomy magazine's "Strange Universe" columnist took one look at the forecast and opted not to go to the occultation path. He later wrote in his on-line blog: "UPDATE 3/20: As far as I've been able to determine, no one in the U.S. and Ontario, Canada saw the occultation due to bad weather. Everybody was socked in. A few observers traveled to Bermuda near the edge of the path. They had thin clouds but their cameras, which could track Regulus through the clouds, didn't record the event. Apparently the track shifted slightly to the southwest."

To fill up time on the Slooh broadcast, they had someone at their Canary Islands site show us a morning Venus and Saturn. The images are nice and I plan to use them with my students in the high school astronomy class to show the capabilities of web broadcasting telescopic images. To access the webcast, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k>

luHsjIMs9s&safe=active. You can also find an article in Sky and Telescope on the occultation here: <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/community/sky-blog/observingblog/Global-Fail-for-the-Big-Regulus-Cover-up-252821271.html>

The chairman of the Tri-State Astronomers, the astronomy club I belong to, put together a really good list of what he calls, Armchair Astronomy. These links are great, if you want to put a live telescopic image into the planetarium dome during a program, but your facility does not have access to an observatory, you might like to arrange a session with an astronomer with broadcasting capabilities over the web. I know that one of the members of our astronomy club broadcasts live from his astropod observatory on occasion. Hopefully at the end of the article, I will forward the list that Stephen Goldberg, the chairman of our astronomy club shared on our google groups.

In the meantime, I will put in a plug for Adam Thanz and the Bays Mountain Observatory in Kingsport, TN and their annual "Star Fest" star party in October. Adam and his wife Robin and his staff always put on a great time under the crisp, hopefully clear autumn skies with lots of good talks, good food and astronomical fellowship. If you or your students are doing some interesting research that you would like to present, you might like to contact him at thanz@kingsporttn.gov or 423-224-2532. He asked me about the pulsar search team going down next school year to talk at Starques, but with seniors on the team going to college next year and it being team rebuilding year, I do not see it happening. Sigh, some year I have got to take up their offer to go down for Star Fest.

Right now I am in the midst of putting together a program on the International Space Station for a group program. I used to do a "Space Food" program with samples of space food to snack on at the end of the program, but that was pre-packaged from 4-H and included lots



(Continued on page 22)

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BOOKENDS

Robin Byrne
Bays Mountain Planetarium
Kingsport, TN

Marie Curie: A Life by Susan Quinn

A recent trip to Brevard, NC found Adam and I in a thrift store where I stumbled upon the book “Marie Curie A Life” by Susan Quinn. Needless to say, I snatched it up. I’m glad I did. I had only a vague knowledge of Marie Curie’s scientific work and knew nothing of her private life. This book helped me to more fully appreciate this remarkable woman.

The author begins in Poland with Marie’s parents, both of whom were educators. The early years were highly focused on education for all of their children. When Marie was still quite young, her mother was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Marie’s oldest sister became her mother’s caretaker and accompanied her to a wide variety of sanitariums all over Europe. Meanwhile, Poland was being bombarded from all sides, with Germany taking over the region where Marie grew up. The dictatorial rule even appeared in the schools, not even allowing the children to speak Polish. Fortunately for Marie, the teachers at her school were loyal to Poland, so they only spoke German when being inspected.

From an early age, Marie showed a talent for science and had dreams of attending college. Unfortunately, at this time, women could not attend college in Poland and would have to study abroad. That was expensive, and Marie’s family could not afford to send both her and her older sister to school. So, Marie’s sister went to Paris to study to become a doctor, while Marie earned a living working as a governess. She had almost given up on the notion of college, when her sister contacted her, inviting Marie to move in with her and her new husband. In many ways, this was the start of Marie’s life.

It was while a student that Marie met Pierre Curie.

Working together in a laboratory, they soon realized that they were a good match. Their collaboration would continue until Pierre’s untimely death (he was run over by a carriage). The Curies learned about the discovery of x-rays and were interested in seeing if other substances emitted some form of rays. By analyzing various sources of ore, they eventually found a new element, which Marie named Polonium (after her native Poland), that emitted rays. Eventually, the term “radioactive” would be applied to this element. This discovery, along with their subsequent work with radioactive materials, garnered the Curies much attention and praise. However, many believed that Marie, being a woman, could not have been a true collaborator, but merely a lab assistant. So, while Pierre received recognition from the established scientific societies (even though he loathed the attention), Marie was often ignored. It wasn’t until some of their colleagues in the fields of physics and chemistry began speaking out that Marie earned the respect she was due. This culminated in the Curies receiving a Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their discovery.

During all of this, Marie and Pierre had two daughters: Irene and Eve. Marie kept journals of their development. Ever the scientist, her entries included measurable aspects, such as height and weight, eating habits, as well as behavior. Over the years, it would be Irene who was most similar to Marie, with an aptitude for science and math. Eve was an enigma, with a talent for the arts.

After Pierre’s death, Marie went into mourning for a few years. This had a profound affect on the children. When she finally came back to life, Marie was as enthusiastic about her work as she had ever been. This led her to work with a fellow chemist, Paul Langevin. They found they were kindred spirits and enjoyed their collaboration. However, Langevin was married and had children. Their affair would last for a few years, until Langevin’s wife, who seems to have been mentally unstable, threatened to expose their affair with love letters she had found. Meanwhile, Marie was being considered for a second

(Continued on page 12)

Nobel Prize, this time in physics, for her work with Polonium. The scandal broke in one of the seedier tabloids. Marie fled out of town, staying with various friends around France and Europe. The Paris tabloids painted her as a foreigner who brought her unfeminine ways to France, with the intent of ruining the French way of life. Many of her colleagues, including Albert Einstein, came to her defense, but as far as the press was concerned, Marie was a villain. Fortunately for Marie, the Nobel Committee was not in Paris, and she received the reward without any controversy. However, the Paris newspapers barely covered her accomplishment.

