



# space odyssey

## 04.03.15 volunteer update

[Click here to visit the Space Odyssey MGG Portal](#)

[Click here for the latest space news update on the MGG Portal](#)

**Click below for quick access to:**

[Storytelling with Uniview](#)

[Space Science Lectures & Events](#)

[Volunteer Enrichment Committee \(VEC\) Events](#)

## space odyssey news

### SPRING BREAK THANKS

Thanks a ton to everyone who's been helping out extra and those just coming in on their regular shifts over these past couple of busy weeks! Thanks too for using alternate means to get to DMNS as you're able! Happy Spring!

### MY SCHEDULE

I'll be on a trajectory to Saturn for the next ten years. I'll be visible in about ten months from the Northern hemisphere as I get a gravity assist to send me out to Jupiter. Seriously, I'll be in this Sunday for a bit, then I'll be in Monday thru Friday next week. Happy weekend!

### SCHEDULING SHOWS IN SO

Please remember to check-in with staff on your shift to coordinate schedule of shows in the exhibit. Staff should be checking-in with morning teams at the briefing or soon thereafter and with afternoon shifts right around 1 PM. Afternoon teams please also check the

magnetic sign near the Galaxy Stage to see the day's schedule--if you aren't already that is. I'm posting this because there has been some confusion around scheduling shows. Let me know if you have any questions/issues.

### **INFRARED AREA UPDATE**

I've heard a lot of feedback about the changes we've made to the IR screens--thanks to all for the input. If you want to share your thoughts about it, let me know. Meantime, our very own Ka Chun Yu, has written a very good article explaining our rationale for changing the color palette on those screens. To read his article, [click here](#). If you have questions about Ka Chun's article, you can email him at [KaChun.Yu@dmns.org](mailto:KaChun.Yu@dmns.org).

### **ORBITS TABLE UPDATE**

Greg Mancari has loaded Uniview 2.0 on the Orbits but the "old" software is still there for you to use. We will officially begin using 2.0 the beginning of May. We are having trainings next week...I'll be sending out a separate invite for that, stay tuned.

### **HANDLING EMERGENCIES IN SO**

Do you have any questions around what to do in case of an emergency in Space Odyssey? The main points to remember are to stay calm and help visitors to remain calm by letting them know that we need to wait for Security's announcements and remain in the gallery--you can use a mic if necessary. Then listen for the Security announcements to inform you what course to follow--which usually means evacuating or getting back to business as usual. If a guest truly wants to leave, please let them do so. There are also work lights that can be turned on to give you some light in the exhibit--the switches are located on the wall just inside the door to the hallway leading to the Astronaut changing area. These lights do take a few minutes to go to full brightness. Questions? Let me know.

### **PLEASE SIGN UNIFORM FOR EDDIE G**

As a special present to Eddie Goldstein, former Senior Space Science Educator, we'd like to give him one of the old MGG uniforms signed with your respective autographs. I know there are a lot of you, but the more signatures the better. I've left the uniform on my office desk with pens provided. The uniform will remain there thru next Wednesday, April 8. Please sign it when you're able. Thank you!

### **SO THINGS FIXED**

In the past two weeks, we've sanded the Gravity Well to help with tracking; we've fixed the Ground Penetrating Radar sandbox to patch those holes; we've fixed the bent steel on the cover for the AOS console; we've repaired the rubber bumper at the Earth Globe; we've added wooden covers to cover up the sharp steel on Moon Phases; we've fixed the loose latch on the Orbits lock; we've added lighter color dots in the rug to help show you where to put the Big Dipper signs; we've added a new tab on the Portal for video lectures; and we've changed the info on the Pluto pic near the Space Screen to indicate it's change in status--plus fixed the loose mounts on the other planet pics. Phew! Thanks a ton to Jack, Vic and Todd in Exhibits as well as Marta and Dave L for helping with all the above!

### **NEW SPACE TODAY SHOW SCRIPT**

[Click here](#) to view the new Space Today--nice work Naomi, Sam, Dimitri and crew!

### **SOS: MAJOR SOS UPDATE UPDATE**

The backscreen slideshow is back in action! Thanks to Matt Brownell and Kim Evans for getting this going! We're looking to update the whole system by 4/17 with trainings soon thereafter.