Not long after, World War I broke out, and Marie felt the need to help. The newly invented x-ray machines were being used in hospitals, but not on the front. Marie changed that. She assembled a fleet of cars, equipped with portable x-ray machines. She and Irene went around to the various fronts, training people how to use the machines. No one knows how many lives were saved because of her efforts.

These intervening years helped to erase the stigma of her affair, and Marie was able to return to her scientific work. Many believed that radioactive materials would ultimately be a cure for cancer, so enthusiasm for research in this area grew. With support from the French government and various societies, she was able to build the laboratory she had always dreamed of, plus a medical research wing funded by the Pasteur Institute. Marie found herself to be even more of a celebrity, and was invited to America by an enterprising woman named Marie "Missy" Meloney, who promised to raise enough money for Marie to purchase one gram of radium for her research. Marie despised the publicity tour she was obligated to take, but she did get the radium.

As her health began to deteriorate, Marie depended even more on Irene. When Irene married Frederic Joliot, Eve became her constant companion. Meanwhile, Irene and Frederic worked together, much as Marie and Pierre had. It was the Joliot-Curies (as they were known) who discovered that exposure to radioactivity can render a non-radioactive material, at least temporarily, radioactive. Irene and Frederic won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for this discov-

ery. The same effect they discovered is why many of Marie Curie's papers are still slightly radioactive.

People believed that radioactivity was going to be a miracle cure for a myriad of ailments. For this reason, many were reluctant to recognize its deadly effects, including Marie. Her declining health was attributed to overwork and the need for fresh air. One doctor misdiagnosed her as having tuberculosis, sending Marie abroad for her health. The trip was the beginning of her final decline. The doctors at the sanitarium found no evidence of tuberculosis, but, instead, extreme anemia (one of the more common causes of death for those who had been working with the radioactive elements in laboratories around the world). Within a few days, Marie Curie was dead.

A woman in a man's world, Marie Curie never saw herself as unique or unusual. She saw herself as a scientist doing what she loved. Those who worked with her described the joy she found from new discoveries. Those were probably the happiest moments of her life. She lived for her work. Sadly, it was her work that also killed her.

Marie Curie: A Life by Susan Quinn; Simon & Schuster 1995

President's Column (Continued from page 4)
first, I never thought this would happen, but I no longer need a laser pointer. With mouse in hand, an arrow appears (of any size or color) to point at whatever you want; plus you can draw pictures, and add circles and arrows all over the sky. You can even type out a line of text ("Welcome Mr. Smith") and deposit it in the sky, or all over the sky.

But the most fun I've had is sticking a reserved seat sign in the middle of the audience. As the theater fills up I'll hear discussion and comments, wondering why that seat is reserved. After greeting the audience, I can then sit down right in the middle of the crowd and whip out my tablet and say to my seatmates, "What shall we explore today?" I can control the whole universe right from a seat among the viewers!

I hope everyone is enjoying their universes as much as I am!



PAGES OF STARS

A New Prize Proposal

"Pages of Stars" prize is a very simple proposal with the goal of building a collection of short audio registrations (maximum 3- 5 minutes each) that can easily be shared among planetarians using mp3 files. The IPS Mobile Planetarium Committee will select the best audio registration(s) from the proposals of the applicants.

Planetarian colleagues from around the world are invited to prepare a short text, in English, that can be read under a planetarium dome. The text can be:

- an astronomical and scientific commentary,

or

- a classical Greek (or another culture's) sky story,

or

- an original story or poem (any kind of topic) with some astronomical details or with an event that happens under the night sky (including the name of some stars or constellations or other sky objects visible with the naked eye).

The author (or a collaborator of the author) must read the text aloud (in English) and record this story as an mp3 file (max. 3-5 minutes in length).

A committee, elected by the IPS Portable Planetarium Committee in collaboration with the Astronomical Observatory Serafino Zani, will select the proposals presented to the secretary of the prize. The text of the best proposal will be published in the "Mobile News Network" column of the Planetarian magazine, while the three best works will be made available on the IPS Free Media Webpage. (<http://www.ips-planetarium.org/?page=voice>)

The winner will receive a memory plaque on the occasion of the "Day of Planetaria" which occurs in March.

Participants must send, before December 31st, an application that includes:

1. the written text of the commentary, story or poem,
2. the audio registration as an mp3 file (without music) and
3. a participation form of the author (full name, complete address, year of birth and your short curriculum vitae) and the name(s) of any collaborator(s).

All entrants must agree to release their work under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>) or choose to make their work public domain. (Information about what this means can be found at: <http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/>)

Send this information by email to:

Susan Reynolds Button, sbuttonq2c@gmail.com, IPS Portable Planetarium Committee, 8793 Horse-shoe Lane, Chittenango, NY 13037 or to

Loris Ramponi, osservatorio@serafinozani.it or megrez58@gmail.com , Osservatorio Serafino Zani, Via Bosca 24, 25066 Lumezzane – Italy.

SEPA Conference 2014

Wish Upon A Star ...

Michael McConville and Derek Demeter
Buehler Planetarium at Seminole State College
Sanford, FL



As we head deeper into spring, our days grow longer and the rest of the country begins to thaw out from their deep winter chill. Down here in Central Florida, we've been in springtime mode since February, and here in the planetarium, we're busy putting together all of the details that are shaping up to make SEPA 2014 a truly magical experience. In the past few months, we've confirmed excursions, speakers, and activities that will fill our conference calendar with events that foster discussion, learning, and good times!

SEPA 2014 will be held July 15-19, 2014, at the Buehler Planetarium at Seminole State in Sanford, Fla. We've set registration costs at \$225 (\$200

before Apr. 30), and are offering a student/part-time registration rate of \$125 to allow even more delegates to attend and enjoy this year. Registration has already gotten off to a brisk start, and we're adding more delegates and sponsors every week.

The official SEPA conference site (sepadomes.org/conference/2014) is now live, and is your one-stop shop for all the information you'll need to get the most out of this year's conference. We have general information on our conference hotel, travel arrangements, and delegate registration, but we've also decided to include our "Vision" page, which lays out the principles we think are so important in creating the best possible SEPA for our visitors. Our calendar is based online through Google Calendar, so the schedule you see on the website is as up-to-date as we can make it.

But it's our activities and speakers that will really make SEPA 2014 special. Thursday is our excursion north to Daytona Beach, where we'll visit both Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the Daytona Museum of Arts & Sciences. Embry-Riddle is one of the premier higher education institutions in Florida, and the new Arts & Sciences building is home to the largest university research telescope in the state, a meter-class instrument located in a gleaming observatory dome atop the building. We'll take a tour of the campus, see the observatory and solar observing pad, and have lunch overlooking the Daytona Beach International Airport. We'll conclude our Daytona excursion at the brand-new MOAS planetarium, where we'll turn over our day to our vendors.

Thursday evening, we'll be transported to Old



*Embry-Riddle Arts and Sciences
Observatory*



Florida at the Black Hammock Preserve on the shores of Lake Jesup in Oviedo, Fla. The Black Hammock has provided us with a real down-home Florida menu for dinner – shrimp, mahi, chicken, and gator tail, with all the Florida fixings and a location that can't be beat.

Their management was so impressed with our conference that they've included 20 free airboat rides we'll be giving away during the opening reception! If you're not one of the lucky winners, there will be heavily discounted rates for all of our members to enjoy a 45-minute tour of the lake, which is home to the highest concentration of American alligators in the entire South. After a great day of learning and demonstrations, the Black Hammock is the best place we can think of to kick back and really enjoy what Central Florida can offer.

Our keynote speaker for SEPA 2014 is Pamela Gay, one of the foremost astronomy educators in the country and the founder of the citizen science portal CosmoQuest (cosmoquest.org). Through her work on CosmoQuest and her podcast "Astronomy Cast," Pamela has been at the vanguard of science education for much of the past decade.



With the importance that communication and education hold in our jobs, Pamela's own experiences will be incredibly helpful as we strive to be the best science educators and communicators that we can. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to have her attend and speak at the conference this year – this will be a real treat for the SEPA membership!

Our other special guest speaker is Bobbie Bell, a professor of theatre and humanities at Seminole State College. Prof. Bell is an exceptional talent – during his thirty years of service at Seminole State, he has written and directed dozens of plays, composed scores, acted as a member of Orlando's Mad Cow Theatre, and taught thousands of students with a style and personality completely his own. Bobbie has often worked with our planetarium to produce truly unique experiences for his audiences, most notably when Seminole State premiered Ovid's *Metamorphoses* simultaneously with a companion planetarium show. An expert on communications and audience retention, Bobbie will speak to one of the most fundamental aspects of our planetarium experience – connecting with our audiences. For Bobbie, all of science is imbued with the tension and drama that makes the theatre so engaging, but that drama is frequently overwhelmed by jargon, special effects, or simply the inability to tell a good story. Bobbie's talk on Wednesday evening is one I guarantee no one will want to miss. He is truly a treasure trove of information and insight.

If you can't tell already, we're really excited to be hosting this year! We want every member of SEPA, every sponsor, and every visitor to walk away from the 2014 conference filled with inspiration and passion for what we do. Our theme of "Wish Upon A Star" is more than just a clever Disney tie-in; it's a mission statement for us. If we can provide a conference experience that really does make all your (planetarium) wishes come true, then we'll do everything we can to make that a reality. SEPA 2014 is more than excursions, activities, speakers, demonstrations, workshops, and papers – it's a place where planetarians who are passionate about what they do can come together and make something greater than the simple sum of its parts. We've got great weather, a great conference site, and some of the most magical places on Earth just a few miles away.

(Continued on page 17)

SEPA 2014 Professional Development Fund SILENT AUCTION

Dave Maness
Sharpe Planetarium
Memphis, TN



It's time once again to start thinking about what items you would like to donate to this year's silent auction. In case you are new to the group, this is a fun activity we do to help other planetarians by supporting the Professional Development Fund (formerly known as the SEPA Scholarship fund). We are raising money so that more of our colleagues will benefit from a little financial help to attend a professional workshop or a SEPA conference. To all those who provided items and bid on items in the past, I cannot thank you enough.

As of this writing, the fund's account balance stands at nearly \$10,086.56. It was good to see some new faces at our conference last year, thanks in part to the four \$500 grants awarded. If you think you are a good candidate please apply as soon as possible using the form on the www.sepadomes.org website. As has been tradition, we will again hold a silent auction to benefit this fund at the conference at our 2014 conference from July 15-19, hosted by the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Planetarium, Seminole State College, Sanford, Florida. Check the website above for more information.

What we need from the membership (as always) are your contributions of items or services that you would be willing to provide to the highest bidder. In the past we have offered books, games, artwork, crafts (including a beautiful hand-made quilt and some hand-tooled leather belts), musical CDs, books and even an actual piece of space memo-

abilia. We have gotten some of the highest prices for items that were hand made works of art. I know there are some very talented people out there. Of course we also like space related items and artifacts. So think it over and let me know if you plan to bring something along to the conference in Florida. Knowing what to expect ahead of time will help us plan the space requirements. Also, let me know if you have any ideas and/or would like to help out on the professional development committee.