### **Watch the Webinar and Learn How the New System Will Work**

The new SOS Operating System Webinar is now available for you to watch, click here:

<http://youtu.be/OLUtRuOLCxw>

### **Check Out the Newly Reorganized Datasets**

If you want to get a glimpse of the new reorganization/operation of the SOS iPad, you can see some of the update by looking here on the SOS website:

<http://sos.noaa.gov/Datasets/list.php#air>

### **NEW SOLAR SCOPES**

Thanks to Dave Martinez, Naomi Pequette, Dimitri and Dan, we have the new solar telescopes up in the cage for use. They are awesome! Talk to your telescope facilitator on your team to check them out. If you are on the Telescope Team, and need help using these, talk to Dave Martinez or Naomi Pequette.

### **JEAN WRIGHT'S VIDEO ABOUT HER SPACE SHUTTLE SEWING WORK**

You can view Jean's talk at DMNS on the new video lecture page of the Portal here:

<http://spaceodyssey.dmns.org/video-lectures.aspx>

### **PLANET WEIGHT BOTTLES UPDATE**

We're creating a new set of bottles (Thanks Dave Lewis) as the current set is pretty beat-up. Meantime, Dave L. has also created a new Jupiter bottle to replace the one that is worn out. Thanks Dave!

### **RECENTLY ADDED SCIENCE ON A SPHERE DATASETS**

<http://sos.noaa.gov/Datasets/list.php?category=All&type=&sort=DateAdded&order=DESC>

These datasets are available within about one week from when I publish them in this update. Our system is updated by NOAA with the latest, greatest stuff every Monday for your viewing pleasure.

### **NASA CLIMATE UPDATE**

<http://climate.nasa.gov/news/>

### **THIS WEEK'S COOL SPACE STUFF ON THE WEB:**

A virtual journey to the center of the Earth...

<http://www.bbc.com/future/ bespoke/story/20150306-journey-to-the-centre-of-earth/index.html>

Gender gap in countries around the world...

[http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=134664&WT.mc\\_id=USNSF\\_1](http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=134664&WT.mc_id=USNSF_1)

Amazing fossil find at DMNS...(for fun)...

<http://www.dmns.org/museum-blog/Post/?nid=22362>

Meteor collision...

<https://vimeo.com/7611129>

Crash course in astronomy...

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtPAJr1ysd5yGIyiSFuh0mIL>

### **SCFD COMMUNITY FREE DAY CALENDAR**

The Museum is offering 12 Community Free Days in 2015, made possible by the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District. As part of the Museum's agreement to receive funds from SCFD, which account for a significant portion of the Museum's operating budget, the Museum offers "community free days" throughout the year to allow those who can't afford admission the privilege to visit DMNS. Below are the dates for the 2015 free days. To learn more about SCFD, [click here](#).

- Sunday, April 12 (Earth Day)
- Saturday, April 25 (Día del Niño)
- Sunday, May 31
- Monday, June 29
- Sunday, July 26
- Monday, August 17
- Sunday, September 27
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, November 9

## **trainings and meetings**

### **SCIENCE ON A SPHERE USER GROUP MEETING**

**Monday April 6**

**4:30 to 6:30 PM**

**RSVP to Kim Grogan at [collingsgrogan@me.com](mailto:collingsgrogan@me.com)**

**We'll meet in the SO Briefing Room at 4:30.**

This meeting will have a special guest: Mark Miesch from the High Altitude Observatory in Boulder. Mark is currently an SO volunteer and telescope volunteer as well as a DMNS Research Associate. He created the stellar magnetism datasets on the SOS and will be here to talk about those as well as other relevant SOS datasets and how he uses computer models to try and understand the inner workings of the Sun. [Click here](#) to read more about Mark

and his work: [http://www.hao.ucar.edu/people/photo\\_dir/miesch.php](http://www.hao.ucar.edu/people/photo_dir/miesch.php)

## storytelling with uniview

by **Dr. Ka Chun Yu, PhD Curator of Space Science DMNS**

You can read all of Ka Chun's previous columns on the Portal Training page under Storytelling with Uniview: <http://spaceodyssey.dmns.org/mgg-training.aspx>

NOTE: If you're having issues viewing this column in Firefox, try using Safari or Explorer as those seem to show the column in the best quality. I'm not sure about Chrome.