I have provided a form for you to use in describing the item(s) you bring for auction and for our records. If you have an item you want to donate but cannot make it to the conference, then send it to me or to the conference host. We will try to get it there. As usual the auction will take place in the mingling time before the banquet. Thanks again for your participation as an item provider, bidder, raffle ticket buyer, or all three. I hope to see you all in Sanford, Florida.

SEPA SILENT AUCTION ITEM

If you cannot bring the item,
draw a picture or paste a photo here
(if you think it will help with the sale.)

Item: _____

Description: _____

Offered by (Your name): _____

Preferred mode of contact information (Phone,
Mail, Email, Fax, Telegram, Pony Express, or other)

SEPA 2014 (Continued from page 15)

Doesn't that sound fantastic? Come make some of your own wishes come true this year at SEPA 2014. See you real soon!



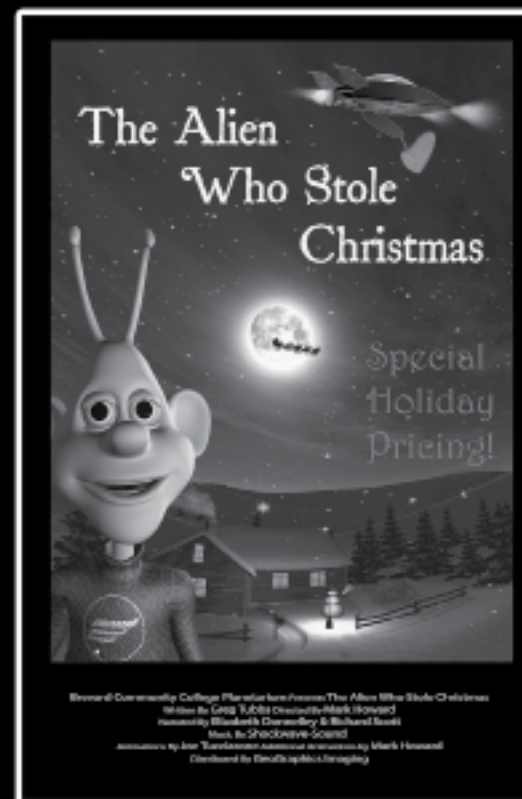
SEPA Wants You!

David Dundee
SEPA President

Hey SEPA members; your SEPA council is looking for someone to take on Drew Gilmores duties as the SEPA web guru. The job is outlined below:

- * posting SEPA journals (timed to appear a couple issues after the current one)
- * getting each year's conference information online (sometimes the host creates their own site, sometimes I build it for them with their help)
- * keeping the officers list, bylaws and fellowship award winners current
- * keeping a current list of domes with SEPA members - this one has been a little bit of a problem, since individuals may come and go out of membership but the membership spreadsheet isn't really in a format to make tracking those changes easy.
- * posting the (rare) news item

If you think you could help SEPA out with this job please let me know. (Contact - inside front cover)



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GeoGraphicsimage@aol.com

SEPA 2014 CANDIDATES

Candidate for President-Elect

Kris McCall
Sudekum Planetarium
Adventure Science Center
Nashville, TN

I've been cavorting under a planetarium dome since 1976, 38 years, almost 75% of my life. Scary. I wanted to be an astronaut when I was ten, miss my 20-year-old daughter who is now at college, have a cat, and consider many planetarium colleagues to be my closest friends and family.

I have been at the Sudekum Planetarium in Nashville, TN, since 1987. We run lots of school, public, and light shows; produce and distribute original content; spend time enjoying the real sky; and wreak mayhem on the rest of the Science Center. We hosted the SEPA conference/family reunion in 1996 and again in 2009. I served on SEPA Council from 1993 to 1998, as President from 1995 to 1996, and received the Paul Campbell Fellowship Award in 2004.

Over the years, I have enjoyed sharing my knowledge with others (anyone who would listen); presented papers at conferences; answered numerous calls about theater design, choosing equipment, show production, etc.; and hoped people would benefit from my research, experience, and mistakes.

SEPA is a community where all are welcome and encouraged. Regardless of your title or size of your dome, I believe we all benefit from exposure to and sharing of new ideas.

Candidate for President-Elect

Derek Demeter
Buehler Perpetual Trust Planetarium at
Seminole State College
Sanford, FL

Derek Demeter began working at the Seminole State College Planetarium in 2003 while a Physics and Technical Education student. By 2007, Mr. Demeter was offered the position of planetarium director, and immediately began the process of writing and producing new shows, including a complete series of presentations that explore the astronomy and history of numerous cultures from around the world. From this start arose "The Forgotten Scientists," a presentation that surveys the contributions of astronomers outside of Europe and North America. Mr. Demeter also holds his passion for live, interactive Planetarium shows close to his heart and encourages others to follow in his footsteps. Mr. Demeter has produced over forty two various shows ranging from night sky tours, to solar system adventures, to theatrical shows that take the audience to the depths of space where no man or woman has gone before. Mr. Demeter has been featured on numerous media outlets in the Central Florida area, produces a weekly podcast called "StarTalk" and promotes scientific literacy through lectures and speaking engagements. Mr. Demeter lives in Orlando, FL.

Statement:

I always look forward to the time in which I can once again be in the room with the many great minds that our organization (SEPA) brings forth each year. I enjoy hearing about the many success stories and from them, wonder if those ideas can be used and implemented in my very own Planetarium. This dialog between my fellow Planetarium peers has allowed me to gather the creative ideas to "think outside the dome", making my Planetarium flourish into its own unique entity and be a powerful contributor of science education in my local community. I feel it is vital for a group passionate about what they do to continue to share their experiences and embrace their differences and that is what I feel SEPA means to me.

Candidate for IPS Representative

John Hare
Ash Enterprises
Bradenton, FL

I was on the committee of CAPE, the Conference of American Planetarium Educators, the conference that planted the seed for the founding of what is now IPS, the International Planetarium Society. That conference took place at Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University in the fall of 1970. Since then I have participated in every IPS conference and plan to attend this year's conference in Beijing, China.

I have attended most IPS Council meetings since the mid 1980s and will represent SEPA this summer in Beijing at the Council meeting.

I am also the Historian for IPS and as such maintain a large archive of IPS publications as well as an extensive image file.

I have been a strong proponent of planetarium organizations and expend copious amounts of time and energy working in different roles for various groups. Although I'm past the point where many individuals retire, I continue to be active in the planetarium community as a whole and plan to continue in that respect for many more years.

I would welcome your support for reelection as IPS Representative.

Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer

Patsy Wilson
Horizons Unlimited
Margaret C. Woodson Planetarium
Salisbury, NC

In June of last year, I retired from Horizons Unlimited and the Margaret C. Woodson Planetarium after twenty years. Since that time, I've been busy with various volunteer projects, including SEPA and NC Science Fair Foundation.

I've been a member of SEPA since 1995. During that time, I have attended numerous conferences and presented several papers. I have served as reporter of NC news to *Southern Skies* and 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 Past-President for two additional years. I have been the Secretary-Treasurer since 2011.

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

I have been secretary-treasurer of numerous organizations including PTA, Junior Woman's Club, North Carolina Science Fair Foundation, Church Women's and Youth groups. My nine 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.

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Small Talk (Continued from page 8)

of space shuttle stuff, and since the space shuttle had retired, I am looking at more of the "History of the Space Station" with info on Mir and Skylab and Tiangong along with stuff on the international Space station. I have some nice images and footage of it to use for the program and luckily the mice in the planetarium did not polish off all the space food, so there will be samples to share.

I also hope to put together a program for the upcoming lunar eclipse, chocked full of tips on how to watch it as well as how to make a video of it or photograph it. We get lucky as we will have spring break during the week of the eclipse and will not have to worry about staying up late to watch it.

So what is happening in your dome? Drop a line, share something. Help me make the column a dialog, not a monolog for everyone in a facility that is small, by whatever way they describe it.

Perhaps you did a Messier marathon or at least went out to view or photograph a galaxy in the Spring Night Sky.

"Armchair Astronomy" Resources:

Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network
<http://lcogt.net/>

Faulkes Telescope Project
<http://www.faulkes-telescope.com>

Night Skies Network
<http://www.nightskiesnetwork.com/>

iTelescope
<http://www.itelescope.net>

Bradford Robotic Telescopes
<http://telescope.org>

Sierra Stars Observatory Network
<http://sierrastars.com>

Worldwide Telescope
<http://www.worldwidetelescope.org/>

Light Buckets
<http://www.lightbuckets.com>

G+ Virtual Star Party
plus.google.com/100902337165997768522



The galaxy M82 is a target for amateur astronomers to locate in the spring skies. Earlier in the year, it had a supernova burst forth in it. Conrad Jung of Chabot Observatory managed to get a before/after photograph of it.



The Solar Dynamics Observatory was located far from Earth when it experienced a partial solar eclipse, even though the Earth did not. It was broadcast live on the web. I had it playing in my planetarium dome for visitors to view. Here is a screen shot from the webcast.

News From SEPA Region

FLORIDA

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



Florida Planetarium Association (FLORPLAN)

Brian Kremer reports: Florplan gathered on February 22 at the Hallstrom Planetarium at Indian River State College. Jon Bell was the consummate host. He, his staff and vendors made this a wonderful day. Thanks to East Coast Control, Audio Visual Imagineering, GeoSystems, DomeFX and Ash for the all important support and food.



It was fun to gather with planetarians from around Florida. Mark Howard from the Eastern Florida State College Planetarium and Observatory graciously accepted when he was volunteered to host the next gathering. Thanks, Mark!

**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 *Solar System Odyssey*, *Earth, Moon & Sun*, *Shadows in Space*, *Saturn: Journey to the Ringed World* and *Celestial Navigation*.

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.

**Miami Space Transit Planetarium
Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science
Miami, FL**

Claudia Hernandez reports: This winter was eventful with the high traffic of the winter breakers and snowbirds at the Miami Space Transit Planetarium of the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science. The highlights of this season were our participation as a host location for the Cosmos multicast preview event and our annual gala fundraiser supporting the new facility, currently under construction. If you would like to learn a bit about this endeavor check out the blog and be sure to watch the flyby drone video! <http://www.frostscience.org/blog/>

Show wise we continue to run a public show schedule seven days a week and accommodate all visiting school groups. Currently we are presenting for the public: *Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope*, *Nine Planets and Counting*, *Legends of the Night Sky: Orion*, and our daily live star lecture *How to Find the Stars and Planets of the Month*. In addition to our regular schedule we have our Fabulous First Fridays every first Friday of the month; a night jammed packed with a free star show, free observatory viewing and our very popular music laser light shows!

And that my fellow SEPA-ians is our update for this past winter season; and as our late director Jack Horkheimer would always conclude, keep looking up!

GEORGIA

contact: David Dundee

Tellus Museum

Cartersville, GA

DavidD@tellusmuseum.org



Fernbank Science Center Planetarium Atlanta, GA

April Whitt reports: It's the Atlanta Science Festival! March 22 through 29th was a busy week, with the March 22 kick-off: NanoDays. The event was a hit with the younger crowd, and a temporary exhibit in the lower exhibit hall had visitors spinning wheels, assembling carbon molecule models and browsing books about the smallest science.