## space science lectures & events

### **STARFEST CONVENTION IN DENVER**

Here is a link to the whole schedule for Starfest. It looks like they have at least 3 astronomy talks: <http://starfestdenver.com/schedule/>

Alan Stern is talking about New Horizons and why Pluto is a planet on Saturday at 11. Carolyn Collins Petersen is giving 2 talks. On on exoplanets Sat at 2 and one on Hubble's 25th anniversary Sunday at 2 (she worked with Hubble in grad school).

The convention is Fri April 17 - Sun April 19.

Thanks to Naomi Pequette for the above info!

### **RESERVATION INFO**

Volunteers have the opportunity to attend most After Hours programs priced at the \$8 member/ \$10 nonmember rate for free on a space-available basis! Volunteers always receive the member rate for all other Adult Programs. As of May 12, please call Guest Services at 303.370.6000 to make a reservation.

Guest Services is open daily, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Admission to 60 Minutes in Space is free and is on a first come, first seated basis.

On the evening of the program, please enter through the same entrance as our guests and pick up your ticket from the will-call cashier. Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for Adult Programs!

# **museum news and events**

## **MUSEUM NUMBERS ARE UP**

Last week, total Museum Attendance was 25% above plan, 17% above 2014 and 33% above the 10 year average (although Spring Break doesn't happen every year, that 10 year average does include Body Worlds in 2006).

## **DMNS TEEN SCIENCE SCHOLAR IN WHITE HOUSE SCIENCE FAIR**

From Dr. Ian Miller, Curator of Paleobotany, DMNS:

I am excited to share with you the amazing story of one of our Teen Science Scholars being honored by President Obama for her accomplishments:

Tiye Garrett-Mills has been selected to participate in the White House Science Fair on Monday, March 23. Through her project, "It's All In The Same Vein," Tiye sought to adapt a slow and costly x-ray imaging technique to a faster and more economical desktop scanner protocol to examine leaf venation networks. By using an HP deskjet scanner, Tiye was able to engineer several different methods to capture images that may help to reduce the cost and time it takes to produce high-resolution images of modern leaf venation networks. The impact of this research is potentially far-reaching. Leaf vein analysis provides a wealth of information about the evolutionary and ecological history of plants, and contributes to our understanding of climate change over time when compared to fossil leaves. By simultaneously providing a high quality and economic solution, Tiye has taken the first step in creating a more efficient tool for scientists who study leaf venation networks. Tiye hopes to continue her research as she pursues her passions in engineering and biochemistry.

### About Tiye Garrett-Mills

Tiye Garrett-Mills is a senior at Hinkley High School in Denver, Colorado. She spends her time participating in such organizations as National Society of Black Engineers and the International Baccalaureate Black Student Organization. Growing up, she was surrounded by very educated people and she always felt that she had to live up to their expectations. Switching schools in recent years, she struggled to make friends and her grades went down. Tiye knew she had to make a change. As a result, she joined clubs and she has participated in various science fairs and, most recently, pushed her research abilities when she participated in the 2014 Teen Science Scholars program. Now, she aspires to study engineering and biochemistry in college.

### About the White House Science Fair

President Obama to Host 5th White House Science Fair

On Monday, March 23rd, the President will host the 5th White House Science Fair, celebrating the student winners of a broad range of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competitions from across America. The President will also announce new steps as part of his Educate to Innovate campaign to get more girls and boys, especially those from traditionally underrepresented groups, inspired and prepared to excel in the critical STEM fields. Building on these announcements, this year's White House Science Fair will include a focus on diversity and inclusion in STEM.

The President hosted the first-ever White House Science Fair in 2010, noting then, "If you win the NCAA championship, you come to the White House. Well, if you're a young person and you produce the best experiment or design, the best hardware or software, you ought to be recognized for that achievement, too."

WEBCAST: This event will be webcast live at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/live>.

Tiye will be leaving for Washington DC on Saturday. Please join me in congratulating her, Teen Science Scholars coordinator Christin Dowling, and Drs. Nicole Garneau and Paula Cushing for their leadership of our Teen Science Scholars program!

### **ROOF WORK STARTS MONDAY**

We will be replacing the East Penthouse Roof starting on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please note that for all of these dates, everything is weather dependent.

#### **For the first week:**

There will be impacts at the south dock and outside Subpost.

**South Dock:** Starting Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, scaffolding and a trash chute will be erected along the east side of the SE Wing. This scope of work is expected to last approximate 2-3 days. A dumpster and fencing to secure the area as well.

**Subpost:** On Weds 04/08, Thurs 04/09 and Fri 04/10, the Subpost entrance will be closed from 6 AM to 9 AM to crane materials to the roof. We will keep the sidewalk accessible as much as possible; otherwise, we will close the sidewalk and detour pedestrian and bikes accordingly. *Staff and volunteer entrance during this time will be through the Main North Entrance.* After 9 AM daily, we will suspend crane operations and move it out to open the north entrance area.

#### **For the second week:**

Actual tear off and replacement will commence the week of April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: APRIL 12-18**

#### **Volunteers are the heart of non-profits and we value your time and efforts on our behalf.**

To thank you for your valuable contributions during the year, organizations throughout the Denver Metro area are offering special discounts, free admissions and/or other offers during National Volunteer Week Sunday- Saturday, April 12-18<sup>th</sup>.

These offers were created especially in honor of YOU! We highly encourage you to explore the amazing cultural venues in our community and hope you will attend at least one this week.

[Please click here to see the offers from local organizations.](#) There may be a coupon attached as well. Additional offers and corrections can be found at [www.sccollaborative.org](http://www.sccollaborative.org)

\*To participate you must provide proof of your volunteering (badge, photo of your badge or other evidence such as a card and/or this letter) and a photo. Then enjoy a day of fun as a sincere appreciation for all you do.

\*Guests who do not have a volunteer badge are required to pay full admission. Volunteer Appreciation Week runs one week only from April 12-18th, 2015 and unless noted these offers are ONLY good during this time.

The coordinating organization, the Scientific and Cultural Collaborative is an organization funded by the SCFD, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District - the cultural tax in the 7 county metro area. Additionally, there are several organizations participating outside of those funded by the SCFD.

Thank you for Everything You Do!

## **MYTHIC CREATURES DESCEND UPON LARIMER SQUARE**

**Local artists create dragons, unicorns, and mermaids in honor of a new exhibition at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science**

**DENVER - March 18** - Dragons, unicorns, and mermaids have descended upon Larimer Square in anticipation of the exhibition Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns, and Mermaids, opening Friday, March 20, at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. The mythic creatures will be on display on Larimer Square through Thursday, April 30.

"We're adding a touch of the mythical to the real-world experience of Larimer Square," said Larimer Associates CEO, Jeff Hermanson. "Visitors looking up at Larimer Square's iconic lamp posts will also see dragons, unicorns, and mermaids - all the fantastical beasts featured in the Denver Museum of Nature & Science's Mythic Creatures exhibit."

Sixteen local artists painted the mythic creatures to celebrate Colorado's vibrant arts and culture economy and showcase Larimer Square as a destination for visitors and residents alike. The featured artists are Kyle Banister, Jessie Yancey, Naomi Haverland, Mark Hollenbeck, Micah Hollenbeck, Stephen DeOrio, Rhonda Mullins, Nathan Reker, Connie Mobley, Tadd Moskal, Katie O'Rourke, Daniel Sorensen, Randy Segura, Kym Bloom, Russ Wright, and Matt Graff.

"Mythic creatures have captured imaginations for thousands of years, which is why we are excited about collaborating on this installation," said Amanda Bennett, Marketing and Communications Director of the Museum. "We're having a lot of fun discovering ways to share stories about how nature and science have played a role in solving the mysteries surrounding these legendary creatures."

## **MUSEUM LECTURE AND PROGRAMMING INFORMATION**

[Click here for Evening Lectures](#)

[Click here for Gates Planetarium Daily Show Schedule](#)

[Click here for Museum IMAX information](#)

## **volunteer enrichment committee**

**Click here for more information about VEC events:**

<http://volunteers.dmns.org/events/>

**Or see the bulletin board in the Volunteer Lounge for more info.**

### **Dave Blumenstock**

Coordinator of Volunteers for Space Science

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

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Join the Museum's Online Community

[www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)