Later that week, Science@the Center was one of Fernbank's contributions to the Science Festival, with activity stations, family fun and planetarium programs about black holes and the planet Mars. Friday night, March 28, saw the fundraiser Death By Chocolate. The advanced study Forensics students researched and wrote the script for the murder-with-dessert event, acted the parts, staffed booths with clues for guests to follow, and kept the murderer's secret until the (semi-sweet) end.

A photo shoot in the observatory put the Science Center in the "Do" pages of a new Atlanta magazine, Intown Living, for the May/June issue this year.

School attendance was up again, mostly with out-of-county groups. The eight school days lost to snow and ice made it difficult for some county schools to visit. The fulldome mirror system is still getting rave reviews from students and teachers. In planning for the fall: a series of grade-appropriate "Fernbank Adventures" - pairing a planetarium lesson with hands-on activities throughout the center.

"A Concert for May" brought local musical group Cypress South to the planetarium for a lyrical concert evening. It's the first time they've played our dome, and the audience was delighted.

May 10th was Astronomy Day. Another excellent IRIS speaker (contact Pat McQuillan for more information), door prizes, four different planetarium programs, Venus viewing and solar telescopes kept

the crowds engaged and enthusiastic. Fernbank has purchased the IRIS Active Earth Monitor kiosk that has been on exhibit this past year, and will be incorporated into more classes this fall.

Planetarium Tellus NW GA Science Museum Cartersville, GA

David Dundee reports: Our big news for our planetarium is that we have upgraded to a Media Globe III. I have spent the last few weeks training our staff on the new machine. We opened "We Are Aliens." And we continue to run "Extreme Planets" and "Molecularium" along with our daily two lives shows and school programs. Our live programs have truly been transformed, lovely bright star field and all sorts of new bells and whistles: Clouds, thunderstorms, animated constellations and the very cool gadget that allows you point out stuff during the live and you never need to pick up a pointer again. We lost about two weeks of school groups thanks to all the winter weather. We have been trying to find open slots in an already fully scheduled to reschedule these groups. We put on permanent display the nose cap from the Space Shuttle Columbia. This has flown in space 11 times. These two additions to Tellus are a direct result of the successful completion of our capital campaign, raising money for project across the museum.

Georgia Southern Planetarium Georgia Southern University Statesboro, GA

Becky Lowder reports: We had a very busy beginning of 2014 with 2 rare ice storms and rescheduling all the school groups. I'm sure you all went through the same thing. Our public evenings and astronomy outreach at math and science nights at regional schools have been wonderful. We started the new year public evenings with *Perfect Little Planet* in February, and *Dynamic Earth: Exploring Earth's Climate Engine* in March. University astronomy classes are busy using the planetarium and Digistar 5 station set up in our new astrophysics room. I'm creating our next public evening, *Exploring the Red Planet*, in celebration of the 10 year anniversary of

the Mars Exploration Rovers Mission, and updating the public on what we've learned so far about Mars from all the orbiters and rovers. It will be a very exciting public observing event outdoors all night of the total lunar eclipse from 1:30 - 5:30 am on April 15 as we share telescopic views of the Moon, Mars, Saturn, and more! The George L. Smith State Park has requested another dark sky observing night later in April with us and members of the Statesboro Astronomy Club and our telescopes.

We'll end the spring semester with the showing of *Lichtmond: Universe of Light* the evening of the last day of classes for the students and the public. I can't wait to see the entire presentation myself, haven't had time yet. Summer school and camp shows are already being scheduled for groups from all over the region, so I have a very busy summer ahead having so much fun sharing astronomy and space science with everyone! Until next time, wishing you all clear skies!

KENTUCKY

contact: Steve Russo

East Kentucky Planetarium

Prestonsburg, KY

srusso0002@kctcs.edu



East Kentucky Science Center & Planetarium Big Sandy Community and Technical College Prestonsburg, KY

Steve Russo reports: Late Winter/Early Spring were a big contrast here at the EKSC. Weather related issues kept groups from coming to the Science Center throughout the late winter and early spring. Originally from the "snow-belt" of Upstate, NY, I am still getting used to schools being closed for three days here in eastern Kentucky, for one inch of snow. I have had more snow days off in the last three months, than I had off in the eight years I lived in Upstate, NY. But now that Spring has settled in, the school groups are rolling again.

In March the EKSC hosted a "Spring Into Science and Math" event. Geared towards ages 2 - 5, the event was filled with activities related to STEM,

and included hands-on activities, science demonstrations, and Planetarium shows. Over 160 people attended this event.

The end of March also saw the return of NANO Days here at the EKSC. A day of demonstrations and hands on activities relating to the science of Nano-Technology. The EKSC is one of only three science Centers in Kentucky that hosted NANO Days.



In the planetarium we re-worked the classic slide version of *Cowboy Astronomer* into a full dome version for our Spitz Sci-Dome HD. We also premiered the new full dome presentation called *Sky Quest* from the Buhl. A fantastic show about the Sun and Space Weather. Although it is only 11 minutes long, when the show is over we do a live presentation on our dome with live views of the Sun from SOHO and SDO, and then a live star talk after that.



As we head into April, plans are under way for National Astronomy Day in May and Summer camps starting in June or July.

Until next time, “Look To The 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: In addition to our focus on astronomy related public shows, and because we are an art-science museum, we began running two shows that are more artistic in content than science – *Chaos & Order* and *Lichtmond*. Both shows are innovative in fusing together simulated animated art choreographed with symphonic electronic music. Neither show has any real narration. Not too surprising, *Chaos & Order* is doing rather well with positive audience response.

Beginning in April, we premiered *The Great Planet Adventures*, a very different take on a solar system show. This show is the result of a three-year NASA grant in collaboration with Rice University and the Houston Museum of Natural History. In the future we may colonize other planets to establish science outposts and mine resources, but what would those colonists do for fun? This planet show lets the audience experience zip-lining on scorched Mercury, bungee jumping into outer space from an asteroid, ballooning in the atmosphere of Venus, power gliding over the hydrocarbon lakes of Titan, driving a monster truck along a lunar crater wall, and rappelling into the Valles Marineris on Mars. Winter sports go extreme when we spelunk in an ice cave on Europa, jet-pack in geyser spray on Triton, and snowmobile on Pluto. Home Run Pictures, Tietronix, HMNS and

LASM were the principle animators. The show is being distributed through several vendors.


Our annual teacher workshop on debunking astronomy misconceptions was a success again this year; always surprised to hear how teachers teach astronomical concepts with little or no adequate understanding of the concepts.

**Lafayette Planetarium
Lafayette Science Museum
Lafayette, LA**

Dave Hostetter reports: The planetarium at the Lafayette Science Museum transitioned into normal day to day operation this fall, finally finishing up the conversion of a series of in-house traditional programs to full dome format. Now the staff is getting back to work on the activities that were set aside for that conversion.

The Lafayette Science Museum itself is undergoing big changes now and for the next few years. One of the most welcome is that the Geology Museum of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette is moving into our building. We will have access to some extraordinary minerals, rocks, and fossils (and the department’s expertise) while they for the first time will have a place to show their research to the public. The new exhibits should be open by the end of May. This had led to a number of new partnerships for the Museum, and the UL-L Biology Department now also plans a smaller exhibit. For the first time, the Museum participated in the local annual Makers Fair in November. We were delighted with the attendance and look forward to becoming a hub for that in coming years. As our attendance has risen, other STEM-based organizations and businesses have taken notice; one of the results is a science café with local STEM speakers being planned for starting later this year. Overall, the new planetarium is doing well and the Museum is remaking itself in exciting new ways, so it’s a good time to be working here!

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



**Bays Mountain Planetarium
Kingsport, TN**

Adam Thanz reports: Greetings from East Tennessee!

We’re busy as bees focusing on long-needed in-house chores. I know you understand, too much to do, too little time to work with. Even so, it’s great to know that we’re doing our part to make our theater the best possible. Jason’s been working on audio production and the aforementioned theater maintenance and I’ve been working on creating a number of special presentations regarding our show production and new programming kiosks that are in our lobby and gift shop.

One of those presentations includes an activity in which the recipients will create a planetarium show in one hour. Actually, it will be crude and rushed. But, it is designed to illustrate teamwork to accomplish a common goal. As I just completed this activity, I can describe how it went. Groups were broken down into ten. One of the group was a director and one was a narrator and evaluator of the group. Four were writers and four were illustrators. There were five total groups, so one group was the introduction, one the conclusion, and the other groups were the middle. The director of each group worked with the other group directors to establish an outline for the show. They then took that outline to their table in which the director worked with the writers so that each writer wrote a short paragraph. The illustrators each got one writer’s paragraph and developed an image to represent it. After a rough sketch, they made a nice version on large paper. At the end, all of the images from all of the groups were put together and then narrated. The evaluators gave their reports based on how their group performed and worked as a team. The quality of the show was not important for this exercise. The teamwork to accomplish

the goal was. That said, they did a good job. There were some time overruns, but within 90 min., a complete show was outlined, written, illustrated, and narrated. The result was more of a storyboard, but was entertaining and fun. There were a number of positive comments made after the activity. As I stated before, the goal was teamwork and to work with what time and materials were at hand.

Our spring show is “Back to the Moon - For Good.” This one is about the Google XPrize to get a small payload to the moon. Its production is very good and I think our audiences will enjoy it.

Our alternative program at 2 p.m. will be “Appalachian Skies” and “Planetary Visions.” Both are in-house productions, with “Planetary Visions” available for distribution, and it’s a rollicking and adventurous tour of the Solar System.

Other parts of our life in the Park include tons of school programs in the Spring, tons of public shows in the summer, getting ready for a great Astronomy Day and gearing up for the 2014 edition of StarFest. It’s our thirty-first anniversary! The theme is “Seeing the Sky.” As such, our speakers will each highlight a different way one sees the sky through art, literature, science, and music. Three days in October of astronomy, fun, presentations, planetarium programs, observing, a commemorative shirt, a place to sleep, and all meals all included for one very low cost.

This year’s event is Oct. 17th-19th. Here’s a short list of our keynote speakers. You should recognize these names: Mark Littmann, Dan Durda, Shanil Virani, Shanil’s student Emily Dick, and Paul Lewis. Go to our website for all the details! <http://www.baysmountain.com/astronomy/astronomy-club/?GTTabs=4> Send me your e-mail address if you want



The fantastic T-shirt design for StarFest 2014

to be notified about this great event.

Sharpe Planetarium Memphis, TN

Dave Maness reports: Time really flew by since January and it has been mostly fun. I am enjoying the sight of Mars and Jupiter in the sky after my Tuesday night hockey games. I'm still nursing a wrist injury from last season. Still I managed to score the very first goal of the current season.

The weather is improving at last and the spring flowers are in full bloom. The last time I photographed the Pink Palace; there was snow on the ground. The city gardeners did a fine job this year and created a pool of salmon-pink tulips to grace the walk leading up to the mansion's portico.



Unfortunately the sneezing is about to begin. Did I tell you that Memphis is ranked number 2 in the nation for allergies? Although I am not super sensitive to it, I still try to limit my time outdoors this time of year.

It is April as I write this and we are preparing for our annual Members Day at Coon Creek. This is a unique educational fossil site under the Pink Palace



supervision, just over a hundred miles west of us. Aside from programs scheduled at times during the year, each spring we invite members to join us there for a special day of fossil hunting and safe solar observation, if the sky is clear. This year's event is scheduled for April 12.

Progress is still being made toward renovations set to begin in August. If all goes well, the planetarium will enter the digital projection age, late this year. In anticipation of that change (and partly as a result of our IMAX Theater renovations, transforming it into the CTI 3D Giant Screen Theater) I was given my first full time staff member. He is Bob Friedstand, former Technician in the former CTI IMAX Theater. Bob comes with computer graphics skills and a fine resume that includes credits for having worked on the graphics for several movies including; *Star Trek*, *Terminator*, and the cult classic *I was a Zombie for the FBI!*



Along with a larger staff, the planetarium returned to 7 days per week operation, more than doubling the number of showings (6 shows per day Monday through Saturday and 3 on Sunday). In fact our March attendance was the highest for any March since 2004. The shows running through the spring are *Visions of a Spring Night*, and *MarsQuest*. *Starlit Nights* and *HubbleVision 2* will run in the summer. Those programs should finish out our operations as a classic theater. We expect to close August 1 for demolition of all but the dome, which will be cleaned and repainted to a digital projector's specifications.

Last but not least; please see my note elsewhere in this issue about the Silent Auction at the summer conference in Sanford, Florida.

VIRGINIA

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



Abbott Planetarium Virginia Living Museum Newport News, VA

Kelly Herbst reports: Spring seems to finally have sprung...the temperatures and the number of school groups are both on the rise around here. Spring Break is just around the corner and we'll be running five shows a day every day in the theater for two straight weeks. We're currently featuring a home-grown show that gets great reviews, *The Art of Hubble*, which is partnered with our exhibit of the art of Charley Harper in the changing gallery. Also on the slate are the very kid-friendly *The Friendly Stars* for our preschool crowds, the ever-popular *Virginia Skies* and 80s music as featured in *Laser Retro*. Should be a fun, if busy, two weeks!

The numerous special events we hosted in the January – March time frame went very well. Especially fun was a special event we did for the local Girl Scouts focused on astronomy and enjoying the night. Over 80 girls came out to experience the wonders of the dark!

Summer looms large in our sights as the dinosaurs return for another season. That means *Dinosaur Prophecy* will also be returning! The show is always very popular. For the younger crowd we'll offer *Legends of the Night Sky: Perseus and Andromeda* (laser version); of course Virginia Skies remains a staple in the theater at any season; we'll round out the summer with laser shows in the final spot of the day – *Laser U2*, *Spirit of America*, or *Laseropolis* depending on which month you come see us!

Stacey Stormtracker is back in our theater and more amazing than ever. This original show was a popular option for our school groups back in the day – new technology has made it even more exciting! Our foray into the world of the bluescreen has

been so successful I'm considering employing it in a host of other ways around here! Now all I need is the time to work on these projects...meanwhile, back to summer camp prep for me!

Enjoy the warmer weather!

Pretlow Planetarium Old Dominion University Norfolk, VA

Declan De Paor reports: The Pretlow Planetarium received shipping of a brand-new MacPro—the black cylinder version. This is enabling us to assemble 4k digital masters in a couple of hours as opposed to two days with the previous version and to present full dome video without hiccups!

This semester we are offering different public shows each month. February was “Nanocam—a Journey into Biodiversity” March is “Black Holes—Journey into the Unknown” and April will be “DARK-Understanding Dark Matter” (assuming it quarries on time!)

As always, shows are free and families are welcome. Tues and Thurs at 6:00PM. Visit <http://sci.odu.edu/physics/planetarium/home.html> for more information.

Dan Avner joined the team as an intern. He has a BA in Astronomy from UF Gainesville and experience at the Florida Museum of Natural History. He is helping to write scripts for our shows.

Cheers!

Planetarium Thomas Jefferson HS Richmond, VA

Leslie Bochenski reports: Snow, Snow & More SNOW!! Snow days are wrecking the best laid plans for my Planetarium year. So far, I've managed to reschedule 19 programs that were cancelled because of snow days, resulting in an overloaded schedule right up until spring testing begins. Despite all the cancellations and other SNAFU's, I'm still on track to make my goal of over 2000 students visiting the

Planetarium this school year.

Snow days also cancelled a 'Night Under the Stars' event with the PTA in January. The event was rescheduled to March, and almost snowed out a second time but we got lucky and the temperature shot up to 40 degrees, so it went on as planned. Two students in high school Astronomy gave a planetarium show that they put together; consisting of a 15 minute star talk and 10 minute Power Point about ancient Chinese astronomy; other students showed poster projects about each planet. The Richmond Astronomical Society was going to provide a Sky-watch at the event, but Mother Nature did not cooperate and we were socked in with heavy clouds.

As I write this, I'm looking forward to a much needed Spring Break in two weeks!

WEST VIRGINIA

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Tracy DeLaney reports: We've been on the lookout for inexpensive educational programs appropriate for elementary aged children and have discovered a series called Show Me Science from TMW Media. Some of the programs are quite nice and they come with an educational license. I attended the January American Astronomical Society Meeting where I loaded up on posters and swag to give away at planetarium shows. The swag has actually been quite a hit. We also received about 50 books for free from the NASA IV&V facility in Fairmont, WV. We've been giving these away at planetarium shows as well. We've had a few pre-K groups come through, typical for this time of year, but the attendance at our regular shows has been low, less than 10 people. We've stepped up advertising in hopes that we'll get a boost in attendance.

REMEMBER YOUR STATE COORDINATOR!

